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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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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### PROFESSOR FRITZ FLEINER †.

Professor Fritz Fleiner, the eminent Swiss lawyer, who enjoyed an international reputation has died in Ascona at the age of 70.

Professor Fleiner was born on January 24th, 1867, in Aarau, in which town he received his early schooling. He studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin. In 1892 he became a lecturer (Privat Dozent) at the University of Zurich, and three years later Professor at the same University. At the early age of thirty he was appointed Professor of law at the University of Basle. In 1906 he accepted a call to the University of Tübingen and in 1908 to the University of Heidelberg. In the autumn of 1915, Professor Fleiner returned to Switzerland where he occupied the Chair of International law as well as of church law at the University of Zurich, a post which he held until 1936. The deceased was rector of this University from 1932-1934.

Professor Fleiner has written a large number of books on subjects of law.

#### DR. HUGO DIETSCHI.

Dr. Hugo Dietschi, States Counsellor, has retired from Parliament where he had represented the canton of Solothurn for the last fifteen years. Dr. Dietschi was Mayor of the town of Olten and for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat." He has for nearly fifty years rendered great services to the canton of Solothurn and to the Confederation, and his departure from public life is universally regretted.

#### M. MOTTA CONGRATULATES MINISTER DUNANT.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a telegram of congratulation to Minister Dunant on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as Swiss Minister in Paris.

#### FEDERAL SINGING COMPETITION.

The Federal Singing Competition in 1942 will take place in the town of St. Gall.

#### SWISS GET ORDER FOR SECRET ARMS.

After extensive trials, the British War Office has placed a large order for a new type of secret time-fuse for anti-aircraft shells with a Swiss firm.

Produced after many experiments, the fuses have been designed by Tavoro, S.A., of Geneva, to satisfy the accuracy demanded by modern anti-aircraft guns.

#### GLIDER PILOT'S CRASH.

M. Michel Martin, aged 25, the pilot of a glider, who started a flight last week from Geneva and disappeared in the Jura range to the west of the Faucille Pass, was found in an exhausted condition near Fort de l'Ecluse.

The glider had been caught in a whirlwind and thrown down in the forest. The pilot had fallen on a fir tree and thence on to rocks, breaking his nose and one leg in two places. After having made a splint with branches, strapped to his leg with pieces of clothing, the young man crawled down towards the valley. He spent three nights in the open and two and a half days without water and with only one piece of bread. He lived chiefly on berries and snails until his feeble calls were heard by some hunters, who rescued him.

M. Martin, who is now in hospital at Geneva, is expected to recover and his leg will probably be saved.

#### REDUCTION OF PETROL FOR FOREIGNERS.

The reduction in the price of petrol for foreign tourists in Switzerland has been extended to March 31st.

### BEAT STOFFEL †.

At the age of 74, died in St. Gall, M. Beat Stoffel, a well-known personality in the Swiss Textile Industry.

The deceased was a citizen of Arbon but was educated in St. Gall, after an extended stay in England, he returned to Switzerland where he entered the business of his father, which was known under the name of Stoffel & Cie. In 1902 he acquired the "Webereien" Schmerikon and Eschenbach and later on Lichtensteig and Schönengrund, these various firms were amalgamated into one and called the "St. Galler Feinwebereien A.G."

In 1920 he acquired the "Spinnerei und Weberei Mels," he was also the leading man in the "Aluminium Werke Rorschach" and he owned the "Kulm" Hotel in Arosa.

Switzerland loses in Beat Stoffel one of the leading men in the commercial sphere.

#### SWISS CHERRY TREES IN BLOSSOM.

The weather has been abnormally warm in Switzerland since last Tuesday, and the Föhn has been blowing, with the result that the snow which fell last Sunday has melted below the 6,000 ft. level. A curious consequence of the warm spell is reported from the Cantons of Uri and Schwyz, where many cherry trees are in blossom.

#### SWISS HOTEL KEEPERS WANTED IN ARGENTINE.

The Swiss Agent for Emigration in Buenos Aires has transmitted a request from the Argentine for 20 or 30 families of Swiss hotel keepers for settlement in Cordoba Province.

The request has been passed on to the Swiss Society of Landlords.

Each Swiss family taking advantage of the offer will receive a parcel of land, and they must know something about agriculture and be able to manage a little hotel. Each family must also have at least 4,000 Swiss francs (about £200), and will enjoy special privileges from the Argentine Government.

The Government of the Argentine, the Swiss Agent states, believe that tourist traffic in Cordoba will increase considerably. The Swiss hotel-keepers are being invited with this object in view.

### LOCAL.

#### BERNE.

The two Swiss Nazi leaders, Theodor Fischer and Silvio Schnell, who were convicted by a lower court of publishing matter calculated to stir up popular demonstrations against the Jews, notably by selling the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," were acquitted by the Superior Court of Berne.

The court recognised that the Protocols were false and scandalous, but refused to admit that they were immoral literature in the eyes of local law.

M. Otto Wirz, the well-known author, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary; among his best-known novels are: "Gewalten eines Toren," "Die geduckte Kraft," "Prophet Müller-Zwo," "Späte Erfüllung."

#### SCHWYZ.

Dr. Anton Bueler, late National Councillor, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Schwyz. Dr. Bueler was born in 1858, he studied law in Munich, Strassburg and Heidelberg. At the age of 24 he started a practice as an advocate in Schwyz. In 1886 he was elected "Bezirksammann;" from 1892-1912 he held the post as State Prosecutor. In 1896 he was elected President of the "Kantonsrat," and at the same time he en-

tered Parliament (National Council), over which he presided in 1916. In 1912 he was elected a member of the cantonal government. In the army he reached the rank of a colonel of Infantry.

#### VAUD.

The population of the town of Lausanne at the end of September was 87,166.

### FOOTBALL.

31st October, 1937.

#### INTERNATIONAL MATCH.

Switzerland ..... 2 Italy ..... 2

Scene: Geneva; Spectators: 22,000; Enthusiasm: Rampant!

Swiss Football on the map again!

The play produced by our national eleven in the first two internationals of the season (there will be 10 in all) at Vienna and Paris gave reason for a more optimistic attitude concerning our prowess on the football field, in spite of the two narrow defeats by 3:4 and 1:2 goals. At the same time neither Austria nor France could be said to be equal in strength to Italy, leaders in the Europa-Cup competition and generally considered the best team on the Continent. All the more meritorious, therefore, the splendid result of last Sunday. Only a draw, yes. But we had the misfortune to lose Bickel, the outside-right after half an hour's play when leading 2:1 (collar bone broken) and were one man short for the remaining hour. (The rules of the Europa-Cup only allow injured goalkeepers to be replaced). And Italy's equaliser did not fall until 5 minutes from the end. Switzerland was playing so well that something totally unexpected by our opponents might, yea, would have happened if our forward line had not been crippled.

The team deserves mentioning: Bizzozzero (Lugano); Minelli (G.C.), Lehmann (Lausanne); Springer, Vernati (both G.C.), Lörtscher (Servette); Bickel, Wagner (both G.C.), Monnard (Basel), Walacek (Servette) and Amado (Lugano). The defence and halves are the same as at Paris. In the forward line, Wagner, Monnard and Amado were new though old internationals. They one and all acquitted themselves well.

As for the game, refereed by Lewington (England), we were at first outpaced by the speedy Italians. By and by our eleven became more and more menacing. Exact passings and good combination gave us a pronounced advantage. And then, as so often happens, we are a goal down, against the run of the game. Piola, one of the world's best centre-forwards, converted a centre by Capra, outside-right. Nothing daunted, the Reds almost equalised from the kick-off. In the 19th minute Walacek races through; Corsi (left-half) uses his hands to divert the ball; Penalty. Walacek takes the spot kick and converts. 1:1. Two corners are gained in rapid succession without tangible result. After 24 minutes play, Amado centres, Wagner shoots for goal, a back tries to head out but the ball glances from his head into the net. Switzerland leads 2:1. — You should have heard them! — We keep up the pressure, wave upon wave of attack storms the Italian goal. And just now Bickel, playing in top form is fouled, falling unluckily and we are reduced to ten men for the rest of the game. Even now and all through the second half the team shows excellent form and fighting spirit. There is no question of adopting a purely defensive attitude. Italy makes despairing efforts to draw level. Our defence, especially Bizzozzero in goal are playing a grand game. Five minutes from time Piola once again has his chance and from 20 yards out he scores with an unstoppable drive.

Well played, the Reds!

M.G.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

PLEASE RESERVE  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26th  
for the  
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL  
at the  
Grosvenor House, Park Lane W.1.

Admission by ticket only obtainable from Members  
of the Committee.

## THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH.

(By Leu & Co.'s Bank Limited, Zurich.)

Zurich, October 30th, 1937.

The development of the stock exchange during the last two months will be remembered probably for quite a while. Not since years did a setback in stock prices come as abruptly and inflict such big losses as it did this past October.

As usual New York played the leading rôle and transplanted its nervousness to all foreign markets, not excepting Zurich. With great concern did America and the rest of the world notice the accelerated fall of prices after several weeks

of unusual uncertainty and dull trading. The industrial shares price index dropped for instance below a level of 120 from over 136 established only two sessions prior.

The seriousness of the situation was most evident and was reflected in turnovers as well as in the rather wild daily fluctuations. Especially the volume of business transacted in Wall Street on the 19th of October, namely, over 7,000,000 shares, was extraordinary, being the highest figure since July 1933.

This, however, proved to be the bottom of the collapse and gradual advances followed thereafter. Although the worst seemed over, the recovery was met with great scepticism, according to the still very wide daily fluctuations.

Comprehensibly much was written about what might have been the causes of the slump, especially since none of the symptoms grew evident which normally would justify a set back of that magnitude, or which had caused the big failure of 1929.

No matter what the reasons were the consequences looked grave enough as the American price level fell back to where it was in 1934. It was clear that such repercussions, foremost in Wall Street which is looked upon as main trend indicator, could not pass without calling the greatest attention everywhere.

For the Swiss markets these events were decisive too, and after having put up a fairly strong resistance to all adverse news the Zurich stock exchange suffered from growing liquidations.

Fortunately, however, same remained in reasonable limits and even the stoutest daily relapses seldom took the form of head over heel reactions.

Since our last report in the middle part of September, the general index of the Zurich stock exchange decreased from 68.5 to 60.1, recovering thereafter to about 62. The sensibility within the different groups of shares was quite unequal, but the reactionary forces affected all sections. Banks shares receded since the beginning of September between 5 to 10%, while trust companies fluctuated in the same period between 10 and 25%. Only small changes underwent insurance stocks, while industrials suffered cuts up to 15%. The following few leading shares will give a clear picture of the slump:

|                | Middle of September | lowest | Oct. 30th |
|----------------|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| Elektrobank    | 680                 | 580    | 615       |
| Motor-Columbus | 315                 | 250    | 290       |
| Aluminium      | 2,770               | 2,375  | 2,600     |
| Nestlé         | 1,100               | 1,002  | 1,045     |
| Chade          | 1,650               | 1,370  | 1,490     |
| Royal Dutch    | 960                 | 808    | 875       |

With better news from New York, where the reduction in margin requirements was considered a constructive move by the government to revive recovery, selective buying was resumed here.

During all that time the Swiss bond market remained almost unaffected. A slight weakness of the Federal gilt-edged securities was of very short duration. Somewhat greater sensibility encountered foreign bonds, as international politics remained tight, thus encouraging the instability of some of the none too solidly founded foreign currencies.

The pressure upon the French franc caused considerable selling in French railway bonds, while issues in guilders or Swiss money resisted well. Rumours about a new U.S. \$ devaluation was given due attention. It seemed that considerable sums of Dollars were transferred into Swiss francs, increasing thereby the already great liquidity of the Swiss capital market. The continued accumulation of "hot money" in Switzerland is growing more and more problematic and presses towards a solution of how to induce a migration of these undesired capitals.

#### SWISS FILMS RELEASED TO GENERAL CINEMAS.

##### Dates and Places of Showing.

"Water Symphony" (London and Suburbs).  
 Sydenham: Classic Cinema, Nov. 14th, 4 days.  
 Golders Green: Regal Cinema, Nov. 22nd, 6 days.  
 Croydon: Scala Cinema, Dec. 27th, 6 days.  
 (Provinces)  
 Wembley: Majestic Cinema, Nov. 8th, 3 days.  
 Liverpool: Astoria Nov. 11th, 3 days.  
 Southport: Paladium, Dec. 6th, 6 days.  
 Crosby (Lancs): Regent Cinema, Dec. 6th, 3 days.  
 Glasgow: Realto Cinema (Cathcart), Dec. 13th, 3 days.  
 Bath: News Theatre, Dec. 16th, 3 days.  
 Newcastle/Tyne: Royalty Cinema, Dec. 2nd, 3 days.  
 Bexhill on Sea: Playhouse, Dec. 20th, 6 days.  
 Bournemouth: Grand Cinema, Dec. 20th, 3 days.

Newcastle/Tyne: News Theatre, Dec. 27, 6 days.  
 St. Helens: Savoy Cinema, Dec. 23rd, 3 days.  
 Manchester: Ambassador, Dec. 30th, 3 days.  
 Manchester: Carlton, Nov. 22nd, 6 days.

"Flying Feet" (London and Suburbs).  
 Piccadilly: Eros News, Nov. 8th, 3 days.  
 Victoria Station: News Theatre, Dec. 6th, 3 days.  
 Sydenham: Classic, Dec. 23rd, 3 days.

(Provinces).  
 Manchester: Carlton, Nov. 8th, 3 days.  
 Southampton: The Cinemas, Nov. 15th, 3 days.  
 Birkenhead: Plaza, Nov. 15th, 3 days.  
 Bournemouth: Grand, Nov. 15th, 3 days.  
 Liverpool: Tatler News, Nov. 18th, 3 days.  
 Boscombe: Carlton, Nov. 22nd, 3 days.  
 Newcastle/Tyne: Royalty, Dec. 6th, 3 days.  
 Middlesbrough: Elite, Dec. 13th, 6 days.  
 Morecombe: Tower, Dec. 25th, 1 day.  
 Bath: News, Dec. 30th, 3 days.

"Spring comes to Switzerland" (Provinces).  
 Birkenhead: Plaza, Nov. 18th, 3 days.  
 Newcastle/Tyne: Royalty, Nov. 18th, 3 days.  
 Bath: News, Dec. 16th, 3 days.

"Snow Water" (London and Suburbs).  
 Victoria Station: News Theatre, Nov. 8th, 3 days.  
 Wimbledon: Kings Palace, Nov. 15th, 6 days.  
 Praed Street, Paddington: World News Theatre, Dec. 13th, 3 days.

Nottingham Gate: Coronet Theatre, Dec. 16th, 3 days.  
 Penge: Kings Hall, Dec. 23rd, 3 days.

(Provinces.)  
 Hull: Savoy, Nov. 8th, 3 days.  
 Hull: Langham, Nov. 11th, 3 days.  
 Birmingham Alum Rock: Grand Theatre, Nov. 22, 6 days.

Morecombe: Tower Theatre, Nov. 28th, 4 days.  
 Hull: West Park Theatre, Nov. 29th, 3 days.  
 Sutton Coldfield: Odeon, Dec. 13th, 6 days.  
 Edinburgh: Monsigneur Theatre, Dec. 20th, 3 days.  
 Hull: Criterion, Dec. 20th, 6 days.  
 Crewe: Odeon, Dec. 20th, 6 days.  
 Chesterfield: Picturehouse, Dec. 27th, 6 days.

#### ADELBODEN RE-UNION.

The "Kurverein" Adelsboden invited on Wednesday, November 3rd, over two hundred members belonging to the Staff of the various Tourist Agencies in London, to a Cocktail Party at the Splendid Hotel, Piccadilly, W.

A film depicting Winter Sports in and around Adelsboden was shown: through some unfortunate hitch only a part of the fine film could be seen which was a great pity.

During an interval cocktails and various little snacks were served whilst the Swiss Jodler. Mr. von Bergen, accompanied by Mr. Gandon sang a number of Swiss songs.

Every guest was presented with a pretty little "Mäliherhuetli" on which the Swiss Cross and the name of Adelsboden was embroidered.

We understand that the aim of this party was, to acquaint the Tourist Agencies staff with the beauty of Adelsboden, both as a summer and winter resort.

Speeches by English visitors, who for years have visited this place were made, eulogizing this little gem in the Swiss Alps.

We feel sure that this party has achieved its objects, and that a heavy influx of English Tourists to Adelsboden will be the result of it.

#### Le coin du sourire.

##### LES BELLES ANNONCES.

"Discretion absolue. Les personnes qui désirent se marier peuvent s'adresser à Mme Charlet. Elle a des partis de tout âge et de toutes conditions et continuera, comme par le passé, à soigner les entorses et les folies."

(Le République des Alpes),

"J'ai l'honneur de faire part à mes amis que la mort a enlevé hier ma chère épouse au moment précis où elle allait me donner un fils pour lequel je cherche une bonne nourrice, en attendant que je retrouve une nouvelle compagne de ma vie, jolie et possédant 20,000 dollars pour m'aider à diriger mon renommé commerce de lingerie que je vais liquider par une vente à tout prix, avant de le transférer dans la maison que je fais construire au No 174 de la 12me avenue, où il me reste à louer de magnifiques appartements, à partir de cinq cents dollars."

#### COMPARAISON.

Un professeur se promène dans la campagne avec quelques-uns de ses élèves. Devant un petit ruisseau, il s'arrête et, se tournant vers un des jeunes garçons réputé pour sa paresse, lui dit:

— Vous voyez X... ce petit ruisseau? Il est loin d'être comme vous. Il suit son cours.

— Oui, réplique le collégien, mais croyez bien que cela ne l'amuse guère. Et la preuve, c'est qu'il murmure tout le temps.

#### A TRAVEL LECTURE OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT.

The Swiss Mercantile Society deserves unstinted praise and thanks for having been able to arrange a lecture to be given by our famous compatriot Mlle. Ella Maillart, on November 10th, at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway.

Although Mlle. Maillart has been in the past a guest of the City Swiss Club, and on several occasions the guest of our Minister and Madame Paravicini at the Legation, few of our compatriots in London have seen this charming Lady in person.

Many, of course, have read and enjoyed her book *Forbidden Journey* (Heinemann 12s. 6d.) and they are no doubt eager, as well as anxious to see the author, who is ranked amongst the great travellers of the world.

Mlle. Maillart will talk of her wonderful journey which she, together with Peter Fleming, made by Caravan from Peking across Central China, through the unknown territories of Northern Tibet and Chinese Turkestan and eventually after many months to India.

The lecture given in English, will be illustrated with many slides.

Probably there is not another woman in the world whose life is richer in achievement than that of Mlle. Maillart. Here are some of her "escapades." She ran away to sea, and with one girl companion, took a three-ton cutter to Corsica. After representing Switzerland in sailing at the Paris Olympic Games, she came to this country to teach French in Wales. In this she was heavily handicapped by knowing no English or Welsh. Then she secured a job as cabin-boy, and later as deck-hand on a big sailing yacht. This she gave up to cruise with three other girls on an old Yawl from Marseilles to Athens.

Then came experiences as typist, playing second lead on the "Studio des Champs Elysees" stage, acting in winter sports films in the Alps, and some free-lance journalism.

1929 saw her in Berlin struggling with the German language whilst giving English lessons. In 1930 she went to Moscow and she lived there for five months with Russians. The call of the mountains became irresistible and she set out to cross the Caucasus Central Massif on foot.

During 1932-33 she made the journey to Russian Turkestan, and in 1935 she and Peter Fleming did the wonderful caravan journey from Peking to India, which will be the subject of the lecture.

The lecture will reveal to us, two individuals who by birth and education are as far apart as two Europeans could well be — but who have certain rare gifts and characteristics in common. Chief among these are iron constitutions, indomitable courage, and a positive love of discomfort.

After seven months of fatigue and hardship and delight, passing through British territory by Hunza and Gilgit to Kashmir, marching from well-built rest house to rest house, as secure from bandits as from lice, assured of transport, baths and food, the insatiable Swiss woman "felt very melancholy to be at the end of the easy life that had so long been mine under the great skies of Asia ... Paris, France, Europe, the White Race were nothing ... against the magnificent scheme of things we call the world." —

No lover of good travel can afford to miss this lecture, which, we feel sure, will be an outstanding event. Mlle. Maillart has been honoured, and rightly so, in this country, she now comes amongst her compatriots and we feel sure that she will receive an enthusiastic reception.

There should be not one seat vacant, on Wednesday next (Nov. 10th) at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.

ST.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD

## LECTURE

by

**Miss Ella Maillart**

The wellknown Swiss Explorer & Author.

**"From Peking to India by Caravan"**

(ILLUSTRATED by LANTERN SLIDES).

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10th**  
**at Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.**

at 8.30 p.m. sharp.

**MEMBERS & FRIENDS ARE HEARTILY WELCOME.**