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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR HÄBERLIN.

The resignation of Federal Councillor Heinrich Häberlin was reported in our last issue, and we give herewith a short biography of our eminent compatriot, who has rendered great services to our country.

Heinrich Häberlin was born on the 6th of September, 1868, in Weinfelden (Thurgau); after leaving school he studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin. He then returned home and practised as an advocate, first at Weinfelden and then at Frauenfeld; at an early age he was appointed President of the District Tribunal at Frauenfeld. At the age of 36 he entered Parliament (National Council), over which he presided in 1918. A year later his fellow citizens elected him a member of the Grand Council.

He entered the Government on the 12th of February, 1920, in succession to Dr. Calonder, and was twice President of the Swiss Confederation, namely in 1926 and 1931. His military career was equally brilliant; he reached the rank of a Colonel (Infantry).

FURTHER RESIGNATIONS IN THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

It is rumoured in Swiss Parliamentary circles that the resignation of M. Musy, head of the Federal Finance Department, is expected in the near future.

(On going to press we hear that Federal Councillor Musy has tendered his resignation.)

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR MUSY AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

M. Musy, Finance Minister, declared in an important speech delivered in the National Council, that in the Swiss financial policy there could be no question either of a free currency (unlinked with gold) or of inflation or of devaluation, but only of the maintenance of the franc on its present gold parity.

NEW FEDERAL COUNCILLOR.

As successor to M. Häberlin, the following candidates are mentioned: Baumann (Appenzell-a.-Rh.), Schirmer, Pfister and Huber (St. Gall), Ludwig (Basle), Yberg (Schwyz).

THE FEDERAL BUDGET, 1933.

The accounts of the Swiss Confederation for 1933 close with a deficit of 72 million francs. The receipts are 409,780,098.46 francs against 482,061,121.26 francs expenditure, which leaves a deficit of 72,281,023.80 francs. The budget anticipated a deficit of 114.8 million francs, so that the actual result is by 424 millions better than was expected. This is due to an increase of 21.7 million francs in receipts, and a saving of 20.8 million francs in expenditure.

The accounts of the Swiss Confederation since 1914 are as follows:—

Deficits:	Francs.	Francs.
1914 ...	22,533,117.61	1922 ... 79,407,666.09
1915 ...	21,551,507.10	1923 ... 45,468,754.35
1916 ...	16,645,455.53	1924 ... 21,606,282.76
1917 ...	50,747,865.41	1925 ... 9,022,343.72
1918 ...	61,894,687.76	1926 ... 9,378,433.49
1919 ...	95,655,686.80	1927 ... 1,584,164.02
1920 ...	99,536,730.05	1932 ... 24,173,083.65
1921 ...	127,571,870.03	1933 ... 72,281,023.80
Surplus:		
1928 ...	23,762,933.28	1930 ... 6,732,219.52
1929 ...	23,990,767.40	1931 ... 2,254,408.28

ELECTION OF A FEDERAL COUNCILLOR.

The Liberal parliamentary group has nominated with a great majority Dr. J. Baumann, States Councillor and a former "Landammann" of Appenzell-a.-Rh., to be their candidate for the succession of M. Häberlin. Dr. Baumann is 60 years old. The Peasant Party is supporting this nomination.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of Professor Dr. C. Schlatter at the age of 70. Dr. Schlatter was for nearly 40 years Professor of Surgery at the University of Zurich; he was the author of many works on medical subjects.

* * *

Colonel Hans Kern, from Thalwil, has entered the National Council in succession to Dr. Sträuli, who has resigned.

* * *

Dr. Hans Sträuli, from Winterthur, has resigned from the National Council for reasons of health; he was a Member of Parliament since 1911. Dr. Sträuli, who was born in 1862, was for over 20 years "Bürgermeister" of the town of Winterthur.

* * *

FRIBOURG.

Preparations for the Swiss Federal Shooting Festival will be held in the months of July and August next at Fribourg have been started several months ago, and donations from prominent foreign friends of Switzerland are beginning to arrive. President Moscicki of Poland, who is also a citizen of Switzerland, same as his illustrious compatriot, Ignaz Paderewski, was the first to thus remember this important forthcoming event. Mme. Moscicki, née de Diesbach, is Fribourge by birth.

The fact that the head of a foreign nation sends a gift for the Federal Shooting Festival is not at all unusual. The Presidents of France have for a long time made it a practice to send a precious Sèvres vase as a gift for this big national manifestation. On the occasion of the Federal Festival in 1910, Berne acting as hostess at that time, the former German Emperor sent a cup which was valued at 10,000 Swiss francs. The fortunate winner was a citizen of Wallenstadt in Eastern Switzerland, from whom the Federal Council subsequently acquired it for the Museum of the Swiss Shooting Association. When the festival took place in Aarau in 1924, Fritz Ebert, first President of the German Republic, figured among the donors with an artistic statue in bronze of an archer. It is related that when the festival was held at Bellinzona in Southern Switzerland, one of the guests of honour belonging to the Diplomatic Corps in Berne, noticed that his government was not represented among the gifts, and only two days later the oversight was corrected in a most lavish manner.

BASEL.

A School and Research Institute for Ancient Music has been founded at Basel. It is known as "Schola Cantorum Basiliensis," and its purpose is to cover all questions pertaining to the revival of ancient music. Lessons on old-time musical instruments and instruction in the rendition of old compositions in the spirit of their respective epoch will afford opportunities to students of music as well as to professional musicians to acquire further training in this particular field.

The new school, which is located at 14, Wallstrasse, is working hand in hand with the Basel Conservatory of Music. It is the first institute of its kind in Switzerland, and it seems most appropriate that it was sponsored at Basel, distinguished seat of culture and music since times immemorial.

* * *

Professor Paul Speiser-Sarasin, a former member of the Cantonal Government and the National Council, has celebrated his golden wedding anniversary. Professor Speiser is 87 years old and his wife 73; both are in the best of health.

* * *

Dr. Gerwig (Socialist) has been elected President of the Appeal Court in Basle, with 4,072 votes; his opponents, Dr. Steiger (Liberal) and Dr. W. Meyer (Radical-Democratic), received 2,665 and 2,248 votes respectively.

* * *

THURGAU.

States Councillor Schmid has declared that he would not accept an election as Federal Councillor, and therefore does not wish to be nominated as a candidate.

VAUD.

M. E. Masson (Socialist) has given his resignation as Member of Parliament (Nat. Council). He entered Parliament in 1925. His successor will very likely be M. Georges Junod-Leder in St. Croix.

DIE LAGE DER SCHWEIZER IM AUSLAND.

Am Freitagnachmittag fand beim Bundespräsidenten Pilet eine Besprechung zwischen einer Delegation des Bundesrates und einer Abordnung von Auslandschweizern über die Lage und die Nöte der im Ausland niedergelassenen Schweizer statt. Von Seite des Bundesrates nahmen daran, ausser dem Bundespräsidenten der Vorsteher des Politischen Departements, Bundesrat Motta, und der Vorsteher des Justiz- und Polizeidepartementes, Bundesrat Häberlin, teil. Der Auslandschweizerdelegation, die unter der Führung von Dr. A. Lätt, Zürich, Präsident der Auslandschweizerkommission der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft, stand, gehörten Delegierte aus Deutschland, Frankreich, Italien, Österreich, Polen und Brasilien an.

Zur Sprache gelangten zwei Hauptfragen. Die Delegation der Auslandschweizer brachte ein mal das Gesuch vor, dem Auslandschweizersekretariat, das besonders in der heutigen Zeit, wo seine Arbeit für die Erhaltung des Zusammenhangs zwischen Heimat und Auslandschweizern am dringendsten ist, nicht mehr über die ausreichenden finanziellen Mittel verfügt, diese in vermehrtem Masse zur Verfügung zu stellen. Dem Bundesrat wurden von der Delegation einlässlich die Verhältnisse der Schweizerkolonien im Ausland geschildert. Die bundesrätliche Delegation sagte eine Prüfung der Angelegenheit zu. Der zweite Teil des Besprechungen diente dazu, den Vertretern der Auslandschweizerkolonien in den umliegenden Ländern Gelegenheit zur Vorlegung ihrer besondern Wünsche und Anregungen zu geben.

In einer anschliessenden Aussprache mit Vertretern der Presse wurde von seiten der Auslandschweizer namentlich darauf verwiesen, dass gegenwärtig von der Heimat mehr getan werden müsse, um zu verhindern, dass die im Ausland lebenden Schweizer ihrem Vaterland, zu dem sie treu stehen wollen, durch die gegebenen Verhältnisse mehr und mehr entfremden. Insbesondere wurde betont, dass der Frage der Schweizerschulen im Ausland alle Aufmerksamkeit zu schenken sei, um speziell die im Ausland geborenen Schweizerkinder der Heimat näher zu bringen. Von verschiedenen Seiten wurde auch darauf verwiesen, wie nützlich für den Kontakt mit der Heimat die Organisation von Schweizer Ferienaufenthalten für die im Ausland lebende Schweizer Jugend ist. Die Schweiz stehe in dieser Beziehung hinter vielen ausländischen Staaten zurück. Gerade der Umstand, dass viele junge Schweizer im Ausland die demokratische Heimat gar nicht kennen, habe dazu beigetragen, dass sie sich fremdländischen Organisationen anschlossen. Unterstrichen wurde weiter die Bedeutung der im Ausland lebenden Schweizer als Wirtschaftspioniere, die sehr viel zur Beliebung der Handelsbeziehungen mit dem Mutterland beitragen. Das Auslandschweizerwerk sollte daher in der Schweiz viel mehr unterstützt werden, als dies bisher gewesen war, und speziell die Schweizer, die früher im Ausland gelebt und gearbeitet haben, sollten sich im stärkeren Masse anschliessen. Dies sei vor allem nötig, um die Auslandschweizer besser als bisher zusammenzuschliessen, damit nicht bei ihnen das Gefühl aufkomme, ihre Heimat kümmere sich weniger um sie, als sich andere Staaten um ihre in fremden Landen lebenden Staatsbürger kümmern.

Weitere dringliche Begehren der Auslandschweizer betreffen einen Ausbau des Konsulardienstes und eine Änderung im Bezug der Militärpflichtersatzsteuer von den im Ausland lebenden Schweizerbürgern.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE.

Liebe Landsleute!

Die Kirchenpflege und der Pfarrer laden Euch herzlich ein an unseren Gottesdiensten während der Passionzeit teilzunehmen. Wir betrachten es als ein Vorteil, unserm Gemeindeleben in einer Zeit, in der in andern Ländern der freien Evangeliumsverkündigung, Schranken gezogen werden, ungestört Ausdruck verleihen zu dürfen. Das was uns in dieser Zeit des Kirchenjahres als Gottes Liebestat entgegen tritt im Opfertod und der siegreichen Auferstehung JESU, wollen und dürfen wir dankbar ehren. Möchten möglichst viele unserer lieben Landsleute dies auch als ihr Vorrrecht würdigen und an unserem kirchlichen Leben regen Anteil nehmen.

Mit herzlichem Gruss,

Die Kirchenpflege und der Pfarrer der

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE.

Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club, Birmingham

P. BRUN,

President of the Swiss Club, Birmingham.



The weather, added to the misfortune that befell the famous football team, did not offer a very cheerful welcome when the Swiss arrived from London last Saturday evening to join the Birmingham Swiss Club for their Annual Dinner. The subdued air at the Midland Hotel gradually gave way to a general feeling of joyfulness and eager expectation as the members and their friends filed into the reception room to make their obeisance to Madame Brun and her popular husband, the president of the Club.

About 125 participants sat down to a sumptuous dinner served both liberally and expeditiously; the ingenious assortment described on the menu as "Frivolités," and representing Swiss mountains and chalets, evoked all-round admiration.

The loyal toasts having been proposed and honoured, Mr. Brun rose to propose the "Birmingham Swiss Club and The Guests." He said that he was not going to make a speech, nor would he allow anyone to encroach in this manner on the limited time at the disposal of the "dancers"; he, however, felt it his duty to extend a most hearty welcome to Mr. E. Montag, the Swiss Consul at Liverpool, who was accompanied by Mrs. Montag. For the last seven years Mr. Montag had, at considerable personal sacrifice, honoured this annual function with his presence, and for the speaker and his committee this fact constituted a precious encouragement and incentive. Mr. Brun then expressed his pleasure in greeting the official representatives of sister societies, who had journeyed to Birmingham from far and near; he mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Th. Schaeerer (City Swiss Club, London), Mr. J. J. Boos (Swiss Mercantile Society, London), Mr. Keller (Union Helvetia, London), Dr. Schedler and Mr. E. Kuebler (Swiss Club, Manchester), Mr. Geneux (Swiss Culinary Society, London), Mr. E. Rubli (Swiss Culinary Society, Province) and Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Boehringer (*Swiss Observer*).

Mr. Montag, who on rising was met with a vociferous ovation, felt that he could not say all that he wanted in the short time allotted to him by the President. He considered himself a father to the Swiss Colony in Birmingham, and though he felt somewhat disconcerted in staying with his family once only in the twelve months, he knew that the "affairs of state" were safe in the hands of such excellent men as Messrs. Brun, Reinhard and Brunner, and if this trio ever failed him he was no less confident that he could always fall back on Mr. Kunzle. Mr. Montag paid a warm and eloquent tribute to the ideals and disinterested work which had become identified with the name of Mr. Kunzle. And this reminded him of a tale:—A clergyman—a very sick man—was ordered by his physician to spend three months in Switzerland; not having the advantage of knowing Mr. Kunzle, he demurred. The doctor put before him the alternative of going straight to heaven or to . . . Switzerland. After some meditation, he chose Switzerland, and was hale and happy ever afterwards.

Mr. Schaeerer, who replied on behalf of the official guests, was reluctant to speak for the many distinguished representatives and perhaps deprive the ladies of their share of the evening's enjoyment. He thanked the members of the Club for their regal hospitality; he complimented the President on the great success of the gathering, and added apologetically that he never realised that he was face to face with such a conspicuous compatriot when he used to meet Mr. Brun in London.

Mr. Brunner made the traditional charity appeal. He said that one of the foremost aims of their club had always been to assist those of their countrymen who had fallen by the way. He hoped that as we were enjoying ourselves this evening we would bear in mind those who were not so fortunate. The President called upon some of the ladies present and urged them to take up their quarters near the gentlemen and not leave them until they had made the best of it. (The collection amounted to £14.)

An agreeable surprise was sprung upon the company when at the command of the President in walked the *chef*, clad in the stately garb of his calling. Mr. Kunzle addressed him in French.

He said that, being a member of the profession, it afforded him great pleasure to testify to the excellency of the dinner. He—the *chef*—had placed before them a repast that fully confirmed the fame that French cookery had established the world over. It was one of those classical dinners that preceded and assisted successful diplomacy. Similar thanks were returned by Mr. Kunzle to Mr. Oerli, the banqueting manager of the Midland Hotel.

After a short interval the company adjourned to the ballroom, where *Terpsichore* reigned supreme. *Yodlers*, led by the imitable Mr. Gattiker, supplied a welcome diversion. Time flew all too quickly, and by midnight the gaily decorated rooms were dark and deserted. However, "Die Schweizer nahmen immer noch eine bevor sie gingen," and a few of us managed to stay behind and talk of old, forgotten times.

On Sunday morning a charabanc excursion, followed by a few private cars, took us to Droitwich. Snow had fallen during the night; the countryside looked bleak and chilly, but we enjoyed the "Fruehschoppen" all the more. On our return lunch was served at the Midland Hotel. We started bidding "au revoir." Mr. Schaeerer once more expressed the appreciation of the guests for the way in which their comfort and enjoyment had been attended to personally by the President; Mr. Montag seconded this vote, adding humorously that he had discovered only that morning the beautiful scenery by which Birmingham was surrounded. It was hard to part from our friends; Mr. Brun himself was not satisfied with inviting us to tea (an invitation which, we hear, found a ready response), but he insisted on our passing the night at his private house.

In conclusion, we cannot but express our admiration at the way in which the Birmingham Swiss celebrate their annual banquet. If any of the London Swiss are still labouring under the spell of the "depression," we advise him to chum up with some Swiss in Birmingham.

In writing this report it strikes us that one essential item is missing. Mr. Brun, in his modesty, has forgotten to "blow his own trumpet." We would have liked to hear something about the activities; there must be occurrences which are worth dwelling upon at such an annual function. We know that the Club has a membership of 35, and that the arrangements for such a successful gathering involve a tremendous task for the organisers and personal sacrifice on the part of every member.

There were also present, apart from those already referred to: Mr. Langlais, French Consul at Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. G. Ellison, Mr. Dommon, Mr. R. Stoll, Mr. W. Studer (Goole), Mr. and Mrs. Goth (London), Mr. Victor Berlemon (London), Mr. Horrocks (Liverpool), Miss Margaret Mansell (Liverpool), Mr. G. Marchand (London), and Mr. R. Ryf (London).

A SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL.

The Sunday School of the "Schweizerkirche" held a Social Afternoon at the Foyer Suisse on Saturday, March 17th.

In spite of the Boat Race and the Rugby International, the attendance did not suffer; in fact, the pleasant little hall at 15, Upper Bedford Place, proved to be too small to contain all those friends who wished to spend a pleasant afternoon amongst the youngsters of the Colony.

The Swiss Minister, who was unavoidably prevented from attending, was represented by Dr. W. Rüfenacht, First Secretary of Legation, who, in the course of the afternoon, made a pleasant speech to the audience, conveying the greetings of Monsieur and Madame Paravicini. Pastor C. Th. Hahn also addressed the company.

The performance started with a film, "Photographic Shots of Switzerland," shown by Mr. F. G. Sommer, depicting views of Zurich, Lucerne and the Bernese Alps. The "hah's!" and "Oh's!" of the audience proved how much everybody enjoyed these beautiful views.

The "star" turn of the programme, however, proved to be a Play in Six Acts, specially written by Mr. W. Fischer, and presented by the children of the Sunday School, the title of which was, "If We Went to Switzerland."

For the information of those who missed this most enjoyable function, I give a summary of the play:—

Act I.—Two children meet in a London road and speak about the prospects of a journey to Switzerland. Their imagination is alive, and they describe how they think Switzerland looks. As a result of their talk, they decide to make arrangements together, and to find other children who also want to go there.

Act II.—The same children meet again, together with several others. They have now all the need for the journey, and are getting ready. (At Victoria Station.)

Act III.—A cottage in Switzerland. Mountains in the background. Three farmers in Swiss national costume. One plays the hand organ. Beside him a lady dressed in Swiss national costume, knitting. As the farmer finishes his piece on the hand organ, they start a talk on music, until the London children appear on the scene, who meanwhile have arrived in Switzerland. The children express their surprise as they see the farmers. One of the children says that they are trying to find the chalet "Switzerland," whereupon the lady offers herself as guide. They all leave, after the farmer with the hand organ has played them a tune.

Act IV. (shadow-play).—Two of the farmers whom the children met are engaged in a talk in an Alp-hut in the evening, and one tells the story current in the valley about a mountain called "Strubhorn." Later on they talk about the Swiss abroad, their feelings and longings towards the homeland which they can never forget. The subject of the talk leads to the children who arrived from London, and they decide to help them in whatever way they can.

Act V.—Two Swiss children, later on joined by another two, are engaged in a talk in Swiss dialect. They leave the scene, whereupon the London children appear. They bear Swiss handkerchiefs round their shoulders. They speak about the experiences they had in the mountains, and of the near return to England. They finish by dancing around to the tune of a Swiss song, accompanied by the hand organ.

Act VI.—Back in England. (At Victoria Station.) A few parents of the children waiting at Victoria Station. Some are Swiss ladies, and they speak of the good old time they had when living as children in Switzerland. Presently the train arrives, and they leave the scene. — From the opposite side arrive the customs officials, and the children pass through the customs. They are surprised not to see anybody at the station. Presently, however, they discover their parents, and all are happy to meet again. They sing the Swiss tune once more, and then leave the scene.

Before I go any further I wish to congratulate most heartily Mr. W. Fischer, the author of this little play; he was successful in conveying throughout his play the ardent love which all those who know our country harbour in their hearts, and he was equally successful in awakening the longing of all those who only know our homeland from hearsay.

As to the numerous artistes, I have nothing but praise to bestow, and it is hardly fair to pick out any individual performers. I wish, however, to record that I was greatly impressed by Rudi; he was no doubt the *pièce de résistance* of the play; and Joggy came as a good second. The pathetic and sincere words of Edith, a Swiss girl: "I cannot leave my country. It is too dear to me, but I will wait for you, and you will come back another year. This country is also yours, and we shall always welcome you," made a great impression on the hearers.

The artist who was responsible for the scenery has no mean share in the success of the play, and I sincerely hope that further performances will be given, especially as the funds for sending Swiss children over to Switzerland will benefit by it.

Mr. W. Fischer, at the conclusion of the play, received a great ovation from both the performers and the audience, and a charming afternoon amongst our little ones came thus to a successful end.

ST.