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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS REFERENDUM ON BUDGET.

The Swiss people have accepted by 506,712 votes to 194,069 the Government's proposals to balance the Federal Budget during the next three years.

The figures of the voting are as follows:

Cantons	Yes	No
Zürich	96,562	25,687
Bern	69,430	21,124
Luzern	25,984	5,707
Uri	3,536	991
Schwyz	6,611	2,658
Obwalden	2,102	775
Nidwalden	1,652	593
Glarus	5,128	1,047
Zug	4,929	1,353
Freiburg	13,435	5,458
Solothurn	20,695	4,519
Baselstadt	20,683	9,152
Baselland	14,417	5,847
Schaffhausen	9,588	2,304
Appenzell A. Rh.	5,847	3,501
Appenzell J. Rh.	1,514	685
St. Gallen	42,997	14,806
Graubünden	13,974	4,023
Aargau	43,760	17,316
Thurgau	20,577	8,181
Tessin	12,631	1,726
Waadt	47,779	33,506
Wallis	8,011	3,257
Neuenburg	11,140	4,024
Genf	3,730	15,917
Total	506,712	194,069

COLONEL DE DIESBACH +.

Colonel of division Roger de Diesbach has died in Berne at the age of 61.

The deceased started his military career with the cavalry, and with the rank of captain commanded the "Guiden-Schwadron 4." From 1906-1912 he was employed on the General Staff.

On his promotion to the rank of major he took over the command of the "Guidenabteilung 1." Five years later he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel, in which capacity he was put at the head of the Infantry-Regiment 7. (Fribourg).

In the year 1924, he reached the rank of colonel, and the Infantry Brigade 4 was put under his command. Seven years later (1931) he was promoted Colonel of division and put at the head of the 2nd Division.

On the 1st of January of this year he retired from this command which he had held for six years, in order to make room for a younger man.

Colonel of division, R. de Diesbach rendered during his long and distinguished career, great services to our army.

EMIL REICHENBACH +.

The death is reported from Paris of M. Emil Reichenbach, one of the partners of the Embroidery firm Reichenbach & Co., of St. Gall. He was for the last fifty years in the service of the St. Gall embroidery industry. M. Reichenbach, who took a great interest in the work of the Swiss Colony in Paris, had reached the age of 79.

ADULTERATION OF SPIRITS.

Large quantities of bogus kirsch have been put on the Swiss market by various firms in Zug, Schwyz, Lucerne, Berne and Basle. Some of their products were tested at the Zurich public laboratory, and it was found that the bottles contained cheap alcohol flavoured with some essence.

Several of the key men in this illicit business are described by the authorities as "influential personalities in their home town."

LOCAL.

BERNE.

Celebrations on a big scale are planned for the 24th and 25th of June next year, on the occasion of the 600th Anniversary of the battle of Laupen.

BASLE.

A well-known personality, representative of the "old guard" of Bâle's teaching profession, has died with Dr. Ferdinand Weckerle, at Bâle on the 22nd November. He reached the venerable age of 79, and his upright, sturdy figure and flowing beard will be remembered by a great many Bâlois who had the good fortune, at one time or another, to have sat at his feet.

Born in 1859, he pursued his studies of mathematics and natural science at the universities of Bâle and Munich. Having taken his degree, he started his teaching career in Herisau; to be called thence to the "Untere Realschule" in Bâle on November 1st, 1888, for mathematics, natural science and gymnastics. Later he took over, in addition, evening classes at the "Gewerbeschule." From 1909 onwards he taught commercial subjects at the Cantonal "Handelschule," the mercantile section of the "Ober Realschule," where he was fully employed from the year 1912 until his retirement in 1926. Without exaggeration it may be said that Dr. Weckerle was ideally suited for his lifework of teaching, to which he devoted himself with unbounded enthusiasm, great skill and a high sense of duty.

The devotion of his old pupils was well illustrated when, earlier this year, a former class of the "Untere Realschule" celebrated the 50th anniversary of their entering that school and, as reported in the S.O. at the time, sat once more at the feet of their master of old.

A busy and useful life has come to an end. All who knew him are conscious of a great loss. Though he has passed from our midst, the seed he was privileged to sow will surely continue to bear fruit for many years to come. (M.G.)

AARAU.

Mme. Katharina Oberst, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Aargau has celebrated her 100th birthday.

GENEVA.

The well-known lake restaurant "L'Ermitage" in La Bérolle, near Geneva, has been completely destroyed by fire, the damage is estimated to exceed 150,000frs.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club is taking place on Tuesday next. We have just had a chat with our friend Bingnely to find out what kind of a surprise he is going to spring on us, and it appears that this is a secret; but he assures us there will be something really attractive and novel, and the Committee look forward to a great attendance. Now that members took most enthusiastic, judging by their mood on Banquet night, it is hoped they will continue to turn up in good numbers at every meeting, bringing as many friends with them as they wish.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que
L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE
aura lieu Mardi 6 Décembre au Restaurant PAGANI,
42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée
d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

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 2321/2).

Le Comité.

FAREWELL SERVICE AT THE SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(St. Anne's, Gresham Street).

Conducted by The Rev. C. Th. Hahn, assisted
by M. le Pasteur Pradervand.

First Advent Sunday — A frosty, but beautiful and sunny morning. The little church of St. Anne's and St. Agnes stands peacefully, behind the almost leafless trees of its erstwhile burial ground. St. Martins-le-Grand and Gresham Street, such busy thoroughfares all through the week, are almost deserted. The heavy traffic has come to its week-end standstill and the usual bustle of City life has given place to the impressive quiet of the Lord's Day.

Yet a steady flow of worshippers wend their way towards St. Anne's, to attend the Farewell Service of their beloved Pastor of the Swiss Church, The Rev. C. Th. Hahn, who, after 14 years' ministry there, is going back to our dear home land, having accepted the living of Sierre, in the Canton de Valais.

At 11 o'clock the church is filled to capacity by his faithful flock, swelled by countless friends and well-wishers. The Swiss Legation is represented by Monsieur de Jenner, in the absence of the Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and by other members. Young and old are gathered together; adolescents and children, even some very little ones. After the service has already started, some, who have probably come from a considerable distance, try to find a seat or are content to stand. Over 400 worshippers lift up their voices to join in the opening hymn.

Then follows a prayer and, after the reading of the Scripture, M. Pradervand, Pasteur of the Eglise Suisse at Endell Street, rises to address the congregation from the lectern. Speaking in French, he dwells on the sadness in every one's heart at having to say farewell, he to his esteemed colleague, we to our beloved pastor, not forgetting Mme. Hahn, both of whom have done so much for the Church, for the Swiss Colony in London and for all who came to them in times of joy and sorrow. Having to bid good-bye to them, who will be sorely missed for all they did during these many years, especially for the poor, the sick and the needy. M. Pradervand knows what it means to say farewell to a Parish, having exchanged his old one in Switzerland for his new one in London but a few months ago. He describes it as a terrible wrench. Then M. Pradervand goes on to speak of the great pioneer-work done by the Rev. Hahn, in having built up a Parish for the German-speaking Swiss in London and having made St. Anne's a centre for their spiritual needs and ministrations. He expresses his conviction that the most heart-felt wishes and prayers of all the congregation will accompany our dear friends to their new sphere of activity and invoke the Lord's blessings on the new life and the new great work that lie before them. This warm tribute by M. Pradervand to his departing colleague, couched in beautiful language and delivered with deep feeling and sincerity, visibly moves the congregation.

During the singing of the second hymn the Rev. Hahn has ascended the pulpit, to deliver his farewell sermon, which proved a powerful and most impressive one on all those who had the privilege of being present. The preacher takes as his Text the eleven first verses from St. Matthew, Chaptr 21:—

"And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, saying unto them: Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them and bring them unto me."

"And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say: The Lord hath need of them, and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Tell ye the daughter of Sion: Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek and sitting upon an ass, and a colt, the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them. And brought the ass and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon."

"And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down

branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying: Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest."

"And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the City was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said: This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee."

It is the story of advent, which we again find in the Scriptures of Christ's Passion.

The preacher opens by referring to this being the first Sunday in the new Church Year and returns thanks to God for the countless blessings and favours received during the past.

Then he fastens on to the great sentence from his Text:—"Thy King cometh unto thee" and most beautifully elaborates its meaning. He reminds his hearers especially that this King is one Eternal, who was, is and will be; a King everlasting.

But we are also reminded that this King, bountiful though He is, requires the submission and co-operation of His subjects, if they are to share to the full that which He offers them. And the same guidance on the one hand, and response on the other, must exist also between the Pastor and his flock, if the work of the Church and the Parish are to be fruitful and blessed with the Heavenly spirit.

The preacher then dwells on God's infinite compassion and instils upon his congregation that only those can aspire to the Kingdom of the Lord, who retain the meekness and trust of those little one's, of whom Christ said, that theirs truly was that Kingdom. Finally Pastor Hahn brings home to us the duties we owe to God, to each-other and to ourselves and enjoins the congregation to remain faithful to our Church and to give every support to his successor.

The congregation is deeply moved by this inspiring farewell message, this powerful sermon, delivered with a striking conviction; for, did not the preacher tell us in the course of his delivery, how—in spite of many difficulties—he loved his great work and that, if he had to make his choice afresh, he would not hesitate one moment, but embrace again the ministry of Christ.

Another hymn followed and then Pastor Hahn, who has descended from the pulpit, addresses the congregation once more, from the lectern. First, in English, for the benefit of his many friends who might not understand either of our national languages and afterwards in Italian, to say a few words of farewell to our compatriots from the sunny Ticino. He thanks every one for the love and trust that have been extended to him from all sections of the Swiss Colony in London—comprising all denominations—and asks forgiveness of those whom he might have misunderstood or offended at any time. No man—and certainly no one of his calling—can please, or agree with, every one at all times, if he wishes to be true and faithful to his convictions.

The speaker is deeply grateful for all the prayers, which he knows will accompany him and his wife to their new destination and in their new work and hopes that the affectionate contact between the Parishioners and them will not be broken by their departure.

A beautiful special prayer, the Benediction and a last hymn bring this momentous and beautiful service to a close and to the mighty strains of the organ the large congregation files slowly out into the winter sunshine. Beneath the porch each one shakes hands once more with their beloved Pastor and Mme. Hahn, who have a last few kindly words of farewell for young and old.

This farewell service, however, will always be a treasured memory, that will never fade, to all who have attended it.

God's blessings on our departing friends.

GALLUS.

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS
OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB
ANNUAL DINNER.**

At the Hotel Great Central, on Wednesday,
November 23rd, 1938.

The Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club held its Annual Dinner at the Hotel Great Central, on Wednesday, November 23rd, the President, Mr. C. T. Lehmann, being in the Chair. Owing to illness and a number of members being now engaged in Voluntary Aid Service, the attendance was not as large as usual, but perhaps this only made for a greater intimacy and freedom, and certainly no gathering could have been in a more convivial mood than that which sat down at 7.45 to the excellent dinner prepared by the hotel, in the Regent Suite.

The Swiss Minister, Mr. Paravicini, being away for a well-earned rest, his place was taken by Mons. Charles de Jenner, whose reply to the toast of the Swiss Confederation showed that in the two years since last he had spoken at this dinner his knowledge of English has grown to the point of perfection, and his understanding of the English mentality to making it possible for him to prepare a speech that went straight to the hearts of those who heard him.

Brig-Gen. Bruce was in his usual happy vein in proposing the Alpine Club and Kindred Societies, among which he reminded us that we must not forget the Himalayan and American Climbing Clubs. And to hear the reply by Sir Claude Schuster, President of the Alpine Club, was like watching a pretty piece of passing by two Rugby threequarters.

Mr. E. S. Herbert, Secretary of the Alpine Club, in proposing the health of the Guests, reminded Dr. Burdin, the Minister of Transport, who was the principal guest, that years ago he had sat at his feet learning the rudiments of legal lore, and that the admiration he conceived for him then was in no way diminished by the fact that nowadays he so often had to cross swords with him in his professional career.

Dr. Burdin, who was educated in Lausanne and speaks French and German fluently, gave us an admirable demonstration of how one can reply to a speech of this description, and was certainly at his best.

The toast of the Association was proposed by Gen. Sir George McMunn and replied to by the President, who gave a brief account of the year's activities and at the same time reminded his hearers that 30 years ago the Association set out with certain aims, chief of which was to induce British climbers to become members of the Swiss Alpine Club and thus to show that they were not only learning to know the Alps but also learning to appreciate the many virtues of the Swiss people, and contrasted the general welcome now accorded to all English visitors to Switzerland with the enthusiastic but perhaps limited reception given to a few eminent Alpinists in the earlier days.

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