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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS GIFT IN MEMORY OF QUEEN ASTRID.

The Swiss Government have purchased a part of the field where Queen Astrid of the Belgians was killed last year near Küsnacht, on Lake Lucerne. The land, which is situated opposite the place where a chapel is being built, will be put at the disposal of the Belgian Royal Family.

The chapel erected to the memory of Queen Astrid will be consecrated on June 28th.

RECEPTION AT THE PALAIS FEDERAL.

Monsieur Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation, has received the Bulgarian Minister, Monsieur Nicolas Montzihloff, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials.

NEW SWISS LOANS.

The Canton of Tessin is taking up a loan amounting to 5,000,000fr. The bonds, of 1,000fr. each, will bear interest at 4½ per cent. and will be issued at 96.5 per cent., plus stamp duty of 0.6 per cent. From 1940 onwards there will be a yearly amortisation amounting to 200,000fr., the bonds being drawn by lot. The remaining bonds will be repaid not later than 1946. The Canton of Saint Gall is arranging a conversion loan of 5,000,000fr. for the repayment of the 1926 4½ per cent. Loan of the same amount. The bonds, of 1,000fr. each, will bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. and will be issued at par plus 0.48 per cent. stamp duty.

OVERSEAS ENTRIES FOR HENLEY.

Kent School and Browne and Nicholls School, both previous winners of Thames Challenge Cup, and Tabor Academy, all American crews, have entered for Henley Royal Regatta, which will begin on July 1st, Zürich R.C., Switzerland, will defend the Stewards' Challenge Cup.

E. Ruffi (Zürich), holder, will be in the Diamond Sculls, in which J. F. Coulson (Argonaut R.C., Toronto), R. W. Bates (Cambridge B.C., United States), E. C. Branco (Club de Regattas, Boqueirão do Passeio, Brazil), N. J. Mille (Vancouver R.C.), and E. W. Freeman (Nassau B.C., United States) also will compete. Among other overseas entries for the regatta are: Grand Challenge Cup: Zürich, Switzerland; Tokio Imperial University, Japan; and Union B.C., Boston, United States.

Silver Goblets: A. Homberger and K. Schmid (Zürich).

BLOOD TESTS AS "PROOF."

Evidence afforded by blood tests is to be admitted in paternity cases in Swiss courts. A negative result from a test will be accepted as decisive proof that the owner of the blood is not the father of the child.

This decision has been reached by the Swiss Federal Tribunal, following a report to the Tribunal by Professor Zanger, of Zurich.

The professor has reached the conclusion that when blood tests are made under suitable conditions the danger of error is much below one per cent.

RICHARD STRAUSS'S 72nd BIRTHDAY.

Richard Strauss's seventy-second birthday on June 11th, will be celebrated in Zürich by a special "Strauss week," when three of his operas and three of his ballets will be performed at the Stadttheater under his own baton.

GERMANY'S DEBTS TO SWITZERLAND.

Economic negotiations between Germany and Switzerland opened on Saturday in Berne. The German delegation is headed by Herr Wohltat, a director of the Foreign Exchange Control Office, that of Switzerland by Minister Stuckli.

The German-Swiss transfer and clearing agreement expires on 30th June next. It will be

remembered that, at the beginning of May, the German Government informed the Swiss Government that it was not in a position to continue the agreement on its present basis, since German liabilities to Switzerland at present were increasing at an annual rate of approximately Sw.Frs. 60,000,000 (£3,921,000 at current rates).

U.S. GOLD LEGISLATION.

The Overseas Finance Corporation, a Swiss company, failed in its attempt before the United States Supreme Court to prevent the United States from seizing its gold in America. This has a face value of \$1,250,000.

The Court also refused an application for a review of a decision by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals denying an injunction against the Treasury, which had directed the corporation to hand over its gold to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

The petitioning corporation contended that the anti-gold hoarding legislation did not apply to a foreign concern, which already had gold in the United States. They also contended that the gold would have been worth \$2,100,000 if it had been exported to Switzerland.

TIDYING-UP THE ALPS.

Strict laws to prevent the scenery of the Alps being spoiled by hoardings, advertisements, or unbecoming houses are being introduced in the legislatures of the mountain Cantons of Switzerland.

The severest measures are those aimed at gaudy and conspicuous posters — particularly those used by garages. A regulation has also recently been made in the Canton Valais forbidding the use of corrugated-iron roofs on chalets.

Already, however, the beauty of the Alps is scarred by some things which it will be impossible to remove.

The highly developed hydro-electric system of Switzerland has been responsible for rows of pylons 150 feet high which line the valleys and hillsides.

The system, too, has been responsible for the disappearance of many lovely waterfalls, which have been encased in great steel tubes and led down into the generating plants.

Another engineering blenheim inflicted on the Alps are the tracks of the mountain railways, which leave gaping scars on the sides of the hills.

MOVEMENT OF SWISS GLACIERS.

Professor P. L. Mercanton, Director of the Swiss Meteorological Office, has issued the fifty-sixth report on the movements of glaciers. The measurements and observations cover a period extending from October, 1934, to September, 1935 — that is, the glaciological year 1935.

The year was characterized by an abundance of late winter snow, but also by an abnormal melting of the snowfields and glaciers during the summer months. In spite of that the quantity of snow which remained in the Alps at the end of the year was greater than usual.

Some examples give an idea of the volume of snow which fell during the year, particularly in the spring. At Arosa, in the Grisons, at an altitude of about 5,800ft., 19ft. of fresh snow was recorded from February to May — twice as much as usual; on the Säntis (8,215ft.) there was a depth of 21ft. on March 8th — that is 12ft. more than the previous year; in the Diablerets region 42ft. fell during the winter, and there remained 9ft. at the end of the season. That abundance of late snow was the cause of numerous and destructive avalanches, such as the one which destroyed several houses and killed seven persons at Sankt Antonien, in the Grisons.

Observations and measurements were made on 83 glaciers, and it was found that 10 were advancing (six in 1934), three were stationary (two in 1934), and 70 were retreating (75 in 1934). The Turtmann glacier advanced 57ft.; the Duran, near Zinal, 15ft.; the Kartigel, in the Reuss basin, 24ft.; the Clariden, 9ft. On the other hand, the Rhone glacier retreated 31ft.; it has receded 455 ft. since 1933; the Fee retreated 69ft., the Trient 60ft., the Oberaar 70ft., the Upper Grindelwald and Lower Grindelwald glaciers — which have lost much of their beauty — receded respectively 204ft. and 84ft. The conclusion is that the Alpine glaciers are still in a period of retreat.

CONSUMPTION OF EGGS IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland consumes 660,000,000 eggs yearly, of which ⅔ are supplied from native production, the remainder, to the value of 20,000,000 francs, being imported from Belgium, Denmark, Bulgaria, etc. Poultry breeding farms are relatively rare, and, in Switzerland, the rearing of poultry is undertaken, for the most part, by agriculturalists as an accessory occupation. One hundred million francs is invested in Swiss poultry breeding and the gross returns from the egg and fowl production is estimated at 64,000,000 francs per annum, which places poultry keeping, from the point of view of gross returns, in advance of vegetable cultivation, vine growing and even the cultivation of cereals.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

M. Robert Gsell, head of the technical Dept. of the "Office Fédéral Aérien" has celebrated his 25th anniversary as a pilot. M. Gsell started his flying career at Pau (France) in 1911, where he was a pupil of the famous aviator Blériot; soon afterwards he was appointed chief pilot of the firm Dornier, G.m.b.H. in Berlin. In 1913, he received an appointment as a pilot with the Zeppelin Company at Friedrichshafen. In 1920, he returned to Switzerland, where he received an appointment at the Federal Air Office. M. Gsell is also a lecturer at the Federal Technical University in Zurich.

Owing to continuous ill-health of Colonel Roost, chief of the General Staff of the Swiss Army, Colonel of Division Labhart is for the time being acting in the capacity of chief of the General Staff. Colonel Labhart, who is 55 years old, was appointed in 1934 "Waffenchef" of the cavalry, he is one of the most brilliant officers in the Swiss Army.

Dr. Charles Colomb, Assistant Manager of the "Office Central des transports internationaux par chemin de fer" has died in Berne at the age of 52.

M. Dummermuth, Engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways in Berne, was killed and his wife seriously injured, when his car collided with another car.

ZURICH.

M. Robert Müller, has resigned his seat in the National Council, which he has held since 1931. M. Müller, who belonged to the Communist party, will be succeeded by M. E. Walter (Communist), a member of the "Kantonsrat."

M. J. Buchli President of the Board of the "Schweiz. Lokomotiv & Maschinenfabrik Winterthur" has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the Technical University in Darmstadt.

LUCERNE.

Dr. Arnold Bohren, has been appointed Manager of the "Schweiz. Unfallversicherungsanstalt" in Luzern, in succession to Dr. Alfred Tzant, who is retiring shortly from his post after 22 years of successful work with the institution.

Dr. Bohren has occupied the position of Sub-Manager since 1918.

M. Ch. Viquerat has been appointed Sub-Manager.

The death is reported from Lucerne, of Dr. Alois Moser, late National Councillor, at the age of 61. Dr. Moser, who was an advocate for many years the leader of Liberals in the canton of Lucerne. He was for many years a member of the Town Council and the Grand Council. In the army he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

M. Anton Auf der Maur, will act after July 1st as Editor in chief of the "Vaterland."

CITY SWISS CLUB.

REUNION D'ETE

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées

MARDI 16 JUIN à 7 HEURES 50

au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, HENDON.

Dîner (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.

GENEVA.

The bookkeeper Florinetti, of the "Caisse de maladie" for municipal employees in Geneva, has been arrested for having embezzled various sums amounting to altogether over 200,000 frs. belonging to the institution.

APPENZEL A.-RH.

The "Kantonsrat" of the canton Appenzel A.-Rh., has elected Professor Buser in Teufen as its President.

NEUCHÂTEL.

M. Edgar Renaud, has been appointed head of the cantonal government for the period of 1936-1937.

VAUD.

The death is reported from Lausanne, of M. Charles Subila, formerly pastor in Sciez and L'Isle, founder and for 30 years head of the Asylum for Epileptics in Lavigny, at the age of 75.

TICINO.

M. Giuseppe Antognini, one of the leading personalities in the ecclesiastical world, of the canton of Ticino, has died in Lugano at the age of 64. The deceased was well-known as an orator and author.

GRISONS.

The "Ferienitz Gadenstadt" near Arosa, has been completely destroyed by fire, the damage caused is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 200,000 frs.

FOOTBALL.
NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Another season of Swiss Football has come to an end, perhaps somewhat inadequately reported in the S.O. This, however, appears not to have adversely affected its circulation, a great relief to me! The surprise team of the year were undoubtedly Young Fellows (Zurich) who, for the first time in history, ran out worthy winners of the Swiss Cup. And very nearly they imitated Lausanne's great feat of last year by pulling off the League Championship as well. Alas, it was not to be. They cracked badly in the end-spurt, losing two of their last three games. Having led practically right through the season, they were passed on the post by Lausanne, a clever and talented side, playing a polished game; they thus secured the honour for the second year running and for the fourth time in all. Young Fellows, bent more on effect in their football by rather rough and ready methods, are a good second with 38 points, 3 points behind, followed by Grasshoppers, 36 and Bern 34 points. These four have qualified to participate in the Mitropa-cup competition. It will be interesting to see how our leading league clubs fare against the leading clubs of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria and Italy (played in that order in the first round), especially in view of the recent failures of our national eleven. Six points separate the fifth club, Biel, from Bern; as will be seen from the table below, the famous Young Boys and Servette have to be content with midfield positions.

At the foot of the table, in the dreaded relegation positions are Aarau, 16 points, and Locarno, 17 points; both clubs descend to the First League, whilst Chaux-de-Fonds, for weeks on end in dire straits, pluckily fought their way to safety by worthy victories over Lugano away by 2:0 and Young Fellows at home by 4:1. They thus got a lead of one point over Locarno, with a postponed game against Lausanne in hand which has since been played and lost by the odd goal. A miss is as good as a mile; well done, les montagnards! It would have been tragic if the "welche" representation had dropped to two; but three years ago Geneva alone had three clubs in the top class.

FINAL TABLE.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Lausanne	26	17	7	2	75	23	41
Young Fellows	26	16	6	4	62	34	38
Grasshopper	26	15	6	5	64	25	36
Bern	26	15	4	7	71	49	34
Biel	26	12	4	10	60	46	28
Young Boys	26	10	6	10	38	40	26
Servette	26	8	8	10	37	46	24
Lugano	26	7	9	10	38	47	23
St. Gallen	26	9	5	12	36	52	23
Basel	26	8	4	14	51	59	20
Nordstern	26	8	4	14	41	60	20
Chaux-de-Fonds	26	6	6	14	47	69	18
Locarno	26	7	3	16	35	62	17
Aarau	26	5	6	15	47	90	16

In the First League Luzern and Grenchen are group leaders; they play two games for the championship and promotion. Luzern has already won by 2 goals to nil in Grenchen. Reasonable to assume they will at least draw at home and play in the National League next season. The clubs relegated to League II are: Group East, Schaffhausen-Sparta and Seebach; Group West, Carouge and Racing-Lausanne. Carouge thus falling in two seasons from the National to First and now to Second League standard. The clubs for promotion to the First League are not yet all

known; Bellinzona will be one of them, which give the Ticino three representatives in that class. This will mean an expensive travelling programme for the other nine in Group East. It is a long way from Basel, Kreuzlingen or St. Gall to Chiasso, and the gates in the First League are as a rule very poor.

INTERNATIONAL.

24th May, 1936.

SWITZERLAND1 BELGIUM1

A draw against Belgium in Basel before a poor gate of about 15,000 appears to be a just result of a very fair and rather dull contest. Switzerland had the better of it in the first half. Ciseri, the new left wing, got a somewhat lucky goal in the fifth minute; that was the beginning and the end of our scoring. Plenty of chances but, shall we say, no luck! The new centre-forward Monnard, an 18 year old lad from Cantonal and the left side of the forward line, Spagnoli (one of the old routiniers) and Ciseri, have a good Press; the outside right in particular, and his inside appear to have failed miserably.

In the second half the warm weather affected the players. The Belgians seem to have been far fitter than our Reds; 25 minutes before the end, Capelle, the Belgian centre-forward converted a centre from the left and levelled the score; that ended matters.

The Belgians disappointed everybody; expectations may have been raised too high by the 3:2 defeat administered to England by practically the identical team. Anyhow, on the day's play Switzerland should have taken the opportunity to beat Belgium for the first time at the eight attempt. Unfortunately we must have been, on the day, as poor as the others. Our new forward line was, at least in parts, if not a success at least an improvement. Jaccard, the centrehalf, played a more offensive game; in the second half he became a third back again. Our defence, goalie and backs played really well and held the Belgians fairly easily. From the reports I have seen so far, it is impossible to conclude what happened to the old W plan; except for that slight allusion to the methods of the centrehalf there seems to have been no system at all in evidence. And that is probably a conclusion not far from the truth.

The Swiss team lined up as follows: Bizzozero (Lugano); Minelli and W. Weiler (Grasshoppers); Baumgartner (Bern), Jaccard (Basel), Müller (Young Fellows); Meier (Grasshoppers), P. Aebi (Young Boys), Monnard (Cantonal), Spagnoli (Lausanne) Ciseri (Biel).

Referee: Leclercq (France).

In a later issue, when all the results are known, we hope to give the tables of the First League and the new members for next season. M.G.

ZURICH.

67e FETE SUISSE.

Jeudi 18 Juin.

Pourquoi donc une "Fête Suisse" en Juin et non pas le 1er Août? Voilà ce que tant de compatriotes demandent, quand ils entendent parler de la célébration de Juin.

La question est légitime, la réponse tout autant.

En effet, les Suisses de Londres ont commencé à célébrer la patrie absente bien avant que les Suisses de Suisse se soient mis à fêter le 1er Août. Eux ils ont commencé en 1891, ceux de Londres près de trente ans plus tôt. Et il continuait, tout simplement, selon leur tradition éprouvée.

Confédérés, chers Amis, vous vous joindrez cette année encore, au Central Hall le 18 Juin à toute la grande famille suisse de Londres pour chanter notre patrie! Nous vous y attendons les bras ouverts.

Soyez les bienvenus!

PERSONAL.

We extend hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Lichtensteiger, on the occasion of the arrival of a son.

* * *

From a recent pamphlet on our desk we are pleased to note that our old friend and occasional contributor, Mr. Max Gerig, of 40, Oakdale Road, Streatham, S.W.16, after severing his erstwhile connection with Mr. Stutz (E. Lanternier, Vongot), has taken up various other Agencies. These enable him to offer a good selection of choice Wines, at competitive prices, from the Côte d'Or, as well as Hocks and Moselles and certain Swiss wines of quality.

We wish him every success in his new venture and trust that he will receive the support of his many friends and compatriots in the Swiss Colony.

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A medium, holding the Greater World Diploma, is at present taking meetings and circles in Switzerland. On May 25th she addressed an audience of 150 at the Soc. d'Etudes Psychiques in Geneva, successfully demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance.



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