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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## Where are you going to-day? to the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill, of course!

### PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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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 to-day.

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.

##### SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The report of the Swiss National Bank for the week ended May 15th shows that the French monetary crisis also influenced Switzerland. On May 15th the gold reserve reached 1,509,000,000fr., a drop of 7,000,000fr. in round figures over the previous week. On the other hand bank-note circulation dropped by 21,000,000fr., and totalled 1,259,000,000fr. On May 15th the gold reserve represented 89.56 per cent. of all the engagements of the Bank.

##### GENEVA AND CALVIN.

Four hundred years ago Calvin went to Geneva and settled in the city which still speaks eloquently of his mission there. From it flowed one of the mighty rivers of the Reformation. During the month of June celebrations will be held in Geneva, and for an entire week a crowded programme will commemorate the religious, the historical, and the civic aspects of the Reformer's life. The commemorative exercises will begin on June 12th with an official visit to the special Calvin Exhibit in the Rath Museum, followed the same evening by a Communion service in the Cathedral of St. Peter. Professor Eugene Choisy, President of the Swiss Protestant Federation, will conduct a welcoming service in the Cathedral the next morning, followed by addresses by the visiting Church delegates. The civil authorities will entertain the official delegates at a luncheon in the Hotel Beau-Sejour at Champel, after which an academic celebration will take place in the Temple de la Madeleine under the auspices of the theological faculty, and with the assistance of the delegates from foreign faculties and Protestant historical societies. The evening will be devoted to conferences.

Sunday, June 14th, will mark the beginning of the popular celebration, with special services in all the churches and a great "fellowship dinner" at the Palais des Expositions. Sunday-school children and young people will parade during the afternoon, concluding with a festive demonstration at the Reformation Monument. The evening will see the first presentation of the Jubilee Pageant in the Hall of the Reformation. Three hundred people will present "La Source de la Vie" ("The Source of Life"), a pageant in three scenes: "The Year 40 in Rome — The

Glad Tidings"; "1536 — To God alone the Glory"; "1936 — Thy Word is the Truth."

Publications prepared for the occasion include a subscription edition of Calvin's selected works, special books on the Geneva Reformation, and a collection of music of the 16th and 17th centuries issued under the title "Our Fathers Sang."

##### THE EMPEROR'S FUTURE HOME.

Thirteen years ago the Emperor of Abyssinia bought for his daughter a villa called Pré Fleurie, near Vevey, on the Lake of Geneva. The house has been for sale during the past month, but has now been withdrawn from the market and is being put in order. The Ethiopian delegate to the League of Nations, Mr. Wolde Mariam, visited the house a few days ago, and it is believed that the Emperor intends to settle there.

##### DAVIES CUP.

Switzerland eliminated Denmark at Montreux, gaining a winning lead of three matches to love. In the third round Switzerland meet Ireland.

##### SIXTY YEARS A POSTMAN.

M. Josef Schmidiger, in Sörenberg, has just accomplished 60 years as a postman and is thus the oldest postman in Switzerland, he is 82 years of age.

##### NO CORRUGATED ROOFS FOR CHALETS.

The Government of the Canton Valais, complying with a wish recently expressed by the Swiss Alpine Club, have decided to prohibit the building of roofs with corrugated iron in the Alpine villages in order to preserve the picturesque appearance of mountain chalets.

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

The Première of John Knittel's "Protektor" took place at the Municipal Theater in Zurich and met with great success.

##### BASLE COUNTY.

Dr. Hermann Augustin-Flury, a well-known medical practitioner in Alschwil has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Dr. Augustin is a member of the "Landrat" since 1911, over which he presided in 1927/28.

##### LUCERNE.

A fire completely destroyed the "Gasthof Schwanen" in Sursee, the damage is estimated to exceed 100,000 frs.

\* \* \*

Mme. Egli-Fischer, aged 32, from Lucerne, was killed when climbing in the Pilatus region.

##### THURGAU.

The community of Altanau has bestowed the title of "honorary citizen" on Army-Corps Commander Bridler. Colonel Bridler spent his youth at Altanau.

##### SCHWYZ.

The opening of the new "Bundesbrief Archiv" is taking place on the 1st of August.

\* \* \*

M. Anton Real-Arnold, for many years Manager of the "Bank in Schwyz" has died at the age of 89.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

#### REUNION D'ETE

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées

MARDI 16 JUIN à 7 HEURES 30  
au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, HENDON.

Diner (6/6) — Dance jusqu'à minuit.

Tenue de Ville.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)

Le Comité.

#### FRIBOURG.

The Grand Council has fixed the age limit for employees in the service of the canton of Fribourg at 70.

#### AARAU.

The death is reported from Brugg, of Lieutenant-colonel Hans Graf, at the age of 79.

The deceased was a well-known personality in Swiss Rifle Shooting circles.

#### VAUD.

Dr. C. Strzyzowski, since 1902, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Lausanne has retired from his post.

#### TICINO.

M. J. B. Rusca has been re-elected Mayor of the town of Locarno.

### HEALTH SPRINGS BUBBLE IN SWITZERLAND.

To anyone in quest of health, Switzerland will prove the solution of the most difficult problems. Not only has this country beautiful become world renowned for her miracle-working alpine climate, but in its great wealth of mineral springs it possesses priceless assets which, strange as it may seem in this enlightened era of ours, are only superficially known in foreign lands. Yet knowledge and use of healing waters in Switzerland date back to the very beginning of civilization.

The springs of St. Moritz in the Upper Engadine, according to Dr. med. H. Keller, furnish indisputable proof of great antiquity, for when their pipes were replaced in 1853, there were found at 3½ to 4½ feet under the surface of the earth the well-preserved hollowed-out trunks of three mighty larches which had obviously been employed for the springs. In these tree-trunks a number of bronze objects, swords, knives, needles, etc., were discovered, which scientists estimated to be about 3,000 years old. Similar prehistoric finds were made in Baden (Argovie), Looche-les-Bains (Valais) and Yverdon (Vaud).

The period of the Roman occupation, beginning in the year 58 B.C., represents the second stage in the development of watering places in Switzerland. Spas flourished to a high degree, not only through the use of such medicinal springs as were already known, but also through the discovery of others and particularly through the progress made in technical equipment and bath fittings. The thermal baths at Baden are an outstanding example of this. The bath hospital and the numerous surgical instruments discovered there show how well the Romans understood how to utilize natural healing methods as available through baths and even to combine them with surgery.

After invasions from the North put an end to Roman influences, appreciation of mineral springs suffered a temporary setback, but already during the reign of Charlemagne taking the baths came more and more in vogue. In the monastery of St. Gall there is still preserved the plan of a building of the year 820 in which a bathing establishment is designed. In the later Middle Ages and particularly at the time of the Renaissance, baths taken by people in normal health were considered as one of the chief "amenities of life."

Watering places now increased rapidly and in addition to the before-mentioned spas of prehistoric foundation, there are historical records of the establishment of the following: Ragaz-Pfäfers (1038 and 1384), Tarasp, Lower Engadine (15th century), Val Sinestra, Lower Engadine (15th century), Bex, Vaud (salt spring mentioned in 1554 and sulphur springs in 1717), Gurnigel near Berne (1561). The springs of Passugg near Chur had already been known in 1562 and were rediscovered in 1863. The mineral spring of Rheinfelden, called Kapuzinerquelle, was in use as early as 1664, and the exploitation of the Rheinfelden salt-mines and the opening of the brine baths dates from 1864.

There are 100 spas in the alpine regions, 26 in the Jura and 30 in the Swiss high plateau. Springs with over 20 degrees centigrade are called