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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### SENTENCES ON GENEVA RIOTERS.

The trial before the Federal Assize Court of National Councillor Nicole, editor of the "Travail," and sixteen others in connection with the shooting at Geneva on November 9th, when troops were forced to fire on demonstrators, killing three of them and ten of the lookers-on, came to an end on June 6th after a hearing which had lasted since May 15th. The jury, after consulting for nearly two hours, returned a verdict of guilty against Nicole and six of the accused and acquitted the ten others.

The sentences were as follows: Nicole, 6 months imprisonment, less 2 months, which he already spent in prison, and a fine of 100 frs.

Lebet, 4 months imprisonment and a fine of 50 frs.

Daviet, 4 months imprisonment, less 102 days, and a fine of 50 frs.

Wuthrich, 4 months imprisonment, less 38 days, and a fine of 50 frs.

Isaac, 2 months imprisonment, less 35 days, and a fine of 30 frs.

Bariswyl, 2 months imprisonment, less 30 days, and a fine of 30 frs.

After the sentences were pronounced communists tried to demonstrate in the streets, but were dispersed by police.

## NATIONAL ECONOMY IN SWITZERLAND.

The unexpected rejection, by the Swiss electorate, of the Government's proposal for a reduction of 7½ per cent. in the salaries of State officials has not modified the policy of the Federal Council, which is firmly resolved to take the necessary measures for coping with the situation. Three days after the vote the Government approved and made public a financial programme which is likely to meet with strong opposition, but which will nevertheless be carried out.

The plan provides for a general reduction of about 30,000,000f. in all State subsidies, except subsidies for unemployment relief and public works intended for occupying the unemployed; and for an extension of the tax on coupons to various classes of securities and shares that were so far free of any tax. At the same time a tax is to be placed on non-alcoholic drinks, while the existing taxes on wines, spirits, and tobacco will be raised. But the main point in the plan is the setting up of a provisional Federal income-tax on all incomes exceeding probably 10,000f. a year. The Federal Government cannot levy direct taxes without an amendment of the Constitution, or unless special powers are granted by Parliament. Direct taxation has occasionally been imposed, for instance, the Extraordinary War Tax levied during the War and until three years ago, which provided the means of paying for the upkeep of the Army during the War and for reducing the public debt. The new taxes are estimated to produce nearly 100,000,000f. At the same time, the Federal Council announces that it will examine some other means for reducing the salaries of State officials, or, at least, for stopping temporarily the increases in those salaries.

As time is pressing, the Federal Council intends to ask Parliament either to grant the Government full powers for enforcing the proposed measures, or to vote a Federal Bill containing an urgency clause. That would enable the Federal Council to apply the financial plan before the end of July.

## FRANCO-SWISS TRADE.

The French Government has denounced as from June 1st the Franco-Swiss Commercial Convention concluded on July 8th, 1919.

Switzerland will not be able to import so many French goods if Swiss exports to France fall owing to the denunciation of the Franco-Swiss trade agreement.

In recent years Switzerland has been importing French goods to a value of two and a half times that of the Swiss exports to France.

## PROFESSOR ROBERT CHODAT HONOURED.

The recipient of this year's Linnean Medal awarded by the Linnean Society of London is Prof. Robert Chodat of Geneva. Unfortunately, he was unable to be present at the anniversary meeting held on May 24th and the medal was received on his behalf by the Swiss Minister. In the present state of specialisation, it is difficult to cover much of the field of botany and Prof. Chodat is one of the very few who can be considered a master in most branches. His work on the systematics of Polygalaceae and their geographical distribution, and his ecological accounts of the vegetation of Paraguay explored by him in 1914 and of Portugal, Spain and Majorca which he visited with his students, are of great merit. In his laboratory at Geneva he elaborated the methods of obtaining pure cultures of Algae now in general use, and his papers on Algae, culminating in his monograph on polymorphism, have made him a recognised authority on the subject. More recently he has turned his attention to Fungi, particularly the organisms of fermentation, where his knowledge of chemistry and physiology has enabled him to make important advances. It is not so much the minutiae of a subject as the broad principles that have attracted him, as is seen in his critical study of the palaeozoic Pteropoda and in his address on the conception of species in modern botany. In genetics his contributions, though not numerous, have been fundamental. It is natural that he should be a successful teacher and his admirable "Principes de Botanique" reveal his wide and philosophic outlook. Geneva has always been famous for its botanists and Robert Chodat is a worthy successor to de Saussure and the de Candolles.

## ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of M. G. F. Autenrieth, late General Manager of the Crédit Suisse, at the age of 64.

## BERNE.

The Swiss Young Socialist party invited their members to a Meeting at Biel on Whitsun. The cantonal government put a ban on all public demonstrations, and in order to safeguard public order, the "Landwehr" regiment 45 was called up, no troubles however occurred.

## NEUCHATEL.

The board of directors of the Cantonal Bank of Neuchâtel have announced the following reductions of salaries: 5% for salaries amounting to 7,500 frs., 10% for salaries exceeding 7,500 frs.

## FRIBOURG.

M. B. Erne, Manager of the "Banque d'Etat de Fribourg," has died after a short illness, at the age of 47.

## VAUD.

The International Federation of League of Nations Societies opened its seventeenth plenary conference at Montreux. M. Motta, Federal Councillor, welcomed the Federation on behalf of Switzerland.

\* \* \*

The old Theatre Bel-Air at Lausanne has been transformed into a cinema.

At the inauguration, with the film "Danton," representatives of the Federal Government, county and municipal authorities, the Diplomatic Corps and local personages were present. The cinema has been entirely reconstructed. A reception was held after the show.

\* \* \*

Dr. F. Simond, has been nominated clerk to the Federal Tribunal at Lausanne, in succession to Dr. Naegeli, who has recently been made a Federal judge. M. Hans Ruegg from Zurich, will act as secretary to the supreme Court.

## TICINO.

Seven villagers were killed in Val Chironico, when a cable which they were using to lower logs of wood from Monte Chiapp came into contact with a high-tension electric wire. Five others were seriously injured, three of whom are not expected to live.

## FOOTBALL.

### WHITSUNITE.

What a glorious weekend for a run to the seaside, or an outing on the river, loafing about in your garden, or lounging in the Pavilion at Lords, in fact, for anything except what the title of these notes refers to. I ask your indulgence, but I do not care rap whether they were foolish enough in Switzerland to kick a football or not. To-day, je m'en fiche! — That "parleur inconnu" was at it again, reporting a tournament in Luxembourg between teams representing Holland, France, Luxembourg and Belgium and, by the way, who finished in that order. The two finalists Holland and France played two matches on Whit-Monday. Jedem Tierchen sein Plässerchen!

Still, there are a few things of interest to report. Firstly, Young Boys by beating Grasshoppers in Berne did not as reported, win the National League Final (there is no such thing) but the "Challenge National" Final. Secondly, the League programme has come to an end, the outstanding deciding match between Bözingen and Montreux becoming unnecessary by a decision of the Football Committee whereby Montreux forfeit 2 points gained against Olten, on account of their having played a suspended player. The club had appealed against the suspension but omitted to send at the same time the guarantee sum of frs. 300.— and so lost their place in the First League. Very unfortunate for that old Serie A Club.

## SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS.

The draw has now been made and the club with choice of ground is mentioned first. It will be obvious that Grasshoppers and Servette are favoured by Dame Fortune, both being at home twice and Grasshoppers against the strongest opponents. Six more matches and we shall see another season completed, but why all these Finals? Revenue, of course.

June 11th:	Berne v Grasshoppers
	Servette v Young Boys
June 18th:	Grasshoppers v Servette
	Young Boys v Bern
June 25th:	Grasshoppers v Young Boys
	Servette v Bern.

These finals are decided by points, 2 for a win, 1 for a draw, and if a tie, goal average will count. So now you may amuse yourselves in working out the chances of the four clubs. Take F.C. Bern, the First League Champions. Can you see them getting one point? I doubt it. That would give the other three two points each. Grasshoppers should then win their home matches Servette and Young Boys and become champions with 6 points. Quite easy on paper, but you see, it won't work out like that in practice!

M.G.

## LA SUISSE, TERRE D'ASILE DE L'EUROPE.

par Fernand HAYWARD.

—Quel pays singulier que la Suisse, m'a dit un ami plus porté à la critique qu'à l'éloge, si la Société des Nations ne délibérait à Genève, il ne s'y passerait jamais rien!

Il ne me fut pas difficile de rappeler à cet interlocuteur légèrement atrabilaire, que les peuples heureux n'ont pas d'histoire et surtout pas d'histoires au pluriel, que des peuples comme ceux de la Scandinavie, Danemark, Suède, Norvège, coulent des jours paisibles, gèrent leurs affaires aussi bien que la durée des temps le permet sans faire beaucoup plus parler d'eux si ce n'est pour la magnifique contribution qu'ils apportent aux lettres et aux arts, avec la pléiade d'artistes et d'écrivains dont ils s'honorent.

Pourquoi diable la violence des luttes, l'apréte des querelles, un perpétuel esprit de contention devraient-ils être un sûr indice de supériorité? On a dit et répété sur tous les tons que la Suisse était la plaque tournante de l'Europe et le lieu géométrique où deux civilisations, deux cultures, le monde latin et le monde germanique, se rencontrent et se fondent en une harmonieuse synthèse. Il est de hautes vérités qu'on ne doit pas se lasser de répéter, non seulement parce que rien ne serait plus injuste que d'en négliger les évidences, mais aussi parce qu'il s'en dégagé un enseignement qui permet de présager pour l'Europe tout entière un avenir plus harmonieux le jour où tous auront compris la nécessité d'appliquer des principes auxquels les citoyens de la Confédération doivent le secret de leur félicité et dans lesquels ils puisent leur véritable grandeur.

L'un des éléments les plus caractéristiques de la vie intellectuelle et spirituelle, du "climat moral" de la Suisse, est un large et noble esprit de tolérance. Seuls, huit siècles de démocratie authentique pouvaient engendrer un tel phénomène et permettre à cette fleur si rare du support mutuel, de s'épanouir sur un terrain favorable.

La Suisse a toujours été, non seulement la charnière de l'Europe et le foyer d'une liberté de bon aloi, mais encore la terre d'asile des proscrits. Elle continue à l'être et, si l'on voulait rappeler seulement le nom de tous ceux qui vinrent y chercher un abri contre de cruels persécuteurs, il faudrait une longue étude.

Pour ne s'en tenir qu'au seul XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle, à cette époque si féconde en bouleversements sociaux et politiques, on voit la Confédération rivaliser avec la Grande-Bretagne dans cet empressement à faire accueil aux patriotes et aux penseurs exilés. A tous, sans exception de personnes, sans préférence pour les races ou les doctrines, le même traitement est réservé, le même souci de panser les blessures et d'apaiser d'amères douleurs, est également manifesté.

L'empereur Napoléon III, au faite de la puissance arbitre de l'Europe et du destin des peuples, n'avait jamais oublié ses années de jeunesse, passées auprès de sa mère, la reine Hortense, au château d'Arenenberg en Thurgovie et les cours d'artillerie qu'il avait suivis à l'école de Thoune.

Le lendemain des mouvements insurrectionnels de Pologne, en 1830, le grand poète Adam Mickiewicz — il était en vérité Lithuanien, mais on ne distinguait pas en ce temps-là — fit un long séjour en Suisse avant de se fixer à Paris où il devait occuper une chaire au Collège de France. C'est à cette occasion que le poète vaudois Jean-Jacques Porchat adressait à l'illustre exilé et à des compagnons, une ode célèbre : *Its viennent, les voilà, salut aux Polonais,* *De leurs pieds tout gonflés, essuyons la poussière.*

Un autre Polonais, patriote et proscrit, était venu, ayant Mickiewicz, chercher un asile en terre d'Helvétie, c'était le général Kosciuszko, le dictateur éphémère de 1794, fait prisonnier par les Russes et rendu à la liberté mais exilé par le tsar Paul Ier.

Il est d'autres patriotes pour qui la Suisse fut maternelle au siècle dernier. Ce sont les Italiens. La Confédération est mêlée de très à l'histoire du Risorgimento et l'on ne voit guère de "libéraux" transalpins qui, traqués par les

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Herrlicher Sommerferienaufenthalt mit Sprachkursen, Herbstschulbeginn Mitte September.

gouvernements réactionnaires restaurés dans la péninsule par les traités de 1815, n'avaient pas encore séjourné en territoire helvétique. Pellegrino Rossi, qui devait mourir assassiné en 1848 à Rome où Pie IX — encore libéral — l'avait nommé premier ministre, fut professeur à Genève : Gioberti traversa la Suisse pour se rendre à Paris : Garibaldi, au lendemain du désastre de Novare, vint se réfugier à Lugano d'où il regagna l'Italie par Genève et la France; plus tard il devait revenir triomphalement à Genève pour assister au congrès de la paix de 1867 et c'est de là qu'il partit pour organiser l'expédition contre Rome qui devait s'achever par la tragédie de Mentana. Mais celui des proscrits italiens qui séjournait le plus longtemps en Suisse, à Lugano, à Lausanne, à Genève, ailleurs encore, fut Giuseppe Mazzini.

Dès 1833, le grand Génois se rendait de Marseille à Genève pour organiser cette "expédition de Savoie," confiée à la direction du général Ramorino et qui, partie de Rolle s'acheva par un lamentable fiasco, dès la frontière franchie à Saint-Julien. Quelques pressions qui furent faites par les gouvernements étrangers, sur le Conseil fédéral, Mazzini ne fut pas expulsé; il s'éprit de la Suisse, du panorama de ses Alpes et finit par les aimer "comme on aime sa mère."

Pendant trois ans, il y prolongea son séjour, vivant à Lausanne, à Berne, à Soleure, à Bienne, à Grenchen et même chez un pasteur protestant de Langnau. Années de noires tristesses, d'embarras financiers, de tourments physiques même, que seule apaisait la douceur de vivre sur un sol libre et fier. Mazzini s'intéressait à la vie politi-

que du pays dont il était l'hôte et fondateur de la "Jeune Italie" il voulut créer une société analogue "La Jeune Suisse," dont l'organe bimensuel et portant le même titre, paraissait en français et en allemand.

Mazzini avait conçu un programme assez singulier qui comportait l'agrégation à la Confédération de la Savoie et du Tyrol, avec cette particularité qu'une fédération de républiques eût remplacé la division en cantons et que l'autorité fédérale eût représenté le peuple tout entier et non les Etats confédérés. La Constitution suisse de 1848 porte le reflet de ces idées et le célèbre homme d'Etat vaudois Druey fut des amis enthousiastes de Mazzini.

En 1849, au lendemain de la prise de Rome par les troupes du général Oudinot et de la chute de l'éphémère république romaine, nous retrouvons Mazzini, fugitif, sur les bords du Léman. Une nuit de novembre, accompagné de deux amis, il quitte Genève à pied, gagne Nyon en devisant de Byron et Mickiewicz; de là parvient à Lausanne en voiture d'où il part pour l'Angleterre qui fut, après l'Italie, sa véritable patrie d'élection.

Ces quelques souvenirs illustrent assez l'antique et noble tradition qui fait de la Suisse une terre d'asile.

*Revue Suisse.*

## PERSONAL.

The many friends of Mr. G. Wuthrich, Manager of the Oerlikon Ltd., will hear with regret that his father, Mr. G. Wuthrich died in Berne at the age of 79 years.

However, they were accustomed to the caprices of strangers in this respect, so with a shake of their heads, they left him to his own devices, and were fully occupied with the carriage which they had to take to pieces several times at dangerous spots.

All of a sudden, the Englishman disappeared, and it was only after careful search and much shouting that they were able to make him out, far off the path, and hanging on to the side of a rock, whither he had wandered in the enthusiasm of his search. They got him back safely but with much difficulty, and not without damage to his hands and clothes. But the pleasure of having obtained such a rich mineralogical booty was ample compensation for him, and he did not allow himself to be easily disconcerted. Soon, he even enlisted the sympathy of his companions, and when they were not all busy with the carriage, some of them helped him with his collection of stones, and found him many fine specimens. To tell the truth, they selected the heaviest, for the more weighty the loads, the more there would be on the bill to pay when they got to Airolo. Even in those days, the people of Uri had good heads for business.

It was late in the afternoon before the caravan reached the hospice, and the monks welcomed it with an astonishment easy to understand. They said there was another traveller there, a naturalist from Geneva who had already spent several days scouring the mountains in search of minerals. Greville waited impatiently for the return of this rival stone-hunter, and meanwhile spread out his own collection to show him.

The advent of the stranger was soon announced, for the sharp eyes of the mule drivers had seen him on the side of the Fibbia stock as he was glissading down a snowy slope, but it was some little time before he reached the hospice. He was an elegant, clean-cut young man, who introduced himself to Charles Greville by the name of Horace Bénédict de Saussure. Both were delighted at this unexpected meeting and by the prospect of a scientific conversation amidst such rough surroundings.

With a kindly smile, de Saussure admired the piled up heaps which his rival showed him, and jokingly advised him to send for another mule, as a still richer harvest awaited him on the descent to Airolo! He also had made a collection during his stay in these mountains, but with little regard to the size or weight of his specimens. The few choice pieces he was able to display made the Englishman's mouth water. The fact was that near the path, and Greville allowed himself to be persuaded to jettison part of his cargo, to the

despair of the men of Uri, and to accept in exchange a fine collection of crystals, tremolites, and grenades which the monks of the hospice gave him.

Greville went about the world under the title of mineralogist, but his conversation soon betrayed the dilettante who took delight in fine specimens, but had no idea whatever of the creative and formative agencies of nature. Nevertheless both men were delighted with their evening, which provided real interest for Greville and a pleasant distraction for de Saussure who was going to spend several more days in those parts.

Next morning, de Saussure was already on his way to the neighbouring heights before Greville's caravan was ready to start. He had very kindly told the Englishman of certain places where he might make interesting finds, and Greville hastened to take advantage of the information. He had as much time as he wished for his search, for the troubles and difficulties with the carriage were endless and kept the guides hard at work for several hours. In spite of the lightness of the vehicle, it was no small matter to get it through the gorge of the Tremola. They had to take it to pieces over and over again, especially in the lower part of the gorge, where they met columns of loaded mules coming up from Airolo, whose drivers gave free play to their irony. The men of Uri would have preferred to carry the vehicle all the way, but the Englishman insisted on its being reassembled wherever possible, for he would not otherwise be able to say with a clear conscience that he had won his wager! The loss of time that this occasioned was of no more consequence to him than the extra wages which he would have to pay on the same account.

When at last, towards evening, he entered Airolo, gloating with natural pride over the surprise of the inhabitants, he rewarded the four men of Uri handsomely, and they therefore had no difficulty in finding additional hands to help them on the way to Bellinzona. There still remained many difficulties to overcome before they reached the first chestnuts at Faido, and the first vineyards at Giornico. But when on the following day he reached the little town with its ring of castles, he was able with complete justification, to write to England and say that he was the first tourist to cross the highest mountains of Europe in a carriage.

Of the thousands of travellers who to-day cross the St. Gotthard in a few hours in the luxurious postal motor coaches along a magnificent road, how many turn their thoughts to the eccentric Mr. Greville, who nevertheless must take his place among the pioneers of modern tourism? *From A Century of Swiss Alpine Postal Coaches.*

## HOW MR. GREVILLE CONQUERED THE ST. GOTTHARD.

(CONTINUED).

A long talk ensued, and then Imboden had a brain-wave. "Why not dismantle the carriage and carry it over this nasty bit?" No sooner said than done. The mules were sent on in front, then each man shouldered his bit till they reached a more practicable path. Mr. Greville beamed with delight as his carriage took shape again, and proudly remounted his throne. His victory had banished his fears.

"You silly ass may thank our forefathers for this tunnel," shouted Zurfluh to the guide, "if we had had to cross on the old boards suspended outside, it would have been all up with this ridiculous trip of his."

By a stroke of luck they met no convoy of mules coming from the Italian side. They could not have passed. The carriage was sometimes wider than the path! Late in the afternoon, before the glory of the summer's day was spent, the party looked down into the valley of Ursen, and the rest of the drive to Hospenthal was child's play. Here they passed the night. Mr. Greville was in high spirits over his experiences, while the guides discussed with the villagers the events of the day and what was likely to happen on the morrow.

The morning of July 25th, 1775, dawned brilliantly, as though the sun shared in the sport as he beamed brightly on all the preparations going on before the inn. The animals were muzzled lest they should start browsing at the wrong moment, and heavy wooden saddles were fastened on their backs. They waited patiently to be loaded and appeared to appreciate the silver bells and gay feathers with which their harness was decorated. Only the mule in the shafts was restless not being used to such work.

When all was ready, Mr. Greville came out and took his seat. But if he thought things would go as pleasantly as the day before, he was grievously mistaken. The road begins to rise just after passing the ruined castle, and while the mules went steadily on to the tinkling of their bells, it proved a difficult job to keep the carriage right side up on the narrow flinty path. Yet it was not that which drew the Englishman from his seat. Collecting minerals was his passion: and when he noticed something sparkling among the stones heaped beside the road, he jumped out and poked about among the rocks filling the mule bags with stones that were not crystals at all but quite worthless, as the guides assured him in vain.