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The Swiss Observer

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Where are you going next Saturday? to the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill, of course!

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Swiss Sports.

We particularly wish to draw the attention of our readers and their friends to the Swiss Sports Meeting which will take place next Saturday.

The Committee of the Swiss Sports has spared neither time nor money to make this event a great success, and we hope that many of our compatriots and their friends will make the journey to Herne Hill.

We feel sure that they will not be disappointed, it will be an afternoon well spent. Therefore make up your mind now, and do not fail those who have given their time and money freely, that you and your friends should have an enjoyable afternoon. Don't say "I may come along," say "I will be there," and we are certain you won't regret it.



HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

RAILWAY UP THE MATTERHORN.

The Matterhorn, conquered 71 years ago by the faith, courage, and tenacity of man, is now gradually surrendering to the machine. Whymper would be surprised, perhaps disagreeably, at the slow but fatal submission of the superb mountain which in his day appeared to defy every earthly power.

Until only a few years ago the guides used to tell us that the road which rises from Châtilion ended at Valtournanche, and that from there the route could only be taken to Breuil either on foot or on the back of a mule. Since 1934 it has been possible to go from Valtournanche to Breuil by motor-car over a fine road, and Breuil itself has become a village with several fine hotels and a large subterranean garage. The Italians have changed the name of Breuil to Cervinia, and Cervinia will soon become a commune.

But tourists at Cervinia next season will find a novelty of much greater interest than the new road. In a fortnight there will be opened the first stretch of a rope railway, which in time will be continued as far as Zermatt and make the Matterhorn ascent a matter of a few hours, without nailed boots, without guides, and without ropes.

It was no easy task to transport from Châtilion to Cervinia (Breuil) the two steel ropes, which are each 2,600 yards long and weigh altogether 68 tons. They have now been placed in position, and the work is almost finished. The first section goes from the hollow of Cervinia to the Maison plain, with a rise of about 1,700ft. The stations at the two extremities are ready. The first span will be 1,300 yards long; altogether two kilometres will be covered in less than seven minutes and the cages will be able to carry 37 persons.

The second section (which it is estimated will be ready by next summer) will go as far as the Theodule Pass and end near the Altogther six kilometres (3½ miles) of aerial journey on the longest and highest rope-railway in the world will be covered. The third stretch will reach to Zermatt, in Swiss territory.

Meanwhile this first section will be of singular interest for the noble panorama which the way will offer to tourists, who will have a sight at close range of the Matterhorn in its majestic lines and fantastic lights, and for the 10 magnificent skiing runs on the Maison Plain, six of them downhill.

CHARGE AGAINST NAZI AGENT.

It was officially announced that an agent of the German secret police, the Gestapo, has been arrested in Zurich on a charge of conspiring against the safety of the Swiss Confederation.

The Social Democratic newspaper, the "Volksrecht," states that the accused man is alleged to have spied upon German anti-Nazi refugees in Switzerland.

RECOGNISING RUSSIA.

The Federal Council is expected to reconsider the question of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the Soviet Union this month.

There have been complaints recently from Swiss merchants that they have been passed over when the Soviet Government was placing contracts abroad, because of the lack of official relations between Berne and Moscow.

It is expected that the Swiss authorities will shortly remedy this state of affairs.

Switzerland and Holland are the only two European countries which so far have not recognised Russia.

SWISS MILK WITH.

How do the Swiss do it? Not only did they compel Germany to hand back Dr. Jakob, the anti-Nazi, kidnapped on German soil, but now they have sent the Nazi spy, Dr. Wesemann to quod for 3 years. Could France or Italy have done that? I doubt it. Could Britain? The Germans would have laughed in our faces. We have not even protested against Wesemann being employed by the German Embassy here to spy on German refugees in London.

It is easy to understand why no Power wants to antagonise Switzerland. There must be an international sanctuary somewhere and Switzerland is temperamentally and geographically cut out for the part. An impregnable oasis of hotel keepers in the middle of an ocean of quarrelsome and mutually suspicious nations! A spiritual home for all the Ashendens in Europe! On top of that there is a sturdy independence about the Swiss that makes it more profitable to let them have their way than to quarrel with them.

(Morning Post).

VIOLENT THUNDERSTORMS IN SWITZERLAND.

A violent thunderstorm swept over Central Switzerland last Sunday, causing much damage, particularly in the Cantons Lucerne and Berne. Hail fell for over half an hour and in some places a depth of 3in. of hailstones had not melted by next morning. Rail and road communications were interrupted for several hours by floods, some bridges were swept away, and the fruit trees now in blossom were much damaged. No casualties are so far reported, but the material loss is great.

ENTRY OF GERMAN REDS INTO SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss police have arrested at Kreuzlingen, near Lake Constance, five persons who are alleged to have facilitated the entry of German Communists into Switzerland by supplying them with the cards which are issued to Germans temporarily working in this country.

FIVE-THOUSAND MILES ON HORSEBACK.

Three Swiss cavalrymen have returned to Berne after a 5,000-mile ride on horseback through eight countries of Europe. They have been away seven months.

SIR ARNOLD THEILER HONOURED.

Sir Arnold Theiler, our famous countryman, has had the title of *doctor honoris causa* bestowed on him, by the University of Utrecht on the occasion of its 300th Anniversary. Sir Arnold is a *doctor honoris causa* of 7 Universities. He hails from the canton of Lucerne.

SWISS IN ABYSSINIA.

The Swiss Foreign Office has thanked the French and German Governments for the protection which they have extended to Swiss citizens during the troubles which have lately arisen.

BOY KING'S NEW WATCH.

A wonderful wrist-watch has been presented to young King Farouk, Egypt's new ruler.

It was the gift of the Swiss colony in Cairo.

Said to be the most exquisite specimen of its kind in the world, the watch requires winding only once a month.

It shows the date, the position of the sun and moon, the altitude, the temperature, and, of course, most accurately, the time.

The watch was made by a Swiss who lived for a considerable time in Egypt, and the task took him nearly five years.

SWISS CLUB BUCAREST CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY.

The Swiss Club in Bucarest has celebrated its 75th Anniversary (1861-1936). A Banquet was held at which 300 Swiss were present. M. René de Weck, Swiss Minister, made a patriotic speech.

LOCAL.

LUCERNE.

In spite of the present international situation, the Société Hippique of Lucerne has decided to organise the twenty-second International Horse Show and Jumping Competition, which will take place in Lucerne from July 4th to 12th. The programme will consist of thirteen national and international competitions, and the last day for entries is June 19th. Six nations have already announced that they will send military teams. The United States Army Equestrian Team has also decided to compete on its way to Berlin. The Lucerne Horse Show is under the patronage of the Chief of the Swiss Military Department, M. Minger, while Colonel Favre is to be in charge of the jury.

BERNE.

M. Wehrli, a well-known notary in Berne, has committed suicide, previous to his arrest for having embezzled an amount of 40,000 frs.

FRIBOURG.

The death has occurred in Freibourg of M. Joseph Birbaum, late Sub-Manager of the States Bank of the canton of Fribourg, at the age of 58.

SOLOTHURN.

The death is reported of M. Cesar Schild-Krebs, from Grenchen, at the age of 58; the deceased was a well-known personality in Swiss Industrial circles, and he was one of the founders of the "Ebauchs S.A." in Nençhâtel. From 1912-1918 M. Schild was a member of the "Kantonsrat."

*

M. Otto Stampfli (Liberal) has been elected a member of the cantonal government; he received 16,132 votes, his opponent, M. Alban Müller (Conservative) polled 8,114 votes.

GENEVA.

M. Marc Catalan, Director of the 6th Customs district has died.

VAUD.

Doctor Victor Demole, from Basle, has been appointed Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Lausanne.

*

M. Alphonse Dubuis, a former member of the cantonal government (1912-1930), and of the National Council (1902-1912) has died in Lausanne at the age of 70.

VALAIS.

M. Charles Haegler, editor of the "Nouveliste Valaisan," has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais.

THURGAU.

The accounts for 1935 of the canton of Thurgau close with a deficit of 360,729 frs.

BASLE-COUNTY.

Dr. Jakob Wagner, from Basle and Läufelfingen, has been appointed head of the Police Force of the canton of Basle-County.

SCHWYZ.

The firm of P. Rüttimann and Cie., Furniture manufacturers in Siebenen and Lachen, has made a donation of 40,000 frs. to the Pension Fund of their employees in remembrance of the late M. Peter Rüttimann, senior partner.