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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.

HERR HITLER'S PROMISE.

In a special communiqué released by the Swiss Federal Council assurance is said to have been given to the Government of a German guarantee of Swiss neutrality.

M. Schulthess, a former President of Switzerland, conveyed this guarantee to the Swiss Government at the special request of Herr Hitler, whom he had seen on February 23rd, while on a business trip to Berlin. Herr Hitler's words were reported to be:

"The existence of Switzerland answers one of the needs of Europe. We wish as good neighbours to have the best relations with her and to have a loyal understanding with her in all things.

In speaking in my recent address to the Reichstag of the neutrality of two other States (Belgium and Holland) I intentionally omitted to mention Switzerland because the traditional neutrality always clearly stated by her and always respected by the Powers is therefore no new thing and is beyond all question.

At all times — I need I say — we shall respect the integrity and neutrality of Switzerland. This I affirm categorically. I have never given cause to any idea to the contrary."

While it is felt in Swiss quarters that this is reassuring there has been no relaxation of the defence measures that have been taken on the northern frontier.

PROFESSOR KARL BURKHARDT.

Before taking over his appointment as High Commissioner for Danzig, M. Karl Burkhardt has made his first acquaintance with London.

M. Burkhardt is at home in most of the capitals of Europe. His knowledge of the climatic eccentricities of Berlin and Vienna should help him to discount those which London has been enjoying.

His present travels, which include Paris and Stockholm, have a purely political object. This is to see the members of the League Committee of Three which looks after the affairs of the Free City.

The trio consists of Mr. Eden, who is rapporteur to the League on Danzig, M. Yvon Delbos and M. Sandler, the Swedish Foreign Minister.

Amongst the democratic Swiss M. Burkhardt enjoys the prestige which comes of a long and illustrious pedigree. His father was a leading Swiss statesman 30 years ago.

But after beginning a career in diplomacy M. Burkhardt gave himself up to study and travel. His fellow-countrymen admire him at 44 as a man-of-letters, and still more as a polished man of the world.

ALPINE AVALANCHES AND LANDSLIPS.

Rain and snowfalls in the last few days have caused several landslips and avalanches in the Alps.

Near Meillerie, on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, the railway line and main road have been interrupted by a landslip. The Furka railway line has been blocked near Oberwald by a huge avalanche of snow. Near St. Niklaus, in the Zermatt Valley, the railway and telegraph and telephone lines have been cut by an avalanche of snow and stones.

At Elm (Glarus) the spring avalanche, which usually comes down towards the middle of March from the Zwölffhorn, came down last week. It was abnormally big this year and destroyed a forest and several farms, while the air pressure

swept away chimneys and broke many windows in the hamlet of Obmoos.

NEW ROADS.

The Swiss Federal Council has approved a scheme for making a road along the shore of the Walensee in order to improve communications with the Grisons. Another road will be built over the Susten Pass, 7,420ft., connecting Interlaken and the Hasl Valley with Canton Uri, and 80,000,000frs. (£3,728,600) will be spent on the improvement and building of Alpine roads during the coming 12 years.

SIGNOR PRATO'S APPEAL REJECTED.

The Swiss Federal Department of Justice has rejected the appeal of Signor A. Prato, an Italian refugee journalist, who was ordered to leave Switzerland on the ground that he had indulged in political activity.

A SWISS RAILWAY'S LOSSES.

In order to cover losses sustained in 1936 and probable losses in the current year, the Bernina Railway Company has applied for a credit amounting to Frs. 200,000 (£9,500 at current rates) from the authorities of the Canton of Grisons and the Federal authorities at Berne.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AS PLAINTIFF.

The Federal Council has lodged a complaint with the judicial authorities against the editors of the "Freiheit" (Basle) Max Wullschleger and Ernest Walter (Zurich) for defamation.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT RETURNS.

Freiherr vom Weizsäcker, the German Ambassador in Berne, is shortly returning to his post after an absence of eight months.

WINNER OF THE BARLAN LOTTERY.

The first prize of the Barlan Lottery, amounting to 100,000frs. has been won by "Hafnermeister" Lerch in Brittnau (Aargau) father of a large family.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The Swiss Ice Hockey team which competed at the World Ice Hockey Championship in London received a great reception at Dübendorf on their return flight from London.

* * *

M. Fritz Widmann, a well-known painter, and son of the famous author J. V. Widmann, has died at Rüschlikon at the age of 69. Many of his pictures are exhibited in Swiss Art Galleries.

The deceased was a reputed chess player.

BERNE.

Corporal Alfred Sieber from Büren age 23, was killed near Brugg when on a night patrol.

* * *

Dr. Arthur Alder, at present "Sekretärschef", at the Federal Insurance Office in Berne, has been appointed Professor of mathematics at the University of Berne.

* * *

M. Joseph Jobin, a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Berne, has been appointed President of the Cantonal Commercial Court.

LUCERNE.

A self portrait of the painter Abraham Hermanjat, valued at 2,000frs. was stolen from the Art Gallery in Lucerne.

ZUG.

The late town councillor Albert Uttinger-Speck from Zug has left an amount of 34,600frs. to the town of Zug for charitable purposes.

GRISONS.

M. Jakob Möhr, formerly Director of the Federal Emigration Office in Berne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary at Chur where he lives in retirement.

AARAU.

At Schönenwerd, died at the age of 77, M. Arnold Bally-Marti, President of the Board of the ribbon firm Gebrüder Bally A.G.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Please Reserve

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th, 1937,
for the

Dinner and Dance

at the

MAYFAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

VAUD.

Mme. Lucy Dutoit, for 40 years a teacher at the "L'école Vinet" and from 1916-1932 President of the "L'Association vaudoise pour le suffrage féminin" has died at Lausanne at the age of 69.

GENEVA.

The death is reported at the age of 61 of M. Maurice Delesert. The deceased, who was an Engineer by profession, was for some time President of the Swiss Automobil Association.

LA POLITIQUE.

La peur des mots.

A Genève, les partis nationaux viennent d'adopter un projet de loi contre le communisme qui sera déposé prochainement sur le bureau du Grand Conseil. A Neuchâtel, l'assemblée législative a voté, mardi, une loi visant le même but. La discussion a été très animée, voire un peu houleuse par moments, comme on pouvait s'y attendre; mais le résultat n'en a pas moins été atteint, grâce au concours des trois partis décidés à résister à l'assaut bolchéviste. Tour à tour, M. Albert Rais, au nom des radicaux, M. Pierre Favarger, au nom des libéraux, et M. Tell Perrin, au nom du parti progressiste national, M. Béguin, au nom du Conseil d'Etat, ont fait valoir des arguments décisifs pour la protection de l'Etat contre les menées révolutionnaires; et l'accord même d'hommes politiques de tendances aussi diverses (car personne ne pourra, par exemple, sans prêter à rire, qualifier M. Rais de "réactionnaire") montre que bien des yeux se sont dessillés, depuis l'époque, proche encore, où il était de bon ton de nier l'existence du danger communiste. L'éloquence des faits a toujours été et reste la plus convaincante; les provocations mosquantes, l'insolence croissante des ennemis de l'ordre, l'intensité de leur propagande et les commencements de réalisations qu'ils ont tentés, finissent par avoir raison de l'apathie bourgeoise. Il était temps!

Il faut noter que les socialistes neuchâtelois ont combattu le projet, tout en affirmant, par la bouche de M. E. P. Graber, qu'ils sont opposés à la violence... Décidément, il y a une logique que la logique ne connaît pas.

Rappelons que, dans le canton de Vaud, où le Conseil d'Etat a toujours fait preuve de vigilance pour la protection de l'ordre public, on a pris à plus d'une reprise des mesures spéciales, commandées par les événements. Ainsi donc les cantons, notamment dans la Suisse romande, comprennent la nécessité d'agir pour sauvegarder l'indépendance du pays et l'intégrité de ses institutions.

On n'en regrette que davantage de voir les autorités fédérales si peu pressées. Lorsque le Conseil fédéral eut résolu en principe d'arrêter des dispositions contre le communisme, il semblait que l'on ferait diligence et qu'en quelques semaines l'œuvre serait sous toit. Or, non seulement le projet n'a pas été discuté au cours de la session de décembre, mais, lors de la prochaine session, en mars, seul le Conseil des Etats, qui jouit de la priorité, s'occupera de cet objet. Encore n'est-ce qu'au tout dernier moment que sa commission a fini par tomber d'accord sur un texte, abondamment remanié et considérablement allégé.

SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

Conductor: Mr. E. P. DICK.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Under the Patronage of the Swiss Minister
Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI.

FRIDAY, the 12th MARCH, 1937

at

CONWAY HALL, (Small Hall)

Red Lion Square, W.C.I.

(Start of concert 8.30 p.m. sharp.)

Tickets at 2/- (incl. Tax) can be obtained at the box office or from any member of the Orchestra.

C'est aller en besogne avec la lenteur de gens qui ne paraissent guère pressés d'arriver, comme La Fontaine lorsqu'il se rendait à l'Académie. Mais ce fut un honneur pour les lettres que le fabuliste musât le long des sentiers; tandis qu'on ne voit pas le profit que la Suisse retire d'avoir des législateurs qui prennent modèle sur l'escargot.

Nous avons critiqué d'emblée, quand il fut connu, le projet du Conseil fédéral, alourdi de plusieurs articles inutiles et peu clairs, dont l'un faisait planer une vague menace sur la presse, et dont un autre, selon l'interprétation qu'on lui eût donnée, aurait permis de fermer tout le monde en prison. Et cela par frousse d'appeler un chat un chat; évidemment, en visant n'importe qui, on n'a plus l'air de viser seulement les communistes. Et c'est ce que l'on veut, par-dessus tout, au Palais fédéral!

La commission des Etats a bien fait de supprimer ces hors-d'œuvre. C'est notre impression, en tout cas, d'après ce qui a été dit du projet qui va être soumis aux délibérations sénatoriales. En revanche, on doit déplorer que le mot de "communiste" ait été supprimé et remplacé par une périphrase. Ceux qui ont peur des mots ont aussi peur des idées et de l'action. Notre confrère Perrin écrit à ce propos, dans la "Revue": "Les communistes et leurs amis ne se rallieront pas pour autant au texte ainsi amendé, car ils savent très bien qu'ils sont visés et visés les tout premiers, pour la bonne raison qu'ils sont aujourd'hui les plus dangereux, les seuls dangereux adversaires de la démocratie."

C'est l'évidence même. Nous souhaitons vivement qu'un député aux Etats prenne l'initiative de proposer que le terme de "communiste" soit rétabli.

Léon Savary.
(Tribune de Genève).

ICE HOCKEY MATCHES.

The matches for the World's Ice Hockey Championship came to an end on Saturday last.

Whilst we should have liked to report fully on the events in which the Swiss team were concerned, we were unable to do so, owing to the ridiculous conditions which were imposed on us to obtain Press tickets; and tickets from other sources were unfortunately not available.

As, however, the Daily Press commented fully on the various matches, we take it that our readers are au courant with the splendid efforts our Swiss team has made and the creditable result they have achieved.

Since reporting last, the Swiss team have beaten Germany by 6 goals to nil, and lost against Canada, the "lions" of the competition, by 2 goals to one, after extra time having been played.

Our compatriots have every reason to be proud of their achievements, they have proved themselves not only as fine team but fine sportsmen, and we tender to them, on behalf of the Swiss Colony, our heartiest congratulations.

They have shown once again that Switzerland is amongst the leading nations in International sports events.

Here are the results of the Swiss team, during the competition:

Switzerland beat Norway 13:2.
Great Britain beat Switzerland 3:2.

Czecho-slovakia v. Switzerland 2:2.

Switzerland beat Poland 1:0.

Great Britain beat Switzerland 2:0.

Switzerland beat Germany 6:0.

Canada beat Switzerland 2:1.

The final classification is as follows:

1. Canada, World Champions.
2. Great Britain, European Champions.
3. Switzerland.
4. Germany.
5. Hungary.
6. Czecho-Slovakia.
7. France.
8. Poland.
9. Rumania.
10. Norway.
11. Sweden.

Switzerland was the holder of the European Championship in 1926 and 1935.

EDUCATIONAL LIFE IN SWITZERLAND.

Aims and Methods of Swiss Private Schools.
By Dr. K. E. LUSSER, President of the Board of the "ROSENBERG COLLEGE," ST. GALL (Switzerland.)

(Continued).

Thousands of boys and girls are educated every year in the well-known boarding schools of German and French Switzerland. Some time ago an English professor coined the expression that Switzerland was the country of fresh air and capable pedagogues.

What is the educational ideal of the Swiss Private Schools?

Systematic and harmonious training of mind and body, brain and muscle, heart and intellect — all tending in one and the same direction, towards the shaping of balanced personalities and capable characters who will be able to enter upon their future careers with a vital reserve of energy, joy and strength.

What is the way to the attainment of this goal? Extensive individualization in the lessons by the application of the system of moveable and homogeneous classes. An education based on daily and friendly contacts, observation and guidance; the cultivation of a spirit of kindly and positive co-operation between teacher and pupil, between adults and young people. The peculiar character of Swiss private schools makes an exceptionally extensive system of individualization possible. The numerous boarding schools in particular are in a position to provide a many-sided and harmonious intellectual, moral and physical education, undisturbed by the unfavourable influences of city life. At the same time they offer to pupils living away from their parents a comfortable and happy home-life, and a guiding body alive to its responsibilities.

The non-boarding private schools lay the main stress on the giving of methodically and carefully thought-out lessons, and, like the boarding schools, prepare pupils for State examinations.

General accomplishment on the social side is amply provided for by the school festival, by musical evenings and lectures, as also by visits to museums and industrial concerns.

To Sport and the Training of the body the schools devote that high degree of time and attention which is in keeping with the demands of the time. *Gymnastics, Tennis, Sailing, Swimming, Snow and Ice Sports*, all this makes for physical fitness, and takes its natural place in the routine of school life and in the scheme of education as a whole. The close contact between the different nationalities facilitates the growth of sound and cosmopolitan comradeship and establishes lasting ties of friendship and goodwill extending beyond frontier-posts and seas.

Anglo-Swiss Commercial and Financial Review.

THE END.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

The Editor.

"Swiss Observer,"

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

1st March, 1937.

Dear Editor,

The English Press informs its readers of the "Special Missions" which have been appointed by the various foreign countries to represent them at the forthcoming Coronation of His Majesty King George VI.

Is it too early, or is it too late to express a strong hope that on this occasion our Swiss Government may see fit to do likewise?

If we have no Crown-Prince available, we have eminent men like Minister Stucki whose appointment on such a mission would signify to England that our Government really do wish to do signal honour to the occasion.

Alternatively, instead of asking our Swiss Minister in London to attend, some two or three Members of our Swiss Legation in London might be asked to form an "especial Mission" together with the Minister at its head, to represent Switzerland on this auspicious occasion. That again would signify that our Country wishes to do something special in honour of the event.

In short, I hope that our Authorities at Berne will realise the importance of doing something special this time. I trust they are not heeding those members of our Parliament who are more "Swiss" than parliamentary in their outlook when they explain that "simplicity befits the Swiss." There is such a thing as too much simplicity and we who are Switzerland's "pioneers abroad" — vide speeches made on festive occasions in Switzerland, very often by those "simplicity-advocates" — know that "doing in Rome as the Romans do" goes a long way towards facilitating happy relations between the respective countries.

I trust that my letter is totally inopportune and "tilting a lance against a windmill" and that our Authorities at Berne have long ago decided upon just those steps which alone will avoid us Swiss in England feeling uncomfortable, as we did twelve months ago.

Yours sincerely,
Kyburg.

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THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION,
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