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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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LONDON, 25 JUNE, 1938.

PRICE 3d.

DO NOT FORGET SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY ON SATURDAY JULY 9th.

Legation de Suisse,
Londres. 18, Montagu Place, W.1.
June 20th, 1938.

Sir,

It is with a special pleasure that I have received your tastefully compiled number, celebrating the nineteenth year of the "Swiss Observer's" existence.

I would not fail to offer you my very sincere congratulations, in my own name as well as in that of my colleagues at the Legation and express the hope that your paper, which has made its way so valiantly during its youth, may have before it a successful and prosperous future.

I am, Sir,

Yours very sincerely,
sign. C. R. PARAVICINI.

To the Editor,
"Swiss Observer,"
23, Leonard Street,
E.C.2.



HOME NEWS

Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

FEDERAL.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

On May 31st, 1938, the gold reserves of the Swiss National Bank amounted to 2,837 million Swiss francs; discounts and advances on securities reached 65.8 millions. The notes in circulation (1,529 million) and the other liabilities at sight (1,845 million) were covered by 84% gold.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE COST OF THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS?

The electrification of the Federal Railways has enabled Switzerland to employ the electric power that she has at her command and to substitute it for coal which has to be imported. The cost of this transformation was, however, very great and amounted at the end of 1937 to 800 million Swiss francs, of which 500 million francs were for the actual electrification and 300 million francs for the purchase of more than 500 electric locomotives.

THE MOST EXACT WATCH.

On the occasion of the international competition for chronometres at Teddington (England) 505 of these works of precision were submitted to the control of experts. The greatest accuracy was attained by a Swiss watch which obtained 97.3 out of a maximum of 100 points, which is equivalent to a variation, during 24 hours, of only several hundredths of a second. Swiss chronometres occupied the first twenty places, which is a testimony to their indisputable quality.

FEDERAL RAILWAY SECURITY.

All the locomotives of the Swiss Federal Railways are now supplied with automatic stopping security devices which render the accidental passing of a closed signal impossible. Signals are also supplied with corresponding apparatus, and it may be said that the practical application of this innovation, commenced in 1935, is now completed over the whole system. The security of the Federal Railways has thus reached a degree that it will be difficult to surpass.

A MODEST INVENTOR.

Dr. Guglielminetti is a Swiss inventor to whom, thanks to his system of tarring, we owe our dustless roads. Moreover, it is known that

EGLISE SUISSE DE LONDRES.

Chers Compatriotes,

Il y a 176 ans, l'Eglise Helvétique de Londres était fondée, et nos ancêtres se réunissaient le 27 juin 1762 pour célébrer leur premier culte dans l'Eglise qu'ils avaient louée à Castle Street.

Au cours de ces 176 années, l'Eglise Suisse a travaillé sans relâche pour nos compatriotes établis à Londres et pour les Suisses de passage dans notre grande métropole. Non seulement elle a prêché l'Evangile, mais elle a cherché à être toujours un coin de terre suisse, un centre de ralliement pour notre Colonie.

Cette œuvre a grandi au cours des dernières décades, et depuis 1924 l'Eglise compte deux communautés. Séparées administrativement pendant 14 ans, elles sont maintenant réunies sous la même direction.

La reconstitution de cette unité a été saluée avec joie dans la Colonie, mais elle n'a pas été célébrée officiellement encore.

Dimanche prochain, nous vous convions à un grand culte bilingue présidé par nos deux pasteurs, afin de célébrer le 176e anniversaire de l'Eglise et la réunion des deux communautés. Nous comptons sur tous les Suisses. Faites donc un effort, et soyez présents à Endell Street dimanche prochain à 11h.

Au nom du Consistoire :

Alf. Brauen, président.

P.S. La collecte de ce culte est destinée au Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses pauvres; c'est la collecte annuelle du "Sermón de charité."

the observations and experiments he has undertaken at the summit of Mont Blanc have resulted in the construction of oxygen apparatus employed in high altitudes by aviators and by firemen and miners against poisonous gasses. Dr. Guglielminetti, having always refused to patent his inventions, has received, from different governments, several high distinctions. His native country, Switzerland, has no decoration to offer, but his native town, Brigue, in the Canton du Valais, has conferred upon him the freedom of the town, a very rare distinction in Switzerland.

A MODEL HOTEL AT ZURICH.

At the Swiss National Exhibition, which will be held next year at Zurich, an occasion will be given to study a model hotel which will, without doubt, rouse the interest of the public and of Swiss and foreign hotel-keepers. This hotel will be the prototype of a first-class hotel, very beautiful, but above all, economical and rational. The preparations for this exhibition, in which every section of the population will collaborate, are progressing satisfactorily, and the architectural transformation of the banks of the Lake of Zurich has commenced.

CHARLES ED. GUILLAUME †.

Dr. Charles Guillaume, Director of the International Office for weights and measures, has died in Sèvres.

He was born in 1861 at Fleurier (Neuchâtel). He studied at the Universities of Neuchâtel and Zurich. In October 1883 he was appointed assistant at the International Office for weights and measures in Sèvres, and since 1915 he had held the post of Director.

Dr. Guillaume was the inventor of the metals "Invar" and "Elinvar" which made him famous. He was a corresponding member of a large number of learned bodies abroad. The University of

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE - LONDON.

Liebe Landsleute!

Vor 176 wurde die Eglise Helvétique von London gegründet. Unsere Vorfahren versammelten sich am 27. Juni 1762, um gemeinsam den ersten Gottesdienst in der von ihnen gemieteten Kirche in Castle Street zu feiern.

Während dieser 176 Jahre hat die Schweizerkirche unermüdlich zum Wohl unserer hier ansässigen Landsleute gearbeitet und für alle diejenigen Landeskinder, die sich in dieser Metropole vorübergehend aufhielten. Sie hat nicht nur das Evangelium gepredigt, sondern wollte von allem Anfang an ein Stück Heimatboden sein, ein Sammelpunkt für unsere Colonie.

Das Werk ist in den letzten Jahrzehnten gewachsen. Seit 1924 hat die Kirche zwei Gemeinden, die nun, nachdem sie während 14 Jahren eine getrennte Verwaltung hatten, unter der gleichen Leitung stehen.

Diese Wiederherstellung der Einheit ist in unserer Colonie freudig begrüßt worden. Es soll ihr aber öffentlich Ausdruck gegeben werden.

Am nächsten Sonntag seid Ihr alle zu einem Gottesdienst in den zwei Sprachen eingeladen, in dem unsere beiden Pfarrer predigen werden. Es ist der 176. Geburtstag der Kirche. Wir hoffen, alle unsere Landsleute begrüßen zu dürfen und hoffen, dass Ihr Euch um 11 Uhr zum Gottesdienst in der Endell Street einfinden werdet.

Im Namen der Kirchenlege:

Alf. Brauen, Präsident.

P.S. Die Collecte am Ausgang des Gottesdienstes wird zugunsten der Schweizerischen Hüfsgesellschaft erhoben werden, wie das bisher anlässlich des jährlichen "Sermón de charité" geschah.

Geneva made him a *doctor honoris causa*. In 1920 he received the Nobel Prize.

GOTHARD TRAIN MISHAP.

One person was killed and eighteen more or less seriously injured, when one of the coaches of the Gothard Express jumped off the rails when entering the station at Milan. Amongst the injured are three Swiss.

SWISS INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLERS.

Members of the National team which beat Germany in the International Football competition received a hearty reception on their arrival in Zurich.

The Mayor of Zurich, as well as a delegation from the town Council awaited them at the station. They were later entertained for supper at the station buffet where several speeches were made.

CITY SWISS CLUB

REUNION D'ETE

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées

MARDI 28 JUIN à 7 HEURES 30

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Diner (7/6) — Dance jusqu'à minuit.

Tenue de Ville.

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 9595)

Le Comité.

MORE MONEY FOR SWISS DEFENCES.

The Swiss Parliament decided to devote the balance of the National Defence loan issued last year, a sum of about £2,000,000, to the strengthening of the defences of the country. The Socialist Party stated that while it had previously been opposed to national defence for moral reasons it was now in favour of it, as the situation had changed and the Swiss had only one object, to defend their neutrality and independence.

LOCAL.

BASLE COUNTRY.

The Bourgeois parties have been successful in the elections for the "Landrat," which took place recently, they have captured three seats from the Socialists and have now a majority of seven seats over the opposition.

ST. GALL.

M. Alfons Ziltener-Hessi, formerly a well-known "Hotelier," and for many years a member of the Grand Council, has died in Wessen at the age of 90.

SWISS LETTER.

The Economic Situation.

The depression which has pressed for some time on international trade and which has been felt particularly in the United States, commences to affect Swiss economy which is so closely allied to world commerce. The situation in Switzerland is still satisfactory, it is true, but in different directions signs of a certain slowing-down of activity undoubtedly appear, while several branches, especially home trade, have not felt the effect of the improvement recorded, during the course of the year 1937, in foreign trade.

An encouraging fact is the decline in unemployment during the Spring, owing to a revival in the building trade since the month of March. The number of unemployed has decreased from 95,000 at the end of January 1938, to 66,000 at the end of March, and to 60,000 at the end of April, at which epoch it was 10,000 fewer than in the preceding year. This improvement is due, to a great extent, to the measures adopted by the government to create facilities for work. At the present time the amount being spent on construction has attained the level which was considered normal in the years 1927/1928.

The degree of industrial occupation has slightly fallen off, when compared with the last months of 1937. In general, it is satisfactory, except in the textile trade.

Export trade continues to appear under a favourable light, it remains to be seen, however, if the decrease in imports, since the commencement of the present year, is not due to a diminishing number of trade orders. For the moment, the degree of occupation is still normal, with the exception of the textile trade, but we are given to understand that the perspective is, however, uncertain. During the month of April, the decrease in imports continued; they amounted to 124 million francs, which is 49 million francs lower than in April of the preceding year. Exports reached 107 million francs, which is about 1 million francs more than in April 1937.

Goods transport on the railways has shown a marked decline during the first three months of the present year. The cause of this rests, not only in the reduction of imports, but also in the reduction of transit traffic. In the interior of the country traffic also shows a falling off. As to the latest statistics of tourist traffic, the basis of comparison is difficult, as the Easter holidays came in April, whereas, last year they were in March. It may, however, be estimated that the number of visitors nightly occupying rooms was slightly lower. In reference to retail trade activities, the results for the months of January and February are equal to those recorded during the corresponding period of the preceding year; on the other hand, during March, the trade figures show a decrease, due no doubt to the fact that this year Easter fell during April. Swiss agriculture was sorely tried during the Spring. The very exceptional dryness put back the development of cultivation, and the sharp frosts seriously damaged the fruit trees and the vines.

The situation in the Swiss money and stock market remains the same. Following the devaluation of the French franc, certain capital which had taken refuge in Switzerland was withdrawn, but not to such an extent as to prevent money remaining in a perfectly free and liquid state. It may be said that an exodus of certain capital would not be regretted in Switzerland. The stock market has temporarily reacted to the French devaluation by a slight fall in Bond quotations, no doubt on account of speculative sales.

Finally, the economic situation may be summarised as follows:

Seasonable revival in the building trade, industrial activity generally satisfactory, leaving, however, a not very hopeful outlook for the future, bad year for agriculture, and a slight uncertainty about tourist traffic.

CITY SWISS CLUB.
Summer Meeting at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon.

As in previous years, the City Swiss Club is holding their Summer Meeting at the Brent Bridge Hotel in Hendon, on Tuesday next, June 28th, to which the Ladies are cordially invited.

The City Swiss Club also extends a hearty invitation to their friends in the Swiss Colony.

The Brent Bridge Hotel is an ideal place for a summer outing, and we feel sure that the informal dance which will follow the dinner, will prove to be a great attraction.

The Swiss Accordion players have been asked to give us a few of their "Ländlers."

This is the only meeting which will take place at Hendon during the summer season, and it is hoped that the attendance will be a numerous one.

It is advisable to reserve seats at once, (see advert), so as to avoid disappointment.

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING SWISS EVENTS, 1938.

July 15th-17th, Bernese Cantonal Gymnastic Festival at Burgdorf near Berne.

July 17th, Grand Prix of Switzerland for motorcycles, circuit of Nations, at Geneva.

July 17th, 24th and 31st, William Tell Performances in Tell Playhouse at Altdorf.

July 18th, Brunnen Popular Fête and Costumes Day at Brunnen, lake of Lucerne.

July 18th-August 6th, Athletics and Relay Race at Davos.

July 23rd, Summer Courses at High School of Commerce of Neuchâtel (1st series).

July 18th-October 8th, Vacation Courses in Modern French at the University of Lausanne.

July 23rd, Venetian Night Fête de luxe at Lucerne.

July 23rd-24, International Rowing Regatta at Lucerne (Rotsee).

July 23rd-25th, Davos Tennis Championships and International Tournament for Rakleda Cup, at Davos.

July 23rd-August 6th, Faust Festival Plays in Goetheanum at Dornach near Basle.

July 24th, Aquatic Festival at Brunnen near Lucerne. International Professional Test for Bicyclists at Berne.

July 25th-August 7th, Summer School of European Studies (2nd Series) at Davos or St. Moritz.

July 25th-August 3rd, Swiss Boy Scouts' Rally at Zurich.

July 30th-31st, Lucerne Cantonal Gymnastic Festival at Lucerne. Gymnastic Festival of Swiss Workingmen at Biel.

July 30th-August 1st, Federal Small Calibre-Shooting Festival at Zurich.

July 30th-August 14th, Golf Meeting at Davos.

August, Music Festival Week at St. Moritz. "Week of Light," Gala illuminations, at Berne.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

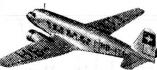
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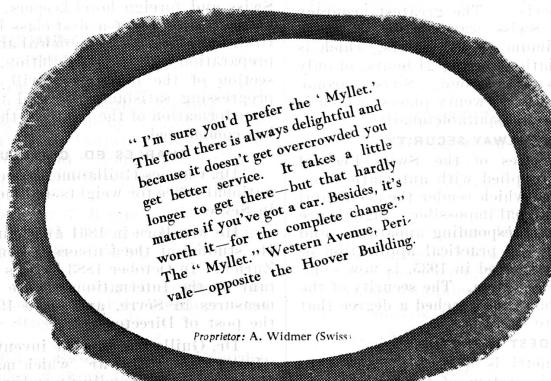
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