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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS FAITH IN GOLD.

The necessity of firmly maintaining the gold standard was once again stressed in the Swiss National Council by the Finance Minister, M. Meyer, in the course of the examination of the Treasury accounts.

The maintenance of the gold standard was essential, he said, in the interest of the State's credit. He was categorically opposed to devaluation, which could only bring fleeting advantages and no durable benefit.

The Federal Council and the National Bank were firmly determined to maintain the gold standard. The National Bank, which in a short time had paid out 750,000,000 francs in gold and foreign exchange, was to-day as strong as ever.

The Treasury accounts were approved by the Federal Council without opposition.

SWISS FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION.

The "official" day for the Swiss Federal shooting competition has been fixed for the 26th of July. The Federal Council will attend *in corpore*. An invitation has also been extended to the Diplomatic Corps. M. Pilet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and the French Ambassador will be the official speakers.

A MONUMENT FOR CAPTAIN SPELTERINI.

A monument to Captain Spelterini, the well-known pioneer of the "ballon-libre," who died in June, 1931, has been inaugurated at Vöcklabruck (Austria). Colonel Messmer and Lieutenant Colonel Santschi have represented the Swiss Aero Club on that occasion.

Captain Spelterini was born in 1853 at Kirchberg, St. Gallen, and his original name was Eduard Schweizer. He was the possessor of a fine baritone voice which decided him to make his career as an opera singer. He studied music at the Conservatoire of Paris and Milan with such success that he received at once an engagement for a début at the Opéra in Paris. Before this, however, could take place he was taken ill with a very severe attack of pneumonia, which after a lengthy convalescence left him almost without a voice, so that he had to give up his ambition of becoming a singer. It was in 1875 when young Spelterini witnessed for the first time a balloon flight in Paris. The weather was extremely bad, and no would-be passenger could be found to accompany the pilot. So our young countryman offered himself and was accepted. The flight was a stormy one, but Spelterini kept cool, and so impressed the pilot that he recommended him to take up flying as a profession, which he did. He studied very hard, and after three years passed the examination as a full-blown pilot, his certificate bearing the remark of the Académie d'Aéronautique de France, "Vous le méritez plus que les autres." From 1879 onwards he became a professional pilot.

Not before Spelterini had undertaken seventeen flights by himself did he start to take passengers with him. He commenced now on travels which took him to England, Russia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Rumania, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa and Denmark. In the meantime, however, he paid a visit to his native land in 1891 when he made his first ascent having as a passenger J. C. Heer, the well-known Swiss writer. In 1892 he undertook the famous Berne flight, having on board Count Zeppelin, who at that time was building his first airship. He piloted his balloon through

a terrible storm and landed safely on the Pilatus. In 1898 he flew with his balloon "Vega" for the first time over the Alps, a deed which never before had been achieved. He also flew over the Mont Blanc.

His board books register altogether 570 flights, with a total of 1,237 passengers, which figures are a striking proof of the life work of this courageous pilot.

Captain Spelterini was one of the most popular men in Switzerland, and was an Honorary Member of the Swiss Aero Club.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

From Zurich comes the news of the death of M. Eugen Hueblin, at the age of 69. The deceased was for 30 years stenographer of the Federal Chambers. From 1903 to 1908 he was president of the Allg. Schweiz. Stenographenverein.

* * *

Dr. Schirmer, Professor at the Töchterschule in Zurich, was drowned when bathing in the Lake of Zurich. He was 74 years old.

BERNE.

From Berne comes the news of the death of Colonel Arnold Keller, a former chief of the General Staff of the Swiss Army, at the age of 92.

Colonel Keller was born in Aarau, the son of the famous statesman, Augustin Keller. He studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg, Zurich and Berlin, and started a practice as an advocate in Aarau in 1866. In the meantime, he attained the rank of captain of artillery in the army, and in 1876 he decided to take up an army career. He soon made a name for himself, and his many works on military subjects became well known. For many years he was an active collaborator of Colonel Pfyffer (Lucerne), head of the General Staff, and when the latter died in 1890, Colonel Keller became his successor, and was promoted at the same time to Divisional Commander. He retired in the year of 1905.

* * *

The factory Schnell, vormals Rapp, A.G., shoe manufacturers at Herzogenbuchsee, was completely destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to exceed half a million francs. Nearly 150 workmen have thus become unemployed.

FRIBOURG.

Thirty-one lorries have delivered 2 million cartridges to be used on the occasion of the Federal shooting competition which will take place next month.

ST. GALLEN.

The embroidery firm of A. Naef and Co. in Flawil has sold its machinery, and the works buildings are for sale.

* * *

M. Ebnete-Gehrli, a former teacher at the "Realschule," has celebrated his golden wedding anniversary.

SOLOTHURN.

M. Joh. Hugi-Kocher, a former member of the "Kantonsrat" and a popular leader of the "Volkspartei," has died at Selzach at the age of 83.

VAUD.

The "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne has been fixed for the 8th to the 23rd of September. The Federal Council will be represented at the opening day by M. Pilet, President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

The Nestle factory at Payerne will be closed at the beginning of next November. This establishment employs at present about 100 workmen.

* * *

M. J. Mermoud, a former National Councillor and president of the community of l'Isle, has died.

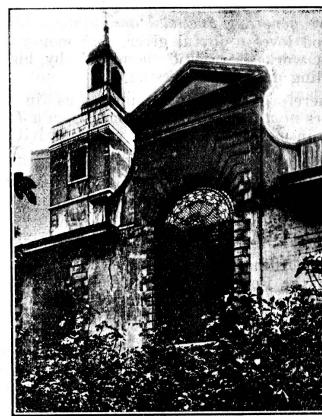
* * *

M. Benjamin Mayer, professor at the school of engineers at Lausanne, has retired from his post, which he has held for nearly 44 years.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde)

10th Anniversary of its Foundation.
Significant and Interesting History.



Ten years have passed since one beautiful Sunday morning our Allemannic Swiss Community inaugurated their own Divine services at the pretty and homely Church of St. Anne, at 9, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2.

Many of our compatriots will vividly remember that memorable day of June 22nd, 1924, when, filled with joy at the thought that their long-cherished wish for a Sunday morning service in their own mother tongue, and according to the custom of their fathers, had been realised. They answered the call of the provisional "Kirchenpflege," and listened with intense interest both to the message from the Bishop of London, and as delivered by the Rev. H. C. Thomas, M.A., and to the sermon by the Rev. W. Dietsche,

"Rest in the sunshine of the Love of God": thus read one of the messages; a phrase more beautiful, both in its construction and its deep and uplifting meaning, than most of us had ever heard before. No wonder that it made an everlasting impression upon the hearers and animated them with the fervent wish to find in this beautiful church that peace and happiness which is promised to those who follow Christ. No less impressive and stirring was the sermon on the text from Isaiah 66: "Was ist's denn für ein Haus, das ihr mir bauen wollt, oder welches ist die Stätte, da ich ruhen soll." The speaker laid stress on the fact that it is not sufficient to have a temple of God, but that work done in such a temple is all-important. Christian Love has a home here, a source of ever-flowing and reviving energy. From this temple of God his love must be radiated into every corner of our Swiss Congregation. "Kommet her, alle die ihr mithilfend und beladen seid, ich will euch erquickern." Not one among us all is free from pangs of a stricken conscience, from troubles, ill-luck, physical and mental. Let them seek this temple of God, and let them cast their burden upon the Lord. Let them realise that there is no pain too great which the Lord cannot turn into a blessing.

It was thus with full confidence and faith that the young church looked into the future. Those early days, however, were not void of a feeling of great responsibility and anxiety, of difficulties to be overcome, and even of occasional doubts as to whether a step of such gravity was justified.

Through the influence of the Bishop of London, and particularly the friendly disposition of the late Rev. Bishop Herbert Bury, D.D., the use of this beautiful church was granted at a very moderate rental, and this in spite of the fact that the churchwardens of St. Anne's were reluctant at first to let this treasure of a City church to a foreign congregation. Therefore the arrangement had to be tentative and provisional at first. However, it soon grew into a permanent and mutual understanding. For this, thanks are due again to the late Rev. Bishop H. Bury, D.D., who loved the Swiss and their country.

Looking back after ten years' work, the thought occurs to some of us: Has it all been

worth while? Have we made use of our possibilities? Have we applied our talent fully, or have we been slack? Our pastor has preached the Gospel in true and conscientious terms, Sunday after Sunday, and many a compatriot has found in these sermons animating and fruit-bearing thoughts for his daily life. Many who were downcast have found peace and comfort. Many more could have done so, if only they had wished to avail themselves of the opportunities which are offered to all. The poor and the sick have been visited, comforted with gifts for their inner and outer man, and many are the testimonials which speak for the necessity of our work in the Colony. Therefore, when the question is asked: Has it been in vain? we can answer, a thousand times, NO. However, we wish to do more service still, and we would love our compatriots to encourage us in our work more than in the past by their active, as well as financial, support. *There is plenty of room in our beautiful church, and there is a real need for the work to be maintained by more generous financial assistance.* Remember, God loves a joyful giver, and money spent for his work is repaid manifold by his all-abounding grace and blessing.

Therefore, come and support us in great numbers next Sunday, at 11 a.m., when a *Jubilee* service in memory of our ten years' activity will be held. A hearty welcome to all. X.

FOYER SUISSE.

The Ordinary General Meeting of the members of the Foyer Suisse was held on the 15th June last, under the presidency of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse, to receive the accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31st March, 1934, and the Council of Management report for the same period, of which report we give you an extract as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Council of Management have the honour to present to you their report for the year ending 31st March, 1934.

During the course of the year we have received the resignation of Mr. G. Hafner as a member of the Trust, who, having retired from business, has moved away from London. We have reluctantly accepted his resignation, and wish to place on record our appreciation of his services covering many years of beneficial activities as Vice-President of the Council of Management and member of the House Committee, coupled with our sincere wishes for many happy years of further useful activities in his new surroundings.

To fill his place we shall propose to you during the course of this meeting as a new member of our Trust, Mr. A. Bieri, manager of Brown's Hotel, who has already taken an active interest in the Foyer Suisse by giving useful advice to our Manageress, Mrs. Elmer, and we have no doubt that he will contribute his share to the success of the carrying out of our aims and objects.

We have likewise received, during the course of the year, the resignation of Mr. C. Bertschinger as Honorary Secretary, which we have accepted, and passed a suitable resolution embodying our full appreciation of his many years' untiring efforts and sacrifice for our Foyer. Mr. P. Bessire has been nominated by us to act as Honorary Secretary.

MANAGEMENT.

At the end of last year it was decided to make arrangements with the Schweizer Verband Volksdienst to entrust them with the management of the Hotel. In consequence, the Verband took over the management on 1st February last, appointing as their Manageress, Mrs. L. Elmer.

Frau Dr. Züblin, head of the Schweizer Verband Volksdienst, also paid us two visits, one in February and one in April, for consultation with the House Committee, and for the purpose of inspiring our staff with the spirit of her organisation, so that the work be done efficiently, with complete justice, harmony and goodwill.

The total number of guests were 1,077 (a slight increase on the previous year of 1,002), and out of this total 513 were of Swiss nationality. The proportion of Swiss guests will in future be considerably higher, due to an internal re-organisation.

It has been decided to make extensive renovations throughout the House, so as to ensure the sound and efficient running of the Hotel for the future. Every possible care has been taken to make the Hotel homely, pleasant and clean, and special care has been exercised to ensure the saving of labour for the running and cleaning of the Hotel. We have full confidence that, once our Hotel is re-organised in accordance with our plans, we shall be able to render excellent services to our guests, whom, we trust, will be mainly of Swiss nationality, and through such services, make it possible to maintain our usual social services.

It is with much satisfaction that we place on record our full appreciation of the able, quiet and efficient management of the Hotel by Mrs.

Elmer, and of the whole-hearted and loyal co-operation under her guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Koelliker, as well as of the other members of the staff, both Swiss and British.

SOCIAL SERVICE.

A year ago, our former Secretary gave you an extensive and interesting account of the social activities carried on at the Foyer Suisse, which activities have been continued during the year under review.

We have again arranged an Old Folks' Luncheon, at which we entertained more than 60 old people of the Swiss Colony, under the presidency of our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and as on a previous occasion, the oldest guest, Vincenzo Chiodo, born in Castagnola, on 17th January, 1850, received a medal, which he highly appreciated.

Our Hall is regularly used by the ladies of our two parishes for their meetings, at which they prepare and mend garments for distribution amongst the poor of the Swiss Colony by the churches, in conjunction with the Swiss Benevolent Society. Young men continue to make use of our hospitality against payment of a nominal rent, inasmuch as the Swiss Y.M.C.A., as well as the Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Gens de Langue Française, arrange their regular meetings and occupy separate rooms. Their activities are entirely independent of our organisation, but are carried on in accordance with our aims and object, so that we greatly benefit by the presence of these two associations.

Our chief work, however, consists of the services which we render to girls of Swiss nationality, who meet regularly on Wednesday evenings under the presidency of the Reverend R. Hoffmann-de Visme, and on Sunday afternoons for discussions and lectures in winter and outings in summer.

Mademoiselle de Vargas having tendered her resignation for private reasons, we decided to engage in her place Madame E. Meylan, the widow of Dr. Meylan, from Lausanne, who has had an experience of many years' work amongst young girls in Switzerland, which, coupled with a strong spiritual conviction, makes her well fitted for her task. This task is manifold, as besides assisting the Pastors at their Wednesday and Thursday afternoon meetings, she has to prepare the programme for the Sunday meetings, take the chair at lectures and discussions, and lead excursions arranged during the summer months. She is in attendance at the Club Parloir every day except Monday, and receives a large number of girls whose confidence she has gained, and who come to her for sound advice in their small and big troubles, and we are happy to know that that confidence exists, so that our Swiss girls need not seek such advice and counsel from quarters which may not be recommendable.

We have every confidence in Madame Meylan, and trust that she may have many years of beneficial activity at the Foyer under the guidance of our Pastors.

For years past, we have likewise rendered services to Swiss Missionaries on their way to and from Africa by offering them our hospitality at the Hotel free of charge, which they greatly appreciated.

The following members were re-elected as a Council of Management for the ensuing year:— The Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, as President. Mr F. G. Sommer, as Vice-President. Mr. H. Barth, as Treasurer, as well as Messrs. Bessire, Hahn, Joss and Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.I.S., F.L.A.A. F.C.W.A., was re-elected as Auditor.

H. C.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.



PAUL LEHRIAN

PRESIDENT
of the
UNION HELVETIA
(London Section)

We have great pleasure in publishing the portrait of M. Paul Lehrian, the new President of the London Section of the Union Helvétia.

M. Lehrian became a member of the Union Helvétia in 1914; in 1925 he entered the committee. From 1926 to 1927 he presided over the London Section, and a year later he was appointed a member of the Club House Commission.

M. Lehrian was elected President of the London Section last April, in succession to M. J. Sermier; he is the holder of the silver and gold medal of the society, and occupies a responsible position at the Carlton Hotel. We extend to him our best wishes for a successful year of office.

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