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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss National Day was celebrated throughout Switzerland on Saturday last.

M. Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation addressed a large audience on the "Alten Tonhalleplatz" in Zurich. In Berne, M. Seematter, President of the cantonal government was the spokesman.

The Minster in Basle was filled to its capacity, the congregation was addressed by various speakers, amongst them, National Councillor, Dr. Conradt.

#### FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN ROME AND VIENNA.

Minister Paul Ruegger received the Swiss Colony at the Legation in Rome on the occasion of the 1st of August celebration.

The Swiss Colony in Vienna assembled at the hotel "Zum Auge Gottes" to celebrate our National Day. Dr. Jäger, Swiss Minister made a patriotic speech.

#### NEW CHIEF OF SWISS GENERAL STAFF.

Colonel of Division Jakob Labhart has been nominated Chief of the General Staff in succession to the late Colonel H. Roost.

Colonel Labhart was born in 1881 in Steckborn, and was by profession an engineer, he entered in 1906 into the Federal Instruction Corps. From 1916-1921 he occupied a leading position in the firm Bally at Schönenwerd, and later he held the post as Vice-Director of the Federal Labour Office. (Eidg. Arbeitsamt). In the year 1924 Colonel Labhart re-entered into the Military Administration where he was appointed head of the section for military transports in the General Staff. At the end of 1929 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel, taking over the command of the 4th artillery brigade, three years later he was put at the head of the 13th Infantry Brigade which command he held for some time.

On December 3rd, 1934, he was nominated chief of arms (Waffenchef) of the cavalry and shortly afterwards he obtained the rank of Colonel of division.

#### OUR STATESMEN ON HOLIDAY.

M. Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillors Pilet and Obrecht have started their annual vacation.

#### RETURN OF FEDERAL COUNCILLOR MINGER.

Federal Councillor R. Minger, who was on sick leave has taken up his duties again, his health has been completely restored.

#### MISSING SWISS MOUNTAINERS FOUND.

The three Swiss mountaineers which were missing on the Monte Rosa have returned safely. They were held up for three days owing to a snow storm.

#### SWISS DEFENCE LOAN.

Parliament having sanctioned the raising of an internal loan amounting to Frs. 235,000,000 to be used entirely for armament purposes, the Swiss Federal Council has just made public the conditions of the first tranche of Frs. 80,000,000, to be issued at par from 21st September to 15th October, 1936. Interest will amount to 3 per cent., and the bonds will run for 12 years. The loan is exempted from stamp duties. After the third year of the running of the loan one-tenth of the nominal amount will be repaid and the remaining nine-tenths at the end of every subsequent year.

It was anticipated that the Swiss Federal Council would issue Baby Bonds, in order to give small investors a chance of subscribing to the loan, but the smallest bond to be issued amounts to Frs. 100. There are also bonds of Frs. 500, Frs. 1,000 and Frs. 5,000. The issue of Baby Bonds, it is stated in this connection, would have offered the people a chance to demonstrate their patriotism.

So far, Swiss national loans have been taken up through the banks, but for the first time in the history of national loans post offices will now receive subscriptions, apart from banks. The rate of interest of 3 per cent. corresponds to that usually paid on saving accounts. Cantonal loans were offered at far more attractive terms in the recent past, the interest amounting to 4½ per cent. and the price of issue varying between 96.5 per cent. and 99 per cent. odd. The terms of the present loan intimate that subscribers are expected to make a sacrifice. It is felt, nevertheless, that the loan will be a success.

#### EUROPE'S FASTEST LIFT.

What is claimed to be the highest and fastest lift in Europe has just been completed on the mountainside of the Burgenstock, above Lucerne.

The lift is 528 feet high, and that distance is covered in 62 seconds.

#### CYCLISTS ON THE FOOTPATHS.

In Basle, in several streets the footpaths are wide and so a separate path, 8ft. to 10ft. wide, has been marked out on them for cyclists. Little used footpaths in country lanes have been turned over completely to cyclists.

#### FORTY YEARS JUNGFRAU RAILWAY.

On July 29th the "Jungfrau" Railway has celebrated its 40th anniversary. The work began in 1896, seven years later (1903) the Eigergwand station was opened, in 1907 the Eismeer station was inaugurated and in 1912 the last tunnel to the "Jungfraujoch" was pierced. In 1924 the "Berghaus Jungfraujoch" was opened.

#### FIFTH FEDERAL YODLING FESTIVAL.

The 5th Federal Yodling Festival will be held at Solognun on August 8th and 9th.

#### RECORD HIGH DIVE.

Armand Girard, the Swiss diver, beat the world's high dive record by plunging 40 metres (about 131 feet) from the cliffs of Chaillexon into the Doubs, which at that point forms the Franco-Swiss frontier.

#### SWISS NATIONAL BANK'S GOLD RESERVE.

During the week ended July 31st the gold reserve of the Swiss National Bank rose by 9,500,000 francs and reached a total of 1,440,600,000 francs. During the same time the bank note circulation increased by 46,300,000 francs and totalled 1,292,200,000 francs. On July 31st the gold reserve represented 88.66 per cent. of all the engagements of the bank.

#### SWISS BAN LIFTED.

The Swiss Federal Government has decided to withdraw the ban from entering Swiss territory placed on the eight Italian journalists who staged a demonstration against the Emperor of Abyssinia when he addressed the League Council in July.

The Government has taken this action as it has already been decided that the League would have no objections to the journalists attending meetings.

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

King Boris and the Queen Jeanne of Bulgaria have made a short stay in Zurich. They have also visited the Bernese Oberland and the canton of Grisons.

##### BERNE.

The numbers of the principal winning tickets of the Seva Lottery are: No. 132,215 (250,000frs.); No. 144,448 (100,000frs.) and No. 118,717 (50,000frs.).

\* \* \*

M. Friedrich Hug, President of the "Kaufmännischen Direktoriums" in St. Gall has been elected a member of the "Bankrat" of the National Bank, in succession to the late M. Mäder, National Councillor.

\* \* \*

The death took place at Affoltern of M. A. Widmer, at the age of 81. The deceased was for many years teacher of gymnastics at the "Progymnasium" in Berne. He was a well-known personality in Swiss Gymnastic circles.

#### LUCERNE.

The death occurred recently at Lucerne of M. G. Jenny-Jenny, who was from 1908-1919 Swiss Consul at Kiew.

M. Jenny who hailed from the canton of Glarus spent the greater part of his life in Russia where he rendered great services to the Swiss residents.

#### URI.

A motor-car travelling on the Axenstrasse between Tellspalte and Sisikon left the road on trying to overtake another car and fell down over 60 metres.

The driver of the car, Mr. E. Strässler, from Rorbas, (Kt. Zurich) received serious injuries, his son was slightly hurt, whilst Mrs. Strässler, aged 50, was killed outright.

#### SCHWYZ.

The inauguration of the new Federal archive in Schwyz took place on the 1st of August, in the presence of Federal Councillor Etter, authorities from the cantons Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, and a large number of spectators from all parts of Switzerland.

The "Bundesbrief" was carried amidst much solemnity to its new abode; after this very impressive ceremony a "Festspiel" was performed, portraying various historical events of the "Urkantone."

Federal Councillor Etter made the official speech in which he stressed the absolute necessity that unity should prevail throughout the country in a time which is grave and full of dangers.

#### BASLE.

Pastor D. G. Benz, since 1897 preacher at the St. Matthäus Church in Basle has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

\* \* \*

M. Wilhelm von Gonten-Wehr, Manager of the "Ersten Aktienbrennerei" Basel, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

#### TICINO.

Mme. Margaretha Merlini has celebrated her 101st birthday anniversary at Locarno.

#### VAUD.

M. Jean Piaget, at present Professor at the University of Geneva, has been appointed Professor of psychology at the University of Lausanne.

#### OLYMPIC GAMES.

The 11th Olympiad of modern times was opened in the grand manner, with brass bands playing, flags flying, crowds cheering, with masses of German lads and maidens of pronounced Nordic appearance, dressed in white, forming a background to the least excited of all present, the competing athletes. Black frock-coated officials, complete with top hats provided an effective contrast to the innumerable gorgeous uniforms which, in turn, made Herr Hitler's quiet and simple uniform all the more outstanding.

It was great pity that the impressively staged opening ceremony in the Olympic Stadium did, for the B.B.C. commentator, in part not run according to "his" plan. Dr. Lewald's speech, as President of the Olympic Organising Committee, which "he" expected, for some mysterious reason, to last for about one minute (!) happened to be of considerable longer duration. Instead of giving at least a minority of listeners a chance of hearing this really fine oration, the B.B.C. commentator, bored stiff (so he said) by this unexpected avalanche of obviously unintelligible words, took the lead from Wilkie Bard: "The music does not matter, let's get on with the patter." Now Wilkie Bard's patter can be most amusing; the patter we were treated to from Berlin was, unfortunately, nothing but irritating. The speech began with: "Mein Führer!" would you believe it, the B.B.C. comment, in a whisper, was: "This is Herr Hitler speaking." Well, well! There may be many incomprehensible things occurring in Nazi Germany, but it is hardly likely that Herr Hitler would start a speech by addressing himself. A clear illustration of the dangers in commenting on an event in a foreign country without at least a working knowledge of the language. When finally Herr Hitler did rise for his speech, it consisted of one short sentence, delivered in his well known crisp and commanding voice, declaring open the Olympic Games in Berlin.

Our comments on the Games will be restricted to the deeds of our compatriots. The results so far to hand are:

**August 2nd:** In the eliminating heats for the 100 METRES F. Seeger and Marchand (S) did not survive, whilst P. Hänni, our great sprinter, won his heat in good style. In the second round, Hänni ran second to Jesse Owens (U.S.A.) when the latter finished in 10.2 sec., a world record, disallowed, however, on account of a following wind.

In the 800 METRES our compatriot Dr. Paul Martin, taking part in his fifth Olympiad failed to get a place in the first heat. Anno Domini!

**HIGH JUMP:** The Swiss champion, Eggenberg, failed to clear 1.90m. and dropped out.

**WRESTLING:** Bantam : C. Gaudard (S) beat S. R. Thorat (India). Light Weight : W. Ehrl (Germany) beat G. Arn (S). Welter : W. Angst (S) beat A. Kukk (Estonia).

**MODERN PENTATHLON :** 5,000m. Cross-Country Riding : The Swiss team did well in securing 7th (Capt. H. Baumann), 13th (Capt. W. Grundbacher) and 14th (First Lt. K. Wyss) place in this first of five events.

**FENCING :** Men's Foils (Teams) : Switzerland beat Greece 8:8 (68:64 hits); in the second round we were emphatically knocked out by losing to America 3:13 and to Italy 1:15.

**August 3rd:** 100 METRES, Semi Finals : P. Hänni failed to qualify for the Final.

**WEIGHT LIFTING :** P. Cottier (S) 13th with 320 points.

**WRESTLING :** Bantam, Second Round : H. Tuveson (Sweden) beat C. Gaudard (S). Light Weight : Stronk (U.S.A.) beat G. Arn on points. Arn is eliminated. Light-Heavy : R. Clemons (U.S.A.) beat P. Daetwyler (S). Heavy : Our chief hope W. Bürki beat G. Gehring (Germany).

**MODERN PENTATHLON :** Fencing (Swords) : Wyss 17th, 42 points; Baumann 36th, 28 pts.; Grundbacher 37th, 26 pts.

**August 4th:** 200 METRES, First Round : P. Hänni won his heat with 21.9 sec. Second Round, Heat 1 : Orr (Canada) 21.2 sec. 1; P. Hänni (S) 21.3 sec. 2.

In the first round of the 5,000 METRES G. Utiger (S) failed to qualify.

**LONG JUMP :** No Swiss appears to have cleared 7 metres to pass into the second round.

**WRESTLING :** Bantam, third round : R. Flood (U.S.A.) beat C. Gaudard (S) on points. Light-Heavy, semi-final : P. Daetwyler (S) beat M. Avcioglu (Turkey) in 4 min. 40 sec. Heavy, first round : W. Bürki (S) beat R. H. Dunn (U.S.A.) on points.

**MODERN PENTATHLON :** Pistol Shooting Results not to hand.

**HOCKEY :** France 1 Switzerland 0. Out!

Thus far Switzerland has not yet made a single point. But there is still some hope left for P. Hänni in the 200 Metres, and something tangible may result from the Wrestling competition. Our strongest points are, of course, Rowing and Gymnastics; it is a case of "wait and see." More anon.

M.G.

#### DERRIERE LES COULISSES DU GRAND PRIX AUTOMOBILE DE SUISSE.

Celui qui assiste, commodément, d'une tribune à une manifestation telle que sera le Grand Prix Automobile de Suisse, les 22-23 août, ne se fait aucune idée de la somme de travail qu'ont dû fournir — le plus souvent bénévolement, par seul enthousiasme pour la cause — tous les fonctionnaires dont la longue liste figure au programme. Le public a toutefois en connaissance, au cours de ces derniers mois, des soucis que l'époque actuelle et les répercussions de la crise ont causés aux organisateurs. Mais rares sont les non initiés à même de se rappeler les préparatifs qu'exigent, pendant des semaines et souvent des mois, les trois jours d'essais et les deux journées de course.

D'une façon générale, toute la manifestation est dirigée par un comité d'organisation à la tête duquel se trouve un comité directeur restreint dont les instructions sont exécutées par un secrétariat spécial. Le comité d'organisation comprend encore les présidents des divers sous-comités qui travaillent à leur tour indépendamment. Du point de vue sportif, la tâche principale incombe sans contredit au comité de course qui non seulement établit les règlements des diverses épreuves (IIIe Grand Prix Automobile de Suisse, Grand Prix de Berne et Prix du Bremgarten) mais qui assume également les longs pourparlers avec les conducteurs et les fabricants, pourparlers qui demandent beaucoup de diplomatie étant donné la diversité des vœux émis.

C'est une fois seulement ce stade terminé que les autres membres de ce comité peuvent entrer en action. Il s'agit d'abord de fermer le parcours avec l'aide de la police, des pompiers, d'un demi-bataillon de gymnastes, des attachés au service technique du parcours, etc., puis de

canaliser la foule des spectateurs. Les courses automobiles, qui voient tourner des voitures pendant des heures à des vitesses vertigineuses, ne sont en effet pas une petite affaire. Les accidents doivent absolument être évités. A part cela, il convient d'installer les postes de signalisation et les stations de téléphone le long des 7,280 km. du parcours, afin que la direction de la course puisse être avisée sur l'heure de chaque incident. Le service téléphonique est assuré par les téléphonistes de l'armée qui installent le vaste réseau et les appareils nécessaires. Le service technique des boxes et des chronométrieurs, après réception des voitures par les ingénieurs, est tout aussi important. Le premier doit surveiller le personnel des stands pendant la course afin d'empêcher toute manipulation de voiture contraire au règlement. Le second enregistre les temps de chaque coureur, à chaque tour, au moyen d'appareils modernes et compliqués, afin de les communiquer de 5 en 5 ou de 10 en 10 tours à la direction de la course de même qu'à la presse et au public.

Etant donné les risques que comporte une course automobile à l'allure de nos bolides actuels, il est évident qu'un service sanitaire doit être organisé. On ne se borne pas à installer des postes de samaritains tout le long du parcours, mais encore un grand nombre de médecins sont à disposition immédiate en cas de besoin. Mentionnons en outre le travail de la commission de ravitaillement qui doit pourvoir, comme son nom l'indique, à la subsistance des centaines de personnes occupées dans l'organisation.

Le comité des logements doit être à même de faire face à tous les assauts du public ; le comité des constructions assure l'installation de tous les barrages, des boxes et la construction des tribunes non permanentes. Citons encore le comité des finances, entre les mains duquel passent les sommes considérables qu'une telle manifestation met en circulation, puis le comité de propagande et le comité de presse.

Ces quelques indications permettront aux profanes de se rendre compte des énormes rouages qu'il faut mettre en mouvement pour assurer la réussite d'une course qui ne dure elle-même qu'quelques heures.

#### THEOSOPHIST CENTRE AT DORNACH OFFERS ARTISTIC MYSTERY-FESTIVAL PLAYS.

Artistic "Mystery-Festival Plays" are being presented this year at Dornach near Basle, seat of the famous Goetheanum, founded by the late Rudolf Steiner. This ultra-modern concrete building houses the School for Spiritual Activity in Science and Art, whose self imposed task is "the investigation of the Spirit and the cultivation of the knowledge thus gained."

The Summer Festival season opens on Friday, August 7th, with "The Testing of the Soul," a mystery play by Rudolf Steiner. On Sunday, August 9th, a "Classical Walpurgis Night" from Goethe's Faust II will be given, and on August 10th, there will be Eurythmy offerings. August 12th will see another Steiner mystery play, and August 14th and 15th are to be devoted to presentations of excerpts from Goethe's Faust I and II. On Sunday, August 16th, a drama by Albert Steffen will be the final feature of the summer season.

During the above season of artistic performances, lectures on spiritual-scientific subjects will be delivered at the Goetheanum School.

From September 27th — October 4th there is to be a partial repetition of the Mystery-Festival Plays program.

Of special importance among the activities of the School is the section dedicated to Art. A thorough training in Speech has given rise to a new Art of Recitation which makes it possible to perform Mystery Plays and great literary works, belonging to the whole of mankind, in a worthy manner.

The dramatic performances include Eurythmy, as an important means of expression. Another vital element is the music, expressly composed for the Mystery Plays. As Dornach is widely known for its cultivation of the Plastic Arts and Painting, the stage settings will invariably do full justice to the lofty contents of the Plays and Dramas.

#### PROFESSOR BUSER.



Die ehrenvolle Ernennung Prof. Buser's von Teufen zum Kantonsratspräsidenten wurde bereits in den Zeitungen besprochen. Widmen wir ihm heute noch einige Zeilen zur Feier seines 60. Geburtstages, die zufälligweise in denselben Zeitraum fiel. Dieses Fest wurde für die Anwesenden zum hohen Genuss. Schülerinnen und Lehrerschaft hatten es sich nicht nehmen lassen, für diesen nicht wiederkehrenden Anlass, — man wird im Leben nur einmal 21914 Tage alt, wie es in der Einladung hieß — ein buntes Programm zusammen zu stellen, das in flotter Reihenfolge abgewickelt wurde. Die Liebe zu ihrem Buserpapa klang aus allen heraus, was seine Kinder ihm darboten, aus jeder durchgearbeiteten Programmmnummern der Teufener, wie aus der herzlichen Ansprache, welche eine Schülerin der aus Chebres eingetroffenen Gruppe an ihren derzeitigen Institutsleiter hielt, der sie mit soviel Verständnis und pädagogischem Geschick leitet. Die grosse Begeisterung, die in der Schülerschaft des Institutes auf dem Rosenberg für ihren Schulpräsidenten lebt, kann nicht nur in der kurzen Rede eines der anwesenden Schüler, sondern hauptsächlich in dem kräftigen, aus einer Kehle schallenden "Himalaya Yim" der Abgesandten zum Ausdruck, währenddem die "Felsenegger" sich mit der Entsendung eines Telegramms begnügen mussten, deren übrigens aus offiziellen und privaten, aus Eltern- und Schülerkreisen eine solche Menge eingetroffen waren, dass ein Ablesen derselben unmöglich wurde.

In Laufe des Abends erhielten die Anwesenden auch eine Schülerzeitung, die aus eigener Initiative von Lehrer- und Schülerschaft zusammen gestellt, mit wohlgeratenen Zeichnungen und selbstverfassten Rätseln belebt, dem Jubilaren gewidmet war. Wir würden nicht vollständig sein, gedächtnis der verschiedenen ausgezeichneten Reden nicht, welche allen Anwesenden ein klares Bild von dem verdienten Pädagogen, dem weitblickenden Volkswirtschafter und Verkehrs-politiker, dem klarendenkenden Staatsmann, zu geben vermochten. Zuerst liess Herr Direktor Maurer-Buser kurz die Kindheits- und Seminärzeit aufleben, führte dann, durch die in Lausanne, Basel und Bern verbrachten Universitäts- und Studentenjahre ins Ausland und zurück in die Lehrertätigkeit im Heimatland. Kurz skizzierte er den Übergang des noch jungen Professors für Nationalökonomie u. Zollgesetzgebung in seinen Wirkungskreis als selbstständigen Pädagoge und Institutsbesitzer. Er zeigte, wie Herr Professor trotz der enormen Arbeit immer noch Zeit findet, Teufen, dem Appenzellerland, aber auch dem ganzen schweizerischen Erziehungs- und Fremdenverkehrswesen durch sein reges Mitwirken in Räten und Kommissionen, teils als Präsident, teils als Vorstandsmitglied, mit seiner reichen Erfahrung und seinem umfassenden Wissen, zu dienen.

In packenden, individuell gehaltenen Reden, die wirklich gefangen nahmen, schlossen sich Herr Schulinspektor Scherrer als Mitglied der Landesschulkommission und langjähriger Inspektor der Burschule, Herr Direktor Waldburger als Sprecher für eine grössere Freundschaftsgruppe, Melle. Travetti als Sous-Directrice seines Zweig — Institutes in Chebres, Herr Dr. Schächlchi in Vertretung der Teufener Lehrerschaft, Herr Studiendirektor Pesch, als Vertreter des Direktions-Präsidenten Herrn Dr. Lüsser auf dem Rosenberg, der zum ersten Mal einem Feste im Buserstaate fernbleiben musste, dem Vorredner an. Der fröhlichen, aber auch arbeitsreichen Seminarzeit gedachte Herr Prof. Dr. Ruettschi in St. Gallen und an die längst entschwundene Zeit der Burschenherrlichkeit erinnerte mit feurigen Worten aus alter, geübter Studentenkehle, Herr Staatsanwalt Dr. Lüthi aus St. Gallen. Wohl wären der Reden noch viele geworden, wenn nicht der Jubilar gleichzeitig mit seinem Dank an Alle der wartenden Tanzmusik das Zeichen zum Beginn des zweiten Teiles der schönen Veranstaltung gegeben hätte. Dass der Gefeierte auch da nicht zurückstand, beweist

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