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The Swiss Observer

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BETTAGSMANDAT.

Liebe Landsleute!

In sehr ernster Stunde feiern wir den Eidgenössischen Betttag, den grossen Tag, an dem unser Volk zu Gebet, Dank und Busse aufgerufen wird. Wir sind dessen gewiss, dass dieser Tag in unserer Heimat mit innigerer Ueberzeugung denn je begangen werden wird von allen denen, die ihre Heimat lieben und sie gerne frei und stark sehen möchten.

Auch uns Auslandsschweizern obliegt es diesen Betttag mitzufeiern. Eingedenk der Verantwortlichkeiten, die wir in unserer Colonia haben, laden wir euch ein, euch am nächsten Sonntag zu der einen oder anderen unserer Gemeinden zu gesellen, um die Heils- und Friedensbotschaft CHRISTI an uns zu vernehmen, in der die einzige Hoffnung für unsere gequälte und ruhelose Menschheit beschlossen ist.

Lasst euch, bitte, durch keinerlei Rücksichten oder Pläne am Besuch der Gottesdienste abhalten. Erscheint doch alle, um den Eidgenössischen Dank-Buss- und Betttag nach dem Vorbild unserer Vorfahren zu begehen.

Das Consistoire der Schwizerkirche.

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

DIE SCHWEIZ SIEHT SICH VOR.

Bern, 12. Sept. Das Eidgenössische Militärdepartement teilt mit:

“Gestützt auf eine Ermächtigung des Bundesrates hat das Eidgenössische Militärdepartement die Ladung der Minen zur allfälligen Unterbrechung der Bahnen und Strassen an allen Landesgrenzen auf heute 12. September, als vorsorgliche Massnahme verfügt. Die Bevölkerung hat sich deren Anordnungen zu unterziehen. Es ist verboten, sich auf den Sprengobjekten aufzuhalten, wie zu photographieren oder zu zeichnen.”

SWISS FORTIFICATIONS.

Referring to rumours that some military zones have been created on certain Swiss Alpine passes, where tourists are not allowed to go, the Swiss Federal Military Department announces that no such zones have been created either on the Grisons passes or on other Alpine passes near the border. Traffic on all the Alpine roads is free, but the entry into the fortified regions and the photographing of fortifications are forbidden, and the approach to these regions is indicated by special boards.

AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG OF THE N.S.H. IN SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The “Auslandschweizertag” of the Nouvelle Société Hélyétique took place on Saturday and Sunday, September 10th and 11th at Schaffhausen.

M. Motta, chief of the Federal Political Dept., who on previous occasions had attended the deliberations, was prevented from being present owing to the precarious political situation; M. Baumann, President of the Swiss Confederation sent a telegram of greetings to the Assembly. Dr. Lätt, President of the “Auslandschweizerkommission” extended a hearty welcome to the numerous delegates who had attended the Meeting.

M. Lieb, President of the cantonal government, and himself a former “Auslandschweizer”

MANDEMENT DU JEUNE FEDERAL.

Cher Compatriotes,

C'est en une heure bien sérieuse que nous voyons venir de nouveau le dimanche du Jeûne, la grande journée nationale de prière, d'humiliation et de reconnaissance. Nous sommes certains qu'au pays, elle sera célébrée avec plus de ferveur que jamais par tous ceux qui aiment leur pays et désirent le voir libre et fort.

Il import que les Suisses à l'étranger, eux aussi, s'associent de tout cœur à cette journée. C'est pour cela que, conscients des responsabilités que nous avons au sein de la Colonie, nous vous convions à vous grouper dans l'une ou l'autre des communautés de l'Église Suisse, dimanche prochain, afin d'entendre le message que Christ a pour nous, message de salut et de paix, seul espoir de notre monde tourmenté et inquiet.

Ne vous laissez arrêter par aucune considération personnelle ou familiale. Soyez TOUS PRESENTS, pour célébrer comme il se doit le Jeûne institué par nos ancêtres.

LE CONSISTOIRE DE L'ÉGLISE SUISSE.

extended his greetings, on behalf of the cantonal government to the members of the “Fünfte Schweiz.”

Dr. H. Rothmund of the Federal “Justiz und Polizei Dept.” introduced a discussion concerning Swiss abroad and Foreigners in Switzerland. We hope to report further on the deliberations of this important Meeting in subsequent numbers of the S.O.

NEW LOSS FOR SWISS MILITARY AVIATION.

An aeroplane of the Swiss Air Force, piloted by lieutenant Paul Frei, crashed near Frauenfeld, lieutenant Frei, who was 26 years old was killed. This is the eighth fatal accident in the Swiss Air Force in the last fortnight.

LATE FEDERAL COUNCILLOR DR. HÄBERLIN 70 YEARS OLD.

Dr. Häberlin, late member of the Federal Council has recently celebrated his 70th birthday; he entered the Federal Council in 1920 in succession to Dr. Calonder.

Dr. Häberlin resigned from his post in 1934.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

The Unemployment figures just published show a slight improvement, the total of unemployed is given as 49,606 or 2,286 less than twelve months ago.

FIRST GLIDER FLIGHT.

The Swiss pilot, Marcel Godinat, has made the first flight from Zürich to Basle and back again in a glider. Leaving Zürich in the morning, he reached Basle after two hours flight, landed there, and returned to Zürich the same day. The distance between the two towns is about 53 miles.

SWISS £470,000 LOAN TO OSLO.

A Swiss banking consortium, headed by the Crédit Suisse, is to grant the City of Oslo a Three and a Half per Cent. Sixteen year loan of Swiss Frs. 10,000,000 (about £470,000 at the current rate).

Last May a Swiss banking consortium made a Three per Cent. Thirty-two year loan at 95 to the Norwegian Government for conversion purposes.

SWISS VITICULTURAL GRANTS.

This year the Swiss Federal Government has allocated two million francs to be spent in affording assistance to wine growers.

In Switzerland there is a guaranteed price for spirits distilled from fruit which the producers are obliged to sell to the Government Alcohol Board.

In 12 months the Board purchased for 4.3 million francs locally distilled spirit on which they made a loss of 2.7 million francs.

Last year Switzerland bought spirits (not including Cognac or rum) from the United Kingdom to the value of nearly half a million francs. In 1936 spirit imports from this country were valued at 292,000 francs.

GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The international balloon race for the Gordon-Bennett Cup began at Liège on Sunday last with nine competitors, three Belgians, two French, three Polish and one Swiss.

It is reported that the Swiss Balloon, Zurich III, piloted by Dr. E. Tilgenkamp has landed near Vienna after a flight lasting 25 hours, covering 500 miles.

The Polish balloon L.O.P.P. has covered the greatest distance so far. It landed at Troyan, in Bulgaria, having travelled for just over 1,000 miles.

Last year's race was won by the Belgian balloon, Belgica, which covered 905 miles. The Belgica landed at Szilazy-Cséh, in Rumania, after a flight of about 825 miles.

The Warzawa II., another Polish balloon, has landed at Caturelle, northeast of Curmu Sevierie, Rumania, some 920 miles from Liège. The French balloon Maurice Mallet landed near Orsava, also in Rumania, after a flight of about 875 miles.

The Wallonie, a Belgian balloon, landed at Pees, Hungary, after flying nearly 700 miles.

The French balloon Flanders, which came down at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, was the first to land. It had covered some 525 miles.

No news has been received of the Belgian balloon S.11 or the Polish balloon Polonia II.

SWISS DELEGATION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS MEETING.

The names of the Swiss Delegates to the League of Nations Meeting in Geneva are as follows: Federal-Councillor G. Motta, Professor W. Rappard, Minister W. Stucki, National Councillors Pierre Aeby and R. Grimm, States Councillor H. Mouttet, Camille Gorgé and Mlle. S. Ferrière.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

At the closing ceremony of the eighth International Congress of Historical Sciences held at the Federal Technical High School, Dr. Leland (Washington) was formally installed as the new president. The next meeting will be in Prague in May, 1939. Discussion of the Italian Government's invitation to hold the 1943 Congress in Rome was postponed.

* * *

The population of the town of Zurich at the end of August numbered 325,250 inhabitants.

* * *

M. Th. Bernet, formerly rector of the Cantonal Commercial School in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday. M. Bernet was for many years connected with the Schweiz. Kaufm. Verein.

BERNE.

Dr. Otto von Geyrerz, the well-known Dialect writer, and for many years Professor at the University of Berne has celebrated his 75th birthday.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Fauconnet to the post of Director of the “Eidgenössischen Gesundheitsamtes.”

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M. Renggli, Director of the “Bundesamt für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit,” has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, the latter accepted same, expressing their thanks for services rendered. M. Renggli has taken over the Management of the “Allgemeinen Schweiz. Uhrenindustrie A.G.”

LUCERNE.

A new Salzburg is in process of formation in Lucerne. Concerts under the direction of Ernest Ansermet and Count Gilbert Gravina (a grandson of Cosima Wagner), and given with the co-operation of such artists as Dusolina Giannini, Alfred Cortot, Emanuel Feuermann, and the Bush Quartet, have served as an overture for the big symphony concerts with famous conductors. The most eagerly awaited event was the concert conducted by Arturo Toscanini in the fine natural park which surrounds the Wagner Museum at Triebeschen, the house where Wagner spent the happiest years of his life, and where

he completed "Die Meistersinger, Siegfried and Götterdämmerung." Toscanini had an extremely fine ensemble at his disposal, composed of soloists, noted chamber musicians, and the best players from the Swiss orchestras. The impression of the magnificent playing grew steadily as the concert progressed, the audience was enthralled by the music and by the man who brought it so powerfully to life.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Bührer, a member of the cantonal government, lost his life when on a mountaineering excursion in the Bernese Oberland. He fell into a glacier crevasse when ascending the Finsteraarhorn and was killed. M. Bührer, who was 46 years old, entered the cantonal government in 1935.

APPENZELL A. RH.

Colonel Hans Ruckstuhl, for several years "Landammann" of the canton Appenzell A. Rh., has celebrated his 70th birthday. Colonel Ruckstuhl was "Platzkommandant" of Winterthur in 1918.

GRISONI.

A fire which broke out at the Paper Works in Landquart, partly destroyed the works; the damage caused is estimated to reach over half a million francs. Nearly one thousand employees will be faced with unemployment.

AARAU.

The firm Weber Söhne A.G., Cigar Manufacturers in Menziken, are celebrating this year the 100th anniversary of their existence. The founder of the firm was Samuel Weber who started in 1838 in a small way to cultivate tobacco plants. To-day the firm has works in Menziken, Reinach, Rickenbach and Kolliken, employing over 500 employees.

VAUD.

The death has occurred in Lutry of Dr. Charles Jaccottet, formerly Professor of Mathematics at the University of Lausanne, the Collège scientifique, and the cantonal school, at the age of 68.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of M. Charles de Haller, consulting engineer, at the age of 70.

The deceased was one of the leading engineers at the Saloniki-Constantinople railway, and later on was in the service of the municipal service of the town of Geneva. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel of Infantry.

HISTORIANS AND THE CRISIS.

By E. L. WOODWARD.

The Eighth International Historical Congress has just finished a week of peaceful sessions in the hospitable city of Zürich. The political situation in Europe was bound to cast shadow over the proceedings of an international meeting. Historians know only too well how quickly wars spread, and how many civilisations have failed to recover from the disintegration which follows the inevitable lowering of standards in war. European culture was near to the abyss in the last year of the Great War, and in the confusion after the armistice. The lessons of history are a warning that a risk of this kind cannot be taken twice in one generation. We Europeans cannot continue to live on the moral and intellectual capital accumulated in a previous era of peace. If we do not make our own positive contribution to a better world-order, we can but expect the destruction which has overcome cultures as proud and, seemingly, as firmly rooted as our own. Thus anyone who listened to the groups of people talking in the great hall of the *Technische Hochschule* in Zürich would have noticed an undertone of deep anxiety. Yet, over against this sombre background, there was something encouraging in the mere fact that members of more than forty nations could still meet together for intellectual discussions which were no mere exchange of compliments and banalities.

The Swiss organising committee responsible for the arrangements at Zürich carried out its work in a perfect way; I have never seen a large congress managed with such skill and kindness. The long applause with which a vote of thanks was passed at the closing session showed that the kindness was appreciated by everyone. The work of the Congress does not end with this closing session. *The Comité International des Sciences Historiques* is a permanent body, with an assembly of representatives from all participating nations, and a small standing committee which meets once a year. It receives valuable help from the Rockefeller Foundation. The assembly and its committee are responsible for certain publications of an international kind, and for co-

ordinating the work of various international commissions and national committees interested in different branches of history or in problems of practical importance for scholars. These committees are international in the fullest sense of the term. An American scholar, Dr. Leland, has succeeded an Englishman, Dr. Temperley, as President. The Secretary is French, the treasurer English (his predecessor was Swiss), and the standing committee includes historians from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Rumania, and Switzerland. There are no hard and fast rules about language; it has happened this year, and is likely to happen again, that French — not English — is used most frequently in the discussions and business meetings, with German as a close second.

One's impression of the papers can only be partial. The Congress is divided into fifteen sections; some of the sections are subdivided. You have therefore to take your choice from dozen or more discussions held simultaneously. On the whole I think I found the greatest interest in listening to subjects outside my own field of work, though I learned a very great deal from one paper on my own "period" by a young Polish scholar, M. Widerszal (whose professor watched him read his work just as an Oxford College tutor might listen to one of his pupil's essays). In general, I wished very much that some of the English critics of the history taught by historians had been present at this Congress. The critics would have found that historians do not content themselves with telling sad stories of the deaths of kings. They deal mainly with ideas, and those ideas are far less remote from the world of to-day than the critics often admit. The papers read at the Congress were written long before the present period of acute international tension; summaries of every communication were published earlier in the year. These papers were written in every country, and yet they had in common a remarkable sense of responsibility, an attitude of mind which one can define best by saying that the writers were conscious of the value of their study — taken as a whole — for understanding the modern world and for instructing those who govern the world. It would also be true to say that, without distinction of nationality, there was something more than an undercurrent of feeling, that historians — as the guardians of knowledge of a political kind — must uphold certain standards of intellectual integrity.

Finally, I think that any observer would have been impressed by the fact that, in all these discussions, a common intellectual background is taken for granted. In spite of great differences of opinion, and of deep national attachments — at times, one might say, national prejudices — there is still a common fund of culture, a language of ideas common to all educated people. The transition from the common culture of a highly trained minority to a common political arrangement affecting the masses of men in modern States is obviously one of enormous difficulty — historians would be the last people to minimise this difficulty — but it is not merely the illusion of friendly talk in pleasant surroundings which makes one think that this transition is not impossible. The plain facts are that for people of high culture this step has already been taken, almost unconsciously, and that it does not involve any devitalising process, any surrender of the living forces which distinguish a healthy national growth from a weak cosmopolitanism.

We have all separated now, and as we broke up after our last session I could not but wonder whether, in a short time, I should be remembering those meetings as among the last events of the kind of life which civilised men enjoy living, just as throughout the four years from August, 1914, I remembered, again and again, an afternoon in the Black Forest in July, 1914, when I watched the drivers of a German battery of artillery giving village children rides on their horses, as they led them to the watering place. And if, as one hopes, a sense of reason and prudence returns to Europe, I wondered what, at our next Congress five years hence, we should then think of our present anxieties. Anyhow, it seemed to me no bad thing that, for the next session of our permanent committee, we chose, unanimously, the city of Prague.

Spectator.

PERSONAL.

We deeply regret to announce the death of M. Arnold Theodore Bodmer at the age of 69.

The deceased has been in this country for over 50 years, he served until recently as Vice-President of the "Kirchenpflege" of the "Schweizerkirche" of St. Anne and St. Agnes.

We express our sincere sympathy to his widow and daughter in their sad bereavement.

TRIPLE JUBILEE AT THE SWISSAIR.

A few days ago three members of the staff of the Swissair prominently figured in the news on account of their achievements.

Flight-captain Walter Borner and Wireless-operator Jules Gloor, both accomplished their one million kilometres, and thus joined the small, but distinguished company, of "Flight millionaires."

It was the good fortune of the editor of this paper, to travel in the company of the newly created "millionaires" only a few days after their splendid records and never has he felt happier in the company of "millionaires" than on that flight on Saturday last.

In spite of heavy fog which prevailed, and which necessitated a delay in taking off from Dübendorf, Flight-captain Borner made a remarkable landing in Basle which was a delight to all the passengers, and proved that he is worthy to join his colleagues who have established the good name which the *Swissair* enjoys in the international circles of Air Traffic.

Not only on behalf of our paper, but on behalf of the great number of passengers who had the good fortune to fly with our distinguished countrymen, we extend to them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future.



Flight-captain Walter Borner

played for a great many years an important part in Swiss aviation; before joining the *Swissair* he rendered eminent services in connection with the establishment of the Aerodrome Geneva-Cointrin, in whose service he flew a distance of 150,000 km. Previous to his appointment as "Streckenflieger" to the *Swissair* he held the post as Manager of the Aero-Traffic S.A. in Geneva.

Wireless Operator Jules Gloor

who now becomes a "flight millionaire," has been connected with aviation since the age of 17, he was, as will be remembered, connected with the famous and epoch making flight to Alexandria. His cheerful and smiling face is a delight and comfort to all passengers who get in touch with him. The writer remembers him as a most helpful companion during the first Non-Stop Flight London-Samaden early this year.

Pilot Robert Fretz

who has recently flown his half-million kilometres has been promoted to the rank of Flight-captain, and thus the *Swissair* has seven Flight-captains on their staff.

Flight-captain Fretz was in former years a well-known personality amongst the "Sportsfliegen;" during the famous "Europaplug" in 1932, at which all the famous international aviators took part, he secured 4th place. —

A very modest record, almost insignificant in comparison with the above mentioned records, has been established last Saturday by the editor of the Swiss Observer, who has just accomplished his 10,000 miles flight as a "passenger," ten thousand miles of sheer delight and comfort to which he is deeply indebted to the efficient staff of Switzerland's greatest Aviation Company, the *Swissair*.

Flight-captain Fretz was in former years a well-known personality amongst the "Sportsfliegen;" during the famous "Europaplug" in 1932, at which all the famous international aviators took part, he secured 4th place. —