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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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LONDON, 3 JUNE, 1939

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## TO-DAY Swiss Sports and Garden Party

at HERNE HILL, start 2.45p.m.

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### SWISS SPORTS

We particularly wish to draw the attention of our readers and their friends to the Swiss Sports Meeting which will take place to-day.

The Committee of the Swiss Sports has spared neither time nor money to make this event a great success, and we hope that many of our compatriots and their friends will make the journey to Herne Hill.

We feel sure that they will not be disappointed, it will be an afternoon well spent. Therefore make up your mind now, and do not fail those who have given their time and money freely, that you and your friends should have an enjoyable afternoon. Don't say "I may come along," say "I will be there," and we are certain you won't regret it.



### 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.

#### THE SILK INDUSTRY POSITION.

According to the report just published of the Zurich Silk Industry Co., the past business year was not, on the basis of the greatly reduced number of looms as compared with formerly, an outstanding period of depression. Comparison with former conditions, however, reveals the tremendous decline which has taken place in this important Swiss industry. In 1913 exports of silk tissues totalled 2,177 tons valued at 107,000,000 Sw. frs. In 1927 a record was reached of 2,644 tons valued at 200,000,000 Sw. frs. For 1938 the figures were only 600 tons of a value of 16,400,000 Sw. frs.

The future is regarded with restrained optimism. Many foreign buyers have resumed their connections with Switzerland, where moreover every effort, also from the price aspect, is being made to recover markets. This optimism is justified to some extent by the figures for the first quarter of 1939, namely, 9,700,000 Sw. frs., which is about 1,000,000 Sw. frs. higher than for the corresponding period of 1938.

#### SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

On Wednesday, May 24th, one million visitors had entered the turnstiles since the opening of the Exhibition.

#### ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS PROHIBITED IN SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council has prohibited the sale in Switzerland of the newspapers "Cronaca Prealpina" (published in Varese) and "Provincia di Como" (published in Como) owing to insulting articles against the canton of Ticino and the Confederation.

#### EVERTON BEATEN IN ZURICH.

Everton were beaten 3-2 by a Swiss combination (Grasshoppers-Servette) in Zurich.

### LEGACIES.

The late M. Adolf Schraner-Schmitter, Manufacturer in Oberurnen, has left an amount of 50,000 frs. for charitable institutions. Dr. Fritz Funk, late Manager of the Engineering Works Brown, Boverie & Co., in Baden, has bequeathed over 100,000 frs. to a number of institutions.

### SWISS PROFESSORS HONOURED.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the University of Sofia a number of Foreign Professors were honoured with the degree of Doctor honoris causa, amongst them Professors Claparède, Karrer and Niggli of the University of Zurich.

### NEW NATIONAL-COUNCILLORS.

M. Albert Bachofner, District Judge in Winterthur, enters Parliament in succession to the late National-Councillor Pfister.

The seat which became vacant through the death of Dr. Widmer, has been filled by Dr. Albert Maag, advocate in Zurich.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The Congress of the Swiss Communist Party, which met at Zurich, passed resolutions in favour of national defence and the maintenance of democratic principles in Switzerland.

\* \* \*

A Folies Bergère revue in Zurich has been banned by the Police Chief after a storm of public protest.

Twenty-five church organisations objected to the scanty attire worn by the Parisian show-girls, and protested to the Zurich Cantonal Government.

The Police Chief ordered the ban to be put into effect five days after its promulgation. The result was that the theatre was packed for every performance during the five days.

\* \* \*

223,472 people visited the Zoological Gardens in Zurich during 1938, or 15,000 more than the previous year, there are altogether 2,267 animals in the Zoological Gardens.

\* \* \*

A few weeks after his retirement from the government of the canton of Zurich, M. Otto Pfister died at the age of 64.

The deceased was born at Uster, and studied at the "Seminar" Käsnacht, and the University of Zurich. For many years, he was a teacher at the Secondary schools at Egolzwil and Winterthur, and for ten years he was a cantonal "Steuerkommissär". In the year 1929, he entered the cantonal government. From 1917 until his entry into the executive he sat in the "Kantonsrat" over which he presided in 1928/29.

### CITY SWISS CLUB

#### REUNION D'ETE

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées

MARDI 27 JUIN à 7 HEURES 30

au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, HENDON,

Dîner (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 2321/2).

Le Comité.

M. Pfister was sent to Parliament in 1928 (National Council) where he was often asked to sit on special commissions, he was a member of the Socialist Party.

### BERNE.

Federal Councillor G. Motta, who has been on sick leave for some time, has taken up his duties again.

\* \* \*

The Summer Parliamentary session has been fixed to start on June 5th and will last for about three weeks.

\* \* \*

M. Paul Amstutz, from Sigriswil and Basle, has been appointed Director of the Federal Income Tax Administration.

### LUCERNE.

The death has occurred in Lucerne of M. Josef von Moos, at the age of 81.

The deceased was for many years, a teacher and later on head-master of the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in Lucerne.

### GENEVA.

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands has been elected a member of the Geneva section of the Swiss Alpine Club.

#### "SWISSAIR TOUR D'EUROPE."

Westflug 22nd - 28th of May, Dübendorf, Holland, Belgium, England, France, Spain, Dübendorf.

#### THE LONDON VISIT.

The special mission which arrived last Wednesday at Croydon, as reported in our last week's issue, had a very full programme, during their two days stay in London.

They were invited to Luncheon on Wednesday by Th. Cook & Son, and in the evening they were the guests of the Imperial Airways, on which occasion a number of speeches were exchanged.

On Thursday the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained the "Stadtpräsident" of Zurich, Dr. E. Klöti and the members of the delegation, as well as the Swiss Minister and Mme. Paravicini, at a Luncheon at the Mansion House, on which occasion Dr. Klöti invited the Lord Mayor, Sir Frank Bowater and the Members of the Corporation to visit the Swiss National Exhibition this summer. The invitation has been accepted by the Common Council. —

Dr. Klöti said that the Lord Mayor on a former occasion had expressed feelings of good will towards the Swiss people and had spoken of the cultural and economic links that had existed between England and Switzerland for centuries. If Switzerland had her appointed place to-day among the nations and if her traditional neutrality, liberties, and freedom could be maintained, that was in no small measure due to her friendship with mighty Powers like England.

Britain had given proof of her insight into the necessities for Switzerland's existence ever since the recognition of Swiss neutrality in 1815. Spiritually, also Switzerland was indebted to the British Isles, for it was the English who, in the Middle Ages, took the Gospel to the Swiss people and had since served as an example in matters of philosophy and tolerance.

The Lord Mayor, in reply, said that British ideals of freedom, like those of the Swiss, had ever been a beacon to the world.

In the evening the Swiss Minister gave a Dinner at the Legation. The Corporation of the City of London was represented by Viscount

Wakefield, Chief Commoner, Mr. Deputy Dutton and Mr. Robertson.

The other guests were:—

The Earl of Limerick, Marshal of the R.A.F., Sir John Salmon, Sir Horace Rumbold, The Hon. Sir Odo Russell, General Sir Sidney Clive, Sir Kynaston Studd, Sir Claud Schuster, Mr. Leslie Burgin, M.P., Mr. L. S. Amery, M.P., Brig.-General E. L. Spears, M.P., Colonel H. Nathan, M.P., The Mayor of St. Marylebone, Alderman P. Stiles-Allen, Councillor T. C. G. Sperni, M.P., Admiral Im Thurn, Dr. G. Kullmann, Major Hans Vischer, Mr. H. Oppenheimer, Mr. R. Deakin, Mr. A. Stanley Bell, Mr. Gordon Montgomery Morier, Mr. Briner, President of the Government of the canton of Zurich, Dr. Klöti, "Stadtpräsident" of Zurich, Mr. W. W. Schindler, Mr. M. H. Pillichody, Colonel Max Hoegger, Mr. P. Cardinaux, Mr. F. Niederer, Mr. R. Cottier, Mr. G. Schürch, Mr. Primus Bon, Colonel Anton Bon, Mr. V. P. Ceresole, Mr. E. Kessler, Mr. A. Nussbaumer, Dr. Pettavel, M. de Jenner, M. Girardet.

After dinner, a reception took place for the Presidents of the Swiss Societies in London and other members of the Swiss Colony.

The special Delegation left London for Paris on Friday morning.

### WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US. SWITZERLAND'S NATIONAL STOCKTAKING.

The launching of a great national exhibition is very much an act of faith at the best of times, but in periods of high political tension, when the measure of public support cannot be gauged accurately and the attendance of visitors from outside the country is problematical, the risks of heavy financial loss and damaged prestige are doubled.

It takes men of vision and patriotic courage to plan such enterprises in a time of trade depression, as Scotland did so successfully at Bellahouston Park, and it may not be without significance for the future of the troubled Continent of Europe that two small nations, Switzerland and Belgium, are this year daring the political storm by holding exhibitions at Zurich and Liège.

The last Swiss National Exhibition was opened in Berne shortly before the outbreak of war in 1914, and all Switzerland is hoping that history will not repeat itself in this respect.

As these national "stock takings" of a progressive and inventive people are held at intervals of 25 years, they have a profound significance to every canton, city, and commune in registering the advances made in all aspects of the rich Helvetic civilisation. They are equally important as a token of confederative union.

Proudly flying the flags of all the cantons, the city is proclaiming Switzerland's "unity in diversity" anew, to herself and to the world. The National Exhibition is a magnificent demonstration of her democratic faith and her achievements in agriculture, science, engineering, medicine, and the social services. There is no specific art pavilion in the Exhibition, yet art is everywhere evident in the treatment of subjects.

In the two beautiful parks situated on opposite shores of the Lake of Zurich, with their background of hills and alpine peaks, the 27 architects who collaborated in designing the buildings and layout of the Swiss Exhibition had an ideal setting on which to bring their plans to fruition.

**Challenge to Mountains.**  
Their decision to establish an aerial link between the two sides of the Exhibition gave Swiss engineers an opportunity to throw up a new challenge in the face of the mountains and provide the dominant spectacular feature — a suspension railway with two towers, 225 feet high, and a span of 2,700 feet joining the Belvoir Park and the Zürichhorn sections. This overhead ferry gives its passengers full value for their money in a superb view of the Lake, the Exhibition, and the lustrous city below.

By holding the tenth Swiss Agricultural Exhibition at the same time as the national display, the organisers were able to show their own people — varied in race, language and religion — a microcosm of the national life in which German, French, Italian, and Romansch-speaking elements participate without sacrificing their individual characteristics, and to express to the world at large Switzerland's historic achievement as the welder of races.

While the Exhibition gives the impression of being the most comprehensive national display ever organised, it does not flaunt its nationality. On the contrary, a visitor feels that there is an air of cultivated understatement in Switzerland's account of her stewardship.

The architectural style of the pavilions and the technique of display adopted inside them suggest the warm, intimate, and friendly atmosphere of Swiss homesteads. Whole forests had to be felled to provide timber for the Exhibition, but the picturesque trees on the site were spared so far as possible to take their place in the general scheme.

There is a pleasing diversity of building forms. All are fairly low so that the natural harmony of the landscape is not disturbed. The profusion of flowers in the decorative scheme, the tree-lined lanes of winding waterways lend an aura of freshness to the layout.

#### Touch of Nature.

On the right shore of the lake in the spreading parks and gardens of Zürichhorn the agricultural section provides a charming touch of the country with all the paraphernalia of Swiss husbandry represented. It pictures the soil and the people who live by it, and there is a typical village as the centre of life in the commune. Here visitors can sample the wines of the Valais, Vaud, Neuchâtel, and Ticino districts in wine lodges built in the characteristic style of each canton.

The National Exhibition on the left side of the lake reveals facets of Switzerland's activities in the industrial, social, and cultural spheres which are not always adequately appreciated in other countries.

The arrangement of exhibits makes for clarity. This clarity is evident in every department of the Exhibition. Everything is relative to the main theme. The importance of a product or an industry to the country can be judged by the space given to it and by comprehensive tables "animated statistics."

The technique is also productive. Electricity generated in the pavilion is at the service of the Exhibition; milk from the Exhibition cows, vegetables from the gardens, and other products of this "working model" of Switzerland find their way direct to the guest houses and restaurants of the Exhibition, and even to neighbouring parts of the town.

Work is in progress in all sections of the Exhibition. The visitor can gain a good idea of why Switzerland, a country with no metals, has succeeded in building a great export trade for precision instruments and engineering products.

The biggest "workshop" in the Exhibition is the aluminium pavilion, where the display starts with bauxite mining and leads through the various processes to the production of the metal proper and the finished article. Engineers and chemists are at work on research and control work. Miners and factory hands carry out their allotted tasks in the machine-like organisation.

#### Land and People Section.

The "Land and People" section, with its first pavilion dedicated to the soil of Switzerland, is one of the most interesting to visitors from abroad. Here the political and spiritual values that have been the foundation of the State for 650 years find expression. Federalism, that essential quality of the whole political life of the country, the independence of the cantons and communes, and the rich cultural life are illustrated by gigantic frescoes and "tables of history."

The pavilion, which is dedicated to "The People," has a fascinating "language cinema," which gives the foreign visitor an idea of the amazing variety of dialects spoken in Switzerland, some of which have come down almost unchanged from mediæval times.

Transport arrangements are miniature electric trains driven from batteries and the Schiffibach, a powered canal which threads its way through the Exhibition carrying boatloads of visitors without a boatman. The "Schiffibach" enables visitors to see the panorama of the Exhibition in lordly leisure gliding through flowery gardens, under bridges, and into the actual pavilions. This ingenious device was perfected by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

(*Glasgow Herald*.)

#### PERSONAL.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. O. Schneider, Chancellor to the Consulate General of Switzerland, in Dublin, on his appointment as Acting-Consul in the Free City of Danzig. Mr. Schneider was for several years at the Swiss Legation in London where he has a large circle of friends.

The wedding is taking place to-day at St. Mary's Church, Accocks Green, Birmingham, of Miss Mary, Elisabeth Ellison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ellison, Birmingham, to Mr. Dermot Nesbit Evans.

We extend our best wishes for a happy and bright future to the bridal pair.

### ADDA HEYNSEN AND EVA CATTANEO PIANO AND SONG RECITAL.

June 8th and 9th, at 8.30 p.m.

We are pleased to inform our readers that our well-known compatriote, Mlle Eva Cattaneo, who on so many occasions delighted us with her beautiful voice, will give two songs together with Mlle. Adda Heynssen (Piano).

The concerts are given under the auspices of the London Theatre Studio Society at the London Theatre Studio, Providence Place, Upper Street, Islington, N.1. (Tube: Angel).

The programme will include Mozart, Schumann, Heynssen, Pizzetti, Milhaud.

Tickets 3/6 (Tax included) in advance only from Eva Cattaneo, 74, Cromwell Avenue, N.6. (Tel: Mountview 1085).

We hope that many members of the Colony will attend one or the other of these recitals.



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