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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### COLONEL BIBERSTEIN NOT TO RESIGN.

It is officially stated, that Colonel Biberstein, commander of the 3rd Army Corps has not resigned his post, nor does he intend to do so.

### SWISS JOURNALIST ARRESTED.

M. Belrens, Berlin correspondent of the Basle "National Zeitung" has been arrested at Berlin. He was ill in bed, when the police came to his flat, but in spite of the fact that he was ill, he was taken to the police station only half dressed. His arrest has caused great surprise in Switzerland, as he is an extremely prudent and careful journalist, who simply reports facts, and his tendencies are by no means on the Left.

### SWISS AVIATOR KILLED.

Owing to engine troubles, the machine of the Swiss aviator Marcel Geneux, crashed at Bron near Lyon. The pilot was badly injured and his passenger, Hubert Vergnat, barrister at law from Geneva was killed, he leaves a widow with three children.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

The 100th Anniversary of the University of Zurich took place last Monday. A great number of foreign Universities sent delegations. More than a thousand guests attended the "Festakt" which took place in the big Hall of the University, amongst whom were M. Schulthess, President of the Swiss Confederation, Professor Picard of Strasbourg, here fame, the rectors of the Universities Tübingen, Graz, Paris, Turin, Oxford, etc.

In order to celebrate this auspicious event, the University has conferred the title of *doctor honoris causa* on the following:

Prof. Dr. Max Huber (Zurich); Director Otto Kellerhals (Witzwil); Prof. Walter Köhler (Heidelberg); M. Haab, late Federal Councillor, Prof. Gaston Jéze (Paris); Dr. Chuard, late Federal Councillor (Lausanne); Prof. Dr. J. Jadassohn (Breslau); Prof. T. H. Morgan (Pasadena); Conrad Eggmann (Amriswil); Prof. F. Hobday (London); Dr. Wiegner (Zurich); J. C. J. Abegg (Zurich); H. Haller, Felix Moeschlin, Erwin Poeschek (Davos); Alfred Reinhard (Winterthur); Paul Roemer (Zurich); H. Schulthess-Hünerwadel (Zurich); Le Corbusier; H. v. Euler (Stockholm); Robert Keller (Winterthur); E. Meyer-Peter (Herisau).

The rector, Prof. Fleiner acknowledged with thanks the numerous presents received, especially the Jubilee gift amounting to 635,000fr. in cash. Over 600 guests were present at the official Banquet. M. Schulthess, conveyed the greetings of the Swiss government, other speakers were:

M. Reichling, President of the cantonal government, Town-President Dr. Klöti, Prof. Sauerbruch (Berlin); and Prof. Köhler. A torch light procession of the students of the University took place in the evening.

The Founder of the well-known Silk firm Grieder & Co. in Zurich, Adolf Grieder, has died at his beautiful home in Castagnola at the age of 79. M. Grieder retired from business in 1929 on the occasion of his 75th birthday after 40 years in harness. He founded the firm in 1889 with 3 employees, the staff to-day numbers over 700.

### BERNE.

Miss Bertha Trüssel, for over 20 years, President of the "Schweizerischen Gemeinnützigen Frauenverein" has celebrated her 80th birthday. Miss Trüssel has accomplished a tremendous amount of work for the betterment of Swiss women.

The death is reported of Professor H. Sahli, at the age of 77. Professor Sahli was for many years, Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Berne, and the author of a number of works on Internal Medicine.

The death is reported from Burgdorf of M. Fritz Mauerhofer - Röthlisberger, for many years senior partner in the well-known Cheese Export firm of Mauerhofer. M. Mauerhofer, who reached the age of 73, has rendered innumerable services to the town of Burgdorf.

### BASLE.

M. J. Péron, French Consul in Basle has been appointed General Consul at Geneva, M. Péron was for the last five years at his post in Basle, where he made many friends and his departure is much regretted.

The Municipal theatre in Basle is in financial difficulties, only 50% of the salaries for the artistes and staff could be paid out at the end of last month.

M. Louis Dietrich-Böhme, a Partner in the firm "Bierbrauerei Zum Greifen, Gebr. Dietrich" has died at the age of 78. M. Dietrich was for many years a member of the Grand Council, and has rendered many services to his native town.

### AARGAU.

The cantonal government has prohibited all political demonstrations on the Rhein Bridges in the cantonal territory.

Doctor Eugen Bircher has been appointed, head of the cantonal Hospital in Aarau, in succession to Dr. C. Frey, who has resigned from his post. Doctor Bircher, was formerly chief surgeon at this establishment.

### NEUCHÂTEL.

Mme. T. Combe, the well-known author and journalist has died at the age of 76.

### OBWALDEN.

The "Landsgemeinde" which took place on the Landenberg has elected States Councillor Amstalden to the post of "Landammann." M. C. Stockmann will be the new "Statthalter."

### NIDWALDEN.

M. Zraggen has been appointed "Landammann," and Dr. Gabriel "Landestatthalter" for the ensuing year, on the occasion of the "Landsgemeinde," which took place in Wyl.

## FOOTBALL.

23rd April, 1933.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Biel	3	Lugano	1
Young Fellows	6	Urania	0
Carouge	1	Basel	1
Chaux-de-Fonds	0	Grasshoppers	4
Aarau	2	Servette	2
Young Boys	3	Zurich	1
Lausanne	0	Concordia	0
Blue Stars	2	Nordstern	2

### FIRST LEAGUE.

Luzern	1	Locarno	3
Oerlikon	1	Seebach	3
Brühl	5	Winterthur	1
Old Boys	1	St. Gallen	0
Grenchen	1	Etoile	0
Olten	0	Bern	2
Solothurn	4	Bözingen	0
Cantonal	3	Racing	2

30th April, 1933.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Lugano	1	Young fellows	1
Urania	0	Chaux-de-Fonds	2
Carouge	0	Biel	1
Basel	3	Grasshoppers	3
Lausanne	5	Young Boys	2
Nordstern	0	Servette	9
Blue Stars	2	Concordia	3
Zurich	6	Aarau	0

### FIRST LEAGUE.

Winterthur	0	Locarno	2
Oerlikon	2	Luzern	1
Bellinzona	6	Old Boys	1
St. Gallen	1	Brühl	3
Solothurn	2	Montreux	1
Bern	4	Grenchen	1
Bözingen	5	Olten	4
Etoile	3	Cantonal	1

The League matches are rapidly drawing to a close. For the first time in Swiss football history have we had a settled continuous fixture list, which has been adhered to with almost unflinching regularity. Where there is a will there is a way and I hope we shall continue thus.

In the National League Group 1 there are only 3 matches unplayed, due to the interference of the Cup Final. Nevertheless the problem of relegation is solved, Carouge must join the First League next season. Grasshoppers are on top and Basel occupy second place. In Groupe 2, the programme is completed, Aarau are relegated. Young Boys, undefeated in the championship up till last Sunday, fell badly from grace in Lausanne and M. Servette made no mistake in their last fixture against Nordstern, both clubs now tie for first place with 23 points from 14 games. Servette have the better goal average, but this does not count and they will have to play it out with Young Boys, who is to have the honour of being group champion and who is second best only. That of course, is also a position worth occupying as it means a match with the second best in Group 1 (Basel) and for the winner a place in the finals for the Swiss Championship together with the group leaders and the First League Champion.

In the First League "West," Bern are worthy leaders with 29 points and after only one season amongst the "second raters" return to the National League with flying colours. The two relegation candidates will be recruited from Montreux, Bözingen or Olten, quite an open question yet. In group "East," Locarno lead with 26 points from Brühl 25 points. Thus the lovely Ticino will have two representatives in the highest circle next season. Brühl have conquered St. Gallen by 3:1 in the local derby on the Espenmoos. I take my hat off to the better team. What irony of fate lies in the fact that Locarno were beaten both at home and away by Brühl, the only club before whom they had to strike their flag! And Brühl, having frittered away points to far less redoubtable opponents, miss promotion again by inches. Never mind, third time lucky. Perhaps! I am sure it is that unlucky green colour of theirs. Change it, boys, and all will be well. Oerlikon is relegated and must descend into League II, made up chiefly of the second teams of National and First League Clubs.

Old Boys, Basel have completed their programme and are doomed as well if Lucerne manage to get only one point from their remaining home game against Bellinzona. Should they fail Lucerne and Old Boys would have to play a match to decide which club is to go down. So we must wait and see. M.G.

## RAPPORT SUR L'ACTIVITE DU SECRETARIAT DES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER.

(Continuation.)

On souhaiterait que le livre, "Les Suisses dans le vaste monde," "Schweizer im Ausland," s'envolât plus rapidement. Le Secrétariat n'a pu placer encore que 1500 exemplaires sur 11,000 que compte l'édition. Cette publication rencontre cependant beaucoup d'intérêt partout où l'on se décide à l'acquiescer, surtout dans les colonies d'outre-mer.

Le Secrétariat a continué à suivre les problèmes épineux soulevés par le prélèvement de la *taxe militaire* des Suisses à l'Etranger. L'administration fédérale des Contributions s'est enfin saisie de la question. Elle vient de rédiger un projet d'ordonnance fédérale, mais qui n'a pu prévoir de solutions nouvelles que dans la limite des dispositions de la loi du 28 juin 1878, à laquelle on ne veut pas toucher. Aussi, les quelques petites améliorations en faveur des Suisses à l'Etranger contenues dans le projet d'ordonnance sont elles insignifiantes. Le Secrétariat estime que ce n'est que par une modification de la loi elle-même que l'on donnera satisfaction aux revendications des Suisses à l'Etranger. Ce n'est pas à dire qu'il les admette toutes indistinctement. Il ne s'est jamais prononcé, en particulier, comme on l'a prétendu, pour une suppression totale de la taxe militaire de nos compatriotes du dehors. Mais entre cette solution radicale et l'état de chose actuel, il y a une place pour une judicieuse réforme.

Le service des *recrues* a été très astreignant cette année pour la chancellerie du Secrétariat, qui en assume avec beaucoup de zèle la responsabilité. Sans compter qu'à défaut d'autre occupa-

tion, nos compatriotes du dehors viennent beaucoup plus nombreux faire leur service, les trois quarts d'entre eux ont demandé au Secrétariat de leur trouver une place au pays.

Quant aux *services personnels*, ils sont le pain quotidien du Secrétariat; tous les cas qui ne sont pas de son ressort sont renvoyés, il va sans dire, aux instances compétentes. Enumérons, parmi les services rendus, les renseignements d'ordre juridique, les indications données pour venir faire des études en Suisse, l'obtention de bourses d'études, de subsides provenant du fonds du 1er août 1930 pour l'écolage de petits compatriotes de l'étranger, l'aide et les conseils aux membres de nos groupes spécialement méritants que les circonstances ont forcés de rentrer au pays pour y chercher une occupation, etc., etc.

Le Secrétariat, après l'heureuse initiative du Cercle Helvétique de Reims venu l'été passé faire un tour de huit jours en Suisse, avec 200 Rémois, a invité les autres groupes N.S.H. à suivre cet exemple. Il les a renseignés, à cet effet, sur toutes les facilités de *voyages* dont ils pourraient bénéficier. Là encore, le Secrétariat est parti du principe que rien ne contribue davantage à rendre nos compatriotes de l'étranger conscients des charmes de notre pays et de la valeur de ses institutions que d'avoir à les révéler à d'autres. Citons à ce propos encore l'exemple du président du groupe N. S. H. des Vosges, qui, après un voyage d'essai organisé en voiture de tourisme avec deux amis français, vit quantité de personnes s'adresser à lui pour obtenir des itinéraires et des renseignements sur nos hôtels. Très obligamment, notre compatriote se mit à leur service et leur fournit toutes les indications désirées. C'est ainsi qu'il donna, l'été passé, à plus d'une centaine de personnes, l'occasion de se rendre en Suisse pour des excursions plus ou moins prolongées, et, grâce à lui, parfaitement réussies. La colonie suisse d'Epinal fut naturellement la première à bénéficier de la sympathie pour notre pays née de ces voyages. A ce point de vue là aussi, de telles initiatives sont à encourager.

Grâce au Fonds du 1er août 1930, le Secrétariat put continuer à témoigner son intérêt à nos petits compatriotes de l'étranger. 3600 *almanachs Pestalozzi* leur ont été distribués à Noël. Les *écoles suisses* ont reçu en outre, comme cadeau de fin d'année scolaire, un joli chant plein de fraîcheur, composé à leur intention par l'excellent musicien suisse qu'est M. Miche et l'ancien directeur de l'école suisse d'Alexandrie, M. Fiechter. Le Secrétariat abonne de plus ces écoles aux revues pour la jeunesse, "L'Ecolier romand," "Le Schweizer Kamerad," etc. qui font la joie des écoliers de chez nous et qui sont appréciés encore plus au dehors.

La maison de vacances des Suisses à l'Etranger de Rhâzüns a rendu cette année d'inappréciables services, grâce surtout à la fondation "Oeuvre de vacances des Suisses à l'Etranger." A côté des hôtes payants, 25 compatriotes dans la gêne, débilisés moralement et physiquement par la crise, ont pu venir se remettre dans la paix de ce site merveilleux.

Comme nous l'avons vu, la situation financière du Secrétariat lui a imposé déjà et va lui imposer encore de douloureux sacrifices. La tâche des secrétaires devient toujours plus ardue, du fait qu'ils doivent, tout en pourvoyant aux activités multiples du Secrétariat, consacrer une grande partie de leur temps à des visites, à d'innombrables lettres et circulaires destinées à solliciter des fonds. Cette tâche était assumée autrefois en grande partie par des comités locaux formés de membres de la N.S.H. Il faut le reconnaître, la crise n'est pas la seule cause de la situation critique du Secrétariat. La Nouvelle Société Helvétique, après le gros effort qu'elle a fourni pour sa propre collecte, dont le Secrétariat n'a pas été sans souffrir, ne pouvait recommencer à quêter aux mêmes sources pour le Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger. Là-dessus, la crise est arrivée et le Secrétariat a dû y faire face avec ses seules forces jointes à l'aide de quelques membres de la Commission.

Un budget réduit avait déjà été prévu en décembre 1931, pour 1932, fixant les dépenses à 51,000 francs, alors qu'elles étaient de 55,000 francs en 1931 et de 73,700 francs en 1930. Le Secrétariat les diminua encore au cours de l'année présente en les ramenant à 45,000 francs. Malgré ce double effort dans le sens des réductions et dans celui d'une campagne financière intense, il est à craindre que le bilan du Secrétariat ne boucle par un sérieux déficit. 7,000 francs sont encore à trouver d'ici à la fin de l'année. Et de quoi le Secrétariat vivra-t-il l'an prochain? Alors qu'il comptait sur une augmentation de la subvention que lui alloue la Confédération, on lui annonce qu'au contraire, elle n'échappera pas au vent des réductions, qui soufflera, là, encore plus fort que sur les salaires du personnel fédéral.

Nous voudrions donc qu'on laissât pas le Secrétariat se débattre seul avec les difficultés. Nous voudrions que non seulement de nombreuses adhésions à l'Union des Amis des Suisses à l'E-

tranger" contribuent à lui assurer l'aide morale et matérielle dont il a un urgent besoin, mais qu'une action prompte et efficace lui permette d'éviter un déficit et lui donne l'espoir de pouvoir continuer utilement son œuvre l'an prochain. Otions lui ce sentiment qu'il a d'avoir à soutenir presque seul un édifice qui menace de s'écrouler, et devant lequel ceux qui pourraient lui aider se contentent de s'arrêter, de regarder, de hocher de la tête et de passer plus loin. N'oublions pas qu'en bien des milieux, la Nouvelle Société Helvétique doit son prestige surtout à son activité en faveur des Suisses à l'étranger. Qu'elle s'efforce donc de sauver ce que d'aucuns considèrent comme son plus beau fleuron.

Fin.

### IT IS NEVER TOO LATE !

Exactly two years ago, I wrote an article in the Swiss Observer, under the heading "Towards Co-operation," inspired by the fact that some of the Swiss Societies encountered difficulties in filling the leading positions in their administrations, as well as the precarious financial position of some of these institutions. I wrote amongst other things:...

"We may even go one step further, and ask ourselves the searching question, whether there are not too many Societies in existence (there are nearly twenty Societies, clubs and institutions), and whether it would not be advisable to follow the example of some of the large Societies at home, which embrace in their fold various sections, covering a multitude of activities, but which, although almost independent, come under the same general administration. It seems to me that in accepting such a solution an enormous amount of energy and money could be saved, which, under present conditions is often wasted."

After having dealt with various questions put forward by some of our correspondents, I concluded this article as follows:...

"The question therefore arises: What is there to be done? We are not solving difficulties by expressing our sympathy to those who have been hit by adverse conditions. The Colony has faced knotty and difficult problems during and immediately after the war, and these have been solved in a most creditable manner; and I feel certain, that we shall also be able to tackle the present problems. Many of the speakers at the various recent dinners have in most eloquent words conveyed the message of their readiness to collaborate with one another for the welfare of the whole community, these words, I am absolutely convinced, were uttered in all sincerity, and with a genuine wish to help whenever the occasion should arise. The time has now come, when deeds should follow words.

In order that these various subjects could be usefully and advantageously discussed, I should suggest that a "round table conference" should be called in where all the Societies, Clubs and Institutions should be represented by one or two delegates, to meet in a friendly conclave. I have on purpose not used the word "commission" which seems to me to be too formal and official. I have in mind a sort of family gathering, (are we not really one big family?), where each member can give vent to his feelings and opinions. These delegates should not receive any formal instructions from their respective Societies, but should attend this gathering with an open and unbiassed mind, guided solely by the wish to be of some help to their countrymen.

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*I again purposely desist in putting forward any suggestions at this stage, so as not to jeopardize future possible deliberations or to create the belief that I have been commissioned by this or that Society; as a matter of fact, this article is inspired solely by my personal conviction, and I put it before our readers for what it is worth.*

*One final word I should like to address to all those who are interested in the future welfare of our Colony, which is one of the most important ones amongst all the colonies.*

*Let us try and find a way out in perfect harmony, without bias, selfishness and petty jealousies, let some of those lofty ideals to which we have so often given vent, be our guiding star, and I feel sure that our deliberations will be beneficial to the whole community. Let us, for once, drop that continuous grumbling, leg-pulling and bickering, and follow the example of our beloved country which has become great through promoting the spirit of good will towards mankind in general and to our co-patriots in particular. Let us find the man who has the courage, tact and ability to call in a gathering and direct its deliberation in the spirit of a deep patriotic conviction. A kind providence has given us such men, let them come forward to lead us to happier and more prosperous times, and then our future will look brighter and our motto: "One for all, all for one" will find a glorious justification and will not remain merely an empty slogan."*

What has been written two years ago is still true, we are not one atom better off than in 1931, nor has the position of some of the institutions shown a marked improvement.

I need hardly emphasize, that no notice was taken at the time of some of my suggestions, and everything went on as gaily as before; but those who, for some reason or another, have a more closer inside knowledge of the conditions, will agree with me, that now more than ever, is it necessary to collaborate.

It is therefore delightful to hear, that two of the Societies in the Colony, as will be seen in another column, have decided to hold their social function in conjunction with each other, and this is, I am sure only the first step towards a closer relationship or even amalgamation. It was a bold step and a wise one, and will no doubt meet with the approval of all those who have the interest of the Colony at heart.— It might interest our readers to know, that recently the two Swiss Societies (Schweizergesellschaft Wien, 116 members; Schweizerverein Helvetia, 78 members.) at Vienna have decided to amalgamate in order to fortify their position, — which shows that a closer co-operation has become a necessity all round.

I wish to congratulate the two London Societies for their far-seeing and wise policy.

ST.

### PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to inform our readers of the death of Mrs. Florence Maude, née Stevens, wife of Mr. J. H. Ungricht, after a long illness. The Funeral took place yesterday at West Norwood Cemetery, S.E.

### AN INTERESTING LECTURE.

On Wednesday, May 17th, Dr. Gooch, the eminent historian and economist will lecture at the "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. on the "European Situation."

The lecture will start about 8.30 p.m., and we strongly advise all who are able to take the opportunity of hearing Dr. Gooch's fine lecture, for he is a great authority on European politics and economics. (See Advert.).

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