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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.

#### MINISTER STUCKI HONOURED.

The Syndicate of the National Press in Paris offered a Dinner to M. W. Stucki, the Swiss Minister in Paris.

The dinner was presided over by the French Premier, M. Daladier, who was accompanied by his Finance Minister. A large number of high personalities both in the political and commercial sphere were present.

M. Soustelle, President of the French Press Syndicate, addressed the gathering, pointing out the happy relations which have existed for a great number of years between the two countries.

Minister Stucki thanked the organisers for the great honour which they had bestowed on him, an honour which is also appreciated in Switzerland.

In his address, he referred to the recently held meeting of the League of Nations at which complete Neutrality to Switzerland has been restored.

"This fact," he said, "could be realised largely through the friendly attitude and understanding of France. In supporting Switzerland's demands," Minister Stucki continued, "your great country has acted in the interest of Europe, and in the interest of peace."

Amongst great applause, he declared that Switzerland will defend its neutrality at all costs against any aggressor and concluded his oration by saying, "we wish to remain masters in our own house."

M. Daladier, the French Premier, said that Switzerland was a shining example to all nations. "Although consisting of different races, speaking different languages and belonging to different denominations, your country has lived in peace and perfect harmony for many centuries. We have," M. Daladier declared, "only the one wish, the wish to see Switzerland prosper and to show the world that those who preach hatred against races and religion will have no place in this universe. The endeavour of civilisation is to bring about a rapprochement between races and religion."

#### MILITARY AERODROME IN EMMEN.

The Federal Council has decided to start shortly with the erection of a military aerodrome in Emmen, near Lucerne, at a cost of 3.2 million francs.

#### SOLDIERS PILGRIMAGE.

Arrangements are being made for a party of British, French and German ex-Servicemen, former prisoners of war who were interned in Switzerland, to visit that country in June to convey thanks to the President for "services rendered."

#### ALPINE HOLIDAY FOR POOR CHILDREN.

A month's free holiday in a village set amid the beauty and grandeur of the Swiss Alps.

This shortly will be the unexpected and happy lot of 25 children drawn from the homes of unemployed workers in the special areas of South Wales, County Durham, Tyneside, and Cumberland.

The holiday has been made possible through the generosity of the mayor and citizens of the village of Adelboden, in the Bernese Oberland.

How the offer to take the children, which reads more like a tale out of a story book, came to be made is told in a letter which Sir George Gillett, Commissioner for the Special Areas, received from Herr Hanz Kunzi, the Mayor of Adelboden.

An English visitor told the mayor of the steps taken to relieve unemployment in the special areas, and remarked:—

#### NOT A FAIRY, BUT—

"If only some Alpine fairy would wave her magic wand and transport some of the children to Adelboden."

"I am not a fairy," wrote Herr Kunzi, "but the words of your fellow-countryman stayed in my mind."

Having discussed the matter with colleagues and friends the mayor adds that they would welcome the children as the guests of the village.

Sir George Gillett has thanked the mayor and told him that the National Council of Social Service is undertaking all the arrangements.

#### WATCHES BOILED AND FROZEN.

What may be called the World's Watch Championship has just been held at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington.

The entrants were 300 or so watches, mainly British, Swiss, and American.

The "examination" lasted six weeks, during which time each watch was tested on its sides, upside down, and in all sorts of positions in all degrees of temperature—even in refrigerators and ovens.

Any watch that obtains 80 marks out of 100 is awarded a certificate for accuracy, with the mention "especially good"; but much greater accuracy is necessary to win the "championship," and for the fifth year in succession it has gone to Swiss makers with 97.3 marks.

One expert declares that there is no hope of winning the certificate unless a watch, under these "third-degree" methods, does not tell the same average time consistently to within two seconds a day.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The death is reported from Küsnacht of Dr. Hans Behn-Eschenburg at the age of 75. The deceased was one of the pioneers of the Swiss "Elektrotechnik"; in 1892, he entered the "Maschinenfabrik" Oerlikon, where he became in time General Manager, on retiring from this post he remained on the board of this company. Dr. Behn rendered great services when the electrification of the Swiss Railways was undertaken.

The funeral of the late Army Corps Commander Bridler took place last Tuesday at the Municipal Cemetery in Winterthur.

A large number of high officers of the Swiss Army attended the service.

M. Minger, head of the Federal Military Department, eulogised the great services which the deceased had rendered to the Army and to the country.

#### BASLE.

Dr. Ernst Staehelin, Professor of Theology at the University of Zurich, has been nominated rector of the University for 1938/39.

The death has occurred in Basle of M. Max Zraggen, late National Councillor, at the age of 67.

Starting in humble circumstances, he worked his way up and became Manager of the Prometheus A.G. in Liestal. He entered the Grand Council of the canton of Basle in 1913 and six years later he was sent to Parliament (Nat. Council).

#### ZUG.

M. Hans Hegglin, President of the Superior Court (Obergericht), has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Menzingen. M. Hegglin is a member of this court for the last 30 years and its President since 1920.

### FOOTBALL.

21st May, 1938.

SWITZERLAND ..... 2 ENGLAND ..... 1

Great news, is it not? And far from a fluke, by all accounts, a well-deserved result on the play of the day. No doubt Minelli was right when he

said that the Swiss had had a very good day, whilst the English team had one of those inevitable if unaccountable off-days. England has taken this reverse philosophically enough. But after the great things that were said about that identical team in consequence of the victory by 6 goals to 3 over Germany at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin seven days ago, I find great difficulty in keeping calm and dignified, when I would like to throw my hat in the air and shout and cry for joy!

You will have read the accounts appearing in the English Press. Close on 25,000 spectators on the Grasshopper-ground at Zurich. The first goal, the outcome of good work by our two wing forwards, Amadó and Aebi, the latter heading past Woodley after 30 minutes' play. The equaliser fell on a foul by Lehmann, Bastin scoring from the ensuing penalty kick. Half-time: 1—1. The supposedly better staying-powers of the English professionals failed to have much influence on the play in the second half. Young handled in the penalty area, some say it was unintentional, the referee gave a penalty without the slightest hesitation, and our old international (some thought "too old") Trello, so long with the Grasshoppers, now with Servette, made no mistake, scoring with a beautiful low shot into the left-hand corner. And after that our defence once more proved how good they are. Another quarter of an hour and the game was won. What no one dared to dream about, had actually happened. Switzerland had beaten the might of England at the fifth attempt.

Three rousing cheers for our National Team: Huber; Minelli (Capt.), Lehmann; Springer, Vernati (all Grasshoppers), Loertscher (Servette); Amadó (Lugano), Trello (Servette), Bickel (Grasshoppers), Wallace and Aebi (Servette).

For the benefit of my readers whose thoughts wander sometimes like mine to the far-off days of Swiss football, I append details and teams of our previous encounters with England. The first match took place on May 20th, 1909, in Basel: England 9; Switzerland 0. Half-time: 4—0.

Team: Ochsner (Chaux-de-Fonds); Müller (Winterthur), Glaser (Zurich); Neuweiler (Winterthur), Rubli (Y.B.), Collet (Montriond); E. Walter (Winterthur), Hasler (Basel), Sydlar II (Cantonal), Kämpfer (Y.B.), Kobelt (St. Gallen).

The following year Switzerland played its one and only game in London, on April 9th, 1910, re-resulting in England 6; Switzerland 1. Half-time: 5—0.

Team: Füeckiger (Aarau); Müller (Winterthur), Bark (Old Boys); Günthardt (Zurich), Kihm (Aarau), Baierlé (Genève); Weiss (Bern), Bürgin (Zurich), Sydlar II (Cantonal), Renand (Genève), Collet (Montriond). Sydlar II scored for the Swiss.

The next meeting took place on May 25th, 1911, in Bern, when we once more suffered defeat: England 4; Switzerland 1. Half-time: 4—1.

Team: Dreyfuss (Servette); Müller (Wint.), Würsten (Chaux-de-Fonds); Ehrbar (St. Gallen), Henneberg II and I (Servette); Weiss (Y.B.), Sydlar II (Cantonal), Wyss I (Etoile Ch. d. F.), Sydlar III (Cant.), Collet (Montriond). Wyss I scored for Switzerland.

What struck me most, when perusing the list of these old internationals, was that unmistakable sign of a relentless change in the fortunes of the clubs. To-day we have in Switzerland 12 clubs constituting the National League or top class. But none of the following, supplying the bulk of the internationals in pre-war days, are among them: Chaux-de-Fonds, Winterthur, Zurich, Cantonal, St. Gallen, Aarau, all First Leaguers or second class; Old Boys even one class lower still, Etoile Ch. de F. defunct, Montriond and Genève by other clubs absorbed!

On May 20th, 1933, we once again had the honour to entertain England in Bern, only to lose once more decisively: England 4; Switzerland 0. Half-time: 1—0.

Team: Séchehaye (Servette); Minelli (Grasshoppers), Bielser (Basel); Gilardoni (Lugano), Imhof (Carouge), Hufschmied (Basel); v. Känel (Biel), Trello (Grassh.), Pasello (Servette), Xam (Grassh.), Jaeck (Basel).

And that gave the following total:—

Switzerland: Played 4; lost 4, goals for 2, against 23; and now: played 5, won 1, lost 4, goals for 4, against 24. The one thing to look forward to now is an invitation to Switzerland to come to England for a return match. It is no secret that

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Le Comité.