

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1945)

**Heft:** 1039

**Rubrik:** News at random

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 24.01.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 27 — No. 1039.

LONDON, AUGUST 31st, 1945.

PRICE 6d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Monthly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM	( 6 issues, post free) . . . . .	3/6
AND COLONIES	(12 issues, post free) . . . . .	6/6
SWITZERLAND	One Year (12 issues, post free) Frs. 5.—	

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto  
Basle V 5718).



## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Federal President von Steiger in a broadcast on August 1st expressed the gratitude of every Swiss in having survived without too great sacrifice the dangers and trials of the last six years. While keeping strictly to our independence we hope to be a party of the constructive forces in the new world. The President forecast that a lack of work, bread and fuel will be among our country's greatest problems in the coming winter months.

In order to foreshadow a likely demand by the victorious powers for the surrender of German bank credits in Switzerland, the Federal Council has let it be known that such a transfer could only take place after Swiss claims against Germany had been satisfied. This does not refer to what is commonly called loot, the unconditional return of which to the rightful owners is of course not challenged.

M. René de Weck has been appointed Swiss Minister to Italy though until the peace treaty has been signed that country has no juridical status. Reuter, however, already reports from Rome that a commercial agreement has been concluded and signed according to which 15% of Italy's exports to Switzerland have been earmarked for payments against accumulated debts(?). According to other sources a Swiss loan of about four million pounds has been negotiated.

Another agreement, described in some quarters as Protocols, is stated to have been arrived at with Belgium. It fixes the rate of exchange and favours large initial exports from Switzerland.

Minister Henri Martin, formerly acting in Turkey and well remembered here as the first Commercial Attaché when the post was created at the Swiss Legation in London, has been appointed Swiss Minister to Portugal, to which country he was accredited as Chargé d'Affaires since 1942.

A telegram of felicitations has been received on our National Day from President Truman conveying sincere wishes from himself and the people of America.

### Cantonal

A quaint bird's nest was casually discovered by a forester in the Zurich uplands. It was a large preserved fruit tin with a small hole; it had obviously been thrown away and contained a young cuckoo unable to gain his freedom. It seemed that a pair of redstarts (Rotschwänzchen) had originally settled in this convenient abode and in due course reared a family; a cuckoo evidently spotted the cosy quarters and unpretentiously dropped her own egg. The intruder enjoyed life with the legitimate youngsters but on reaching the fledgling stage was left behind by his bedfellows: the step-parents, however, continued to feed the stripling which aggravated his predicament, in fact he filled out the whole tin until he was liberated by sheer chance.

A well-known glider enthusiast, Dr. Richard Legler, crashed to death during a demonstration outside Zurich.

Col. Karl Rudolf Miescher, before his retirement Commander of our third army corps, died in Basle at

## THE FIRST SWISS FILM

# "MARIE-LOUISE"

(U)  
Produced by PRAESENS-FILM, ZURICH

## AN ENTIRELY NEW VIEWPOINT ON THE WAR

"Countless films made during the war have familiarised us with its causes, its methods, its general effects; but "Marie-Louise," made in Switzerland during its isolation in a Nazi Europe, shows for the first time something of the impact of war on a neutral country, and what it did to alleviate the sufferings of the helpless children of France."

## THE ACADEMY CINEMA

165, OXFORD ST., W.1. — GER 2981.

*For commencing date see daily press.*

the age of 65. Lawyer by profession, he entered the service of his canton at the early age of 25 and for seventeen years remained in charge of the finance department. He was elected a National Councillor in 1919.

Dr. Max Brugger, aged 63, has voluntarily retired both from the chairmanship of the Basler Handelsbank and from his own life. He served the bank for 30 years and was on the board of several large industrial undertakings.

The former secondary schoolmaster in Schaffhausen, Karl Meyer, who was dismissed on account of his "frontist" notions and teachings has now been arrested; he is under suspicion of having been actively engaged in a clandestine political information service.

Twelve hospital cases were one of the results of a collision on the narrow gauge railway between Rorschach and Heiden. The fine Sunday of August 5th had attracted an exceptionally large number of excursionists to this popular mountain resort. The heavy traffic necessitated trains of seven carriages which somehow obstructed a clear view of the driver whose cab is of course in the last car and who might have lessened the impact between the two slow moving trains. A faulty setting of the points is supposed to be the cause of the mishap; all the injured were taken from the two leading cars.

The well-known Ticinese lawyer John Noseda of Chiasso was shot dead outside his office by one Vittorio

Crivelli against whom he was carrying on a law-suit. The victim was on the board of the Swiss National Bank and several other important undertakings.

On the occasion of his 80th anniversary the Conseil d'Etat of the canton Vaud has addressed a letter of congratulations to the composer Emile Jacques-Dalcroze, the creator of rhythmical gymnastics particularly dancing.

In the canton Vaud the electors by a majority of about five to one voted an additional credit of nearly two million francs to complete the construction of a new surgical clinic at the cantonal hospital. Just over 10% of those entitled to vote went to the trouble of polling.

Owing to the collapse of a drainage duct the drinking water in the neighbourhood of Glion has been contaminated. An outbreak of typhoid fever has been reported and 58 cases are being treated in local hospitals. Most of the victims are among young people who have been drinking the water but among the few who have been drinking water but among the few deaths is the president of the Vevey section of the Soc. Suisse des Commerçants, M. René Visinand. Another casualty is M. Ed. Chardon from Zurich, the president of the Swiss Pastry Cooks Association, which held its annual meeting at Lausanne and some members of which subsequently embarked on an excursion to Glion. Later reports assert, however, that M. Chardon succumbed to an old gastric complaint.

The possession of identity cards for all Swiss residing in the canton Vaud, has now become superfluous.

The town-fathers of Pully, probably fearing that the people might forget the six war years, are proposing that the "Boulevard de Chamblandes," where our general was born, should be renamed "Avenue du Général Guisan."

M. Edmond Jaquet (liberal), the syndic of Châtellard, has been elected as the second representative of the canton Vaud in the States Council in place of States Councillor Vodoz who died on the 14th of June.

Ten buildings (residences, stables, barns and a garage) and large quantities of cattle food were totally destroyed by a fire that broke out on August 7th at Turtmann (Valais).

An exchange broker at Geneva, Charles Fivaz, has been arrested and charged with the forgery of mortgage deeds to the tune of about half a million francs which he placed with local investors.

About 50 persons are implicated in a black market meat deal in Geneva and Gland. Over 250 beasts were slaughtered secretly and the meat was delivered by taxis to restaurants at excessive prices.

#### Army

The Federal Council has promoted Col. Louis de Montmollin, born 1893 in Neuchâtel, to the post of Chief of the General Staff.

**MAGGI'S**  
**BOUILLON CUBES**



Delicious meat juice concentrated and flavoured. An ideal meat stock for soups. A stimulating hot drink, made in a moment. Specially packed in glass airtight containers of 24 cubes (approximately 6 pints). Price 1/-

One of  
*Maggi's Products*  
*Made in England*

MARBER & CO.  
(Food Products) Ltd.  
1, Stanhope St., N.W.1

In a letter addressed to the rural council at Grenchen to convey thanks for the dazzling reception extended to him by the local population during his recent visit, General Guisan expressed his deep regret that the moment was approaching when he had to relinquish the leadership of his beloved army.

Before giving up his command at Konstanz, General de Lattre de Tassigny paid a short visit to Kreuzlingen on the 1st of this month in order to offer felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of our National Day. The General was accompanied by his wife and most of his staff and was received by Regierungsrat Dr. Stähelin.

At the delegates' meeting of the Swiss Automobile Club held at St. Gall, General Guisan was amongst those proclaimed honorary members.

So far ten persons have been arrested and will be charged with the authorship and distribution of the ill-famed pamphlet addressed to officers and soldiers in the army last March; amongst them is the former Schaffhausen schoolteacher Karl Meyer.

### Traffic

The isolation of our country is, gradually if sometimes obstructed, giving way to a revival of railway communications with our neighbours. With Paris there are regular services between Geneva, Berne and Basle, though on account of repairs to the French track delays are unavoidable, often necessitating roundabout routes; so far there are no through-trains. Travel restrictions have been lifted. There is even, since last month, a daily service with Spain, i.e. from Geneva to Cerbère. On the other side, trains are running from Bregenz to Innsbruck, northern Tyrol and the Vorarlberg.

Little reliable information about the negotiations with Italy is available. From a statement by the prefect of Genoa and published in the press it appears that this port is likely to handle our overseas traffic. Our Government is prepared to grant a large loan (Fr. 80 to 90 million) to facilitate the clearing and restoration of the harbour; the rent charged to us for the exclusive use of one of the loading quays is to be earmarked for the repayment of this loan.

As regards England there are so far no scheduled travelling arrangements. Any would-be visitor to our country is subjected to the filling-in of numerous forms without prospects of an early departure, but there are several grounds where a claim for priority can be sustained. The mail from Switzerland, no matter whether ordinary or by air, still takes from six to ten days probably on account of the English censorship for which in our opinion there seems to be no apparent justification at all.

An air transport agreement has been concluded with the U.S.A. It provides for reciprocal rights and for a Swiss line to operate across the Atlantic by way of France, Ireland and Newfoundland. The planes will carry 71 passengers and take about 17 hours from port to port. No particulars about fares and inauguration of service are made public yet.

According to the Swiss radio an agreement concerning civil aviation has been concluded with the

Soviet Union which seems to imply a status of recognition between the two countries.

A proof that the difficulties and obstructions, usually put forward as preventing an early return to normalcy, are mostly imaginary or the outcome of tiredness or drowsiness on the part of the officials concerned is the fact that for the first time since 1939 a civil plane of the "Air France" landed recently on the Basle airfield merely to pick up some vaccine required to combat an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the South of France.

The first Swiss passenger plane since 1939 left Dübendorf for Croydon on July 19th and this was solely due to the vigilance and disregard of red tape on the part of the Swiss authorities concerned. Forty eight hours before the English football team were due to leave for Switzerland news was received from the Air Ministry that no service plane was available for the journey (!) and it looked as if the trip would have to be cancelled. The wires got busy and an offer came through from our own government that a Swiss plane would be made available at once if the necessary landing licence were issued. After a few hours a "Douglas D.C. III." left on the morning of Thursday, July 19th, and landed quietly on the Croydon airfield; after refuelling and a stay of two hours the plane took the air again with its precious cargo. The flight was piloted by Capt. Zimmermann who safely delivered at Dübendorf.



Registered  
"KENCACKES"  
Trade Mark

## Eat KENCACKES!

and get your Full Quota of Vitamin Value. Their Pre-War Quality and Standard are practically maintained.

## Buy KENCACKES!

OUR HIGH CLASS PASTRIES, CAKES, BUNS, SWEETS, CHOCOLATES at:

262 High Street, Kensington,	W.8.
174 Earls Court Road, Kensington,	S.W.5.
128 Gloucester Road, Kensington,	S.W.7.
53 Old Brompton Road, Sth. Kensington,	S.W.7.
54 Dawes Road, Walham Green,	S.W.6.
179 Upper Richmond Road, Putney,	S.W.15.
391 Upper Richmond Road, East Sheen,	S.W.14.
8 Castle Street, Kingston-on-Thames,	Surrey.

ALL HOME-MADE BY THE WELL-KNOWN WEST END PASTRYCOOKS AND CONFECTIONERS

### THE WEST END FANCY BAKERY Co. Ltd.

Established 1903. — Man. Dir.: W. BACHMANN, (British, Swiss Origin)

Head Office & Central Bakery:

48-54, DAWES ROAD, S.W. 6.

Telephone: FULHAM 2000 & 6000.

RESTAURANTS, LARGE TEA ROOMS, LUNCHEONS, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS and DAINTY AFTERNOON TEAS

**QUALITY — SERVICE — GOOD VALUE**



dorf 16 footballers, five English F.A. officials and our Minister, Dr. Ruegger.

### Economics

A "syndicat d'étude" has been formed to sound the prospects from a technical, economic and legal point of view of "Pluto." The nearest port is Genoa and a pipe-line seems to be indicated if the financial and political objections can be overcome. It is recognised that a direct line to our country would have to be part of an interstate system.

\* \* \*

Towards the end of last month bank shares were freely sold on the Swiss stock exchanges, specially Basler Handelsbank and Eidg. Bank which from about 216 and 328 dropped to low levels never known before. On July 28th it was announced that an amalgamation had been agreed upon between the respective boards of the Schweiz. Bankgesellschaft (Unionbank) and the Eidgen. Bank (Banque Fédérale). The Unionbank will increase its issued capital from 40 to 50 million francs and offer the shareholders of the Eidgenössische an exchange of their shares in the ratio of ten to three of the first named concern. At the time the shares of the Unionbank were quoted at about 715 against about 245 of the Eidgenössische, the latter having changed hands a week previously at 328. The Eidgenössische which was founded in 1863, is thus the first one that disappears from the unduly large number of Swiss banking undertakings; no definite reasons have been given but the involuntary departure is generally understood to be not unconnected with the German collapse.

Surprise and consternation was released a few days later by the news that the Basler Handelsbank (Banque Commerciale de Bâle) had asked for and been granted a moratorium for one year. The shares of the bank (Frs. 500) registered on the stock exchanges during last month a disastrous drop from 275 to 59 which, it is asserted, caused a run on the liquid resources. The bank, which has a branch at Zurich, is a comparatively small concern (share capital Frs. 20 million), always exhibited a liking for foreign investments and in pre-war years placed in Switzerland exotic loans offering attractive interest but doubtful security. According to the latest balance-sheet foreign investments and participations, mostly frozen, are about four to five times the bank's capital. The Federal Bank Commission has now placed a controller in charge.

\* \* \*

The usually well-informed Geneva correspondent of "The Times" forwards on August 7th the following report about the present food position:

"The seriousness of the Swiss food situation has been brought home to the population by a statement of the Federal authorities explaining that for the time being no alleviation of the present rationing can be expected. At present the ordinary rations are calculated in ounces monthly and are: Flour, 12oz.; fats, 10oz.; cheese, 17oz.; butter, 7½oz.; chocolate, 3oz.; coffee, 3¼oz.; meat, 34oz.; tinned meat, 34oz. There is also bread, 7½oz. a day; milk, three-quarters of a pint a day; as well as two eggs a month.

Generally speaking, these rations can be maintained until the end of April, 1946, provided that imports — though low — continue at the same rate.

But while macaroni, oat and barley products, and maize are assured for one year, a dearth of fruit is expected through the failure of the Swiss crop after spring frosts. The Swiss herds of cattle, which numbered 926,000 head at the outbreak of war, were only 805,000 strong last spring.

Another factor which prevents higher rations at present is that Switzerland has still to care for about 25,000 refugees, either temporarily interned or quarantined, to whom should be added the several thousand people being repatriated who each day cross Swiss territory, and some 5,000 French, Dutch, Belgian, and other children arriving every month to be cared for. They stay at least eight weeks. Switzerland has furthermore to feed almost entirely the Americans who since last week have been arriving on leave at the rate of 2,000 a week."

\* \* \*

Our watchmakers at home will have a hard time if all the articles that appeared recently in the English press and their anticipations are capable of realisation. We do not think our manufacturers fear healthy competition; here is a typical cutting from the "Evening Standard," August 8th, 1945:

"British watch and clockmakers are trying to make the nation less dependent on foreign imports. Already there is a large factory in Cheltenham; another is being built in South Wales; a third near Glasgow.

Nearly all the watch patents such as the "Lever Escapement" were the inventions of British craftsmen.

The British watch of the last century was second to none, but it was in the luxury class. Under mass production the market was largely lost to Switzerland and America. Mr. R. E. Humphriss, who controls the Clock and Watch Department of The Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Co., Ltd., tells me there is no reason why Britain should not be able to mass-produce first class watches. He points out that in 1940 we were almost entirely dependent on Switzerland for precision watches essential to the Services.

Government requirements had to be met, so the manufacturers got together. After much research, certain types of clocks and watches were made here

Established 1874.

## G. BRUSCHWEILER

High Class Butchers, Manufacturers and Exporters of all kinds of Swiss Delikatessen.

SPECIALISTS IN CUTTING AND PREPARATION OF ALL MEATS IN THE CONTINENTAL STYLE.

Manufacturers of the celebrated

**PURE GB FOODS**

Obtainable throughout London and the Provinces. Insist on G.B. Liver Sausage and be satisfied.

Phone: MUSEUM 0800 & 1951.

27, CHARLOTTE ST., W.1

for the first time. The equipment needed for the war effort was provided. This was the origin of a new British development.

The factory in South Wales is to be run by a new company — The Anglo Celtic Watch Co., Ltd.; but the shareholders are old hands in the clock and watchmaking industry — S. Smith and Sons., Ltd., and Ingersoll Ltd. A director of Ingersoll says the factory will employ many wounded ex-Service men.

It will be some months before production can be started in the new factories, so there is no immediate prospect of British watches being available to the public."

\* \* \*

Our textile trade has suffered badly from the scarcity of raw materials but our manufacturers have been able to turn out very attractive dress material to judge by the excellent fashion plates that have recently reached this country. England is no more the rich country that can afford to buy the best and the following lamentation taken from the "*Daily Express*," July 31st, 1945, is certainly to the point.

"Women of Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Iceland, Eire — nearly every country in Europe with the exception of Britain — will this year be wearing dresses made of Swiss silks.

British manufacturers to whom the stocks of a Zurich textile firm were offered are not allowed to import the material.

Here is the story of 13,000 silk dresses which will not be in our shops this year, and will not be going out to other countries bearing a "Made in Great Britain" label.

Three weeks ago Mr. Kircheimer, of Zurich arrived here — one of the foreign business men who have been trickling into London since VE Day to re-establish their trade contacts. He had in Switzerland stocks of dress materials which had been piling up all through the war.

He first called on Mr. Henry Scott, managing director of a firm with whom Mr. Kircheimer had done business in peace time. Mr. Scott, with orders from all parts of Britain and abroad to fulfil from his dwindling stocks, welcomed the chance of acquiring 50,000 yards of crepe at competitive prices.

'But,' said Mr. Kircheimer after a visit to the Board of Trade, 'I am afraid I cannot sell it to you.'

The Board of Trade said that the ban on importing textiles from Switzerland was imposed to prevent money being sent out of this country to pay for them.

'But,' says Mr. Scott, 'if its a matter of currency, the money we would spend on the material would be replaced five times over if we used it to make up dresses for our export trade. For instance on an outlay per dress of 30s. for material, we could get £7 7s. in foreign currency for the completed model.

'We wish to use British manufactured materials for both our home and export trade. But until we can count on getting them surely it is of all-round benefit to use imported stuff and convert it into much-needed made-up garments.' "

\* \* \*

One of the worst droughts experienced in our country for many years came to an end three weeks ago heralded by a downpour of large hailstones which seriously affected crops and people particularly in the Schaffhausen district. The rain was badly needed; pastures in some areas were scorched necessitating the slaughtering of cattle.

### Humanitarian

The repatriation of the 11,000 Russians interned in our country is now proceeding smoothly at the rate of about 1,000 a day via Bregenz. Nothing further has been heard about visits to the camps by allied commissions that were supposed to enquire into the atrocities and other accusations framed by Russian authorities. It is now stated that officers and soldiers who gave no trouble in the camps were given facilities to visit local factories. At some factories in LeLocle and La Chaux-de-Fonds the management presented every Russian with a wrist watch.

\* \* \*

Unconfirmed reports say that Allied and Italian officials have requested our education authorities to furnish schoolbooks in German for the use of the children in the Tyrol.

—oo—

Our readers will probably have learned from the daily press that the English football team which was beaten at Berne by 3 to 1 on Saturday, July 21st, played another match on the following Tuesday in the Grasshoppers stadium at Zurich against the Swiss "B" (reserve) team and achieved a 3 - 0 victory. The sporting press remarks that the English victory has been well deserved and the match is generally described as a display of classic English football. Strange is the fact that this "B" team had been victorious the week before in a trial match against the triumphal "A" team at Berne. Both sides were fêted like conquering heroes; at Berne station the British team was mobbed. All the English visitors, whether playing or not, were loaded with souvenirs and even specially engraved watches which are not likely to be separated from the tastefully ornamented étuis. Mr. S. F. Rous, the secretary of the English F.A., presented to the Swiss F.A. a commemorative plaque. Return matches have been provisionally fixed for some date in May next and are likely to be played at Wembley and possibly Glasgow.

## ALBERT FERBER (SWISS)



PIANO RECITAL  
at WIGMORE HALL  
MONDAY, SEPT. 24th  
at 6.45 p.m.

Works by  
FRANCK, BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS,  
RAVEL, GRANADOS.

Tickets: 10/6, 7/6, 5/6, 3/6  
From Box Office, Wigmore Hall,  
or from Musical Culture Ltd.,  
53, Welbeck Street, W.1.

★ Mr. Ferber, a Native of Lucerne, well-known in musical circles of this country, has played in most European Capitals. He finished his studies with Gieseeking and Rachmaninoff.

## ZÜRICH RESTAURANT

65, CLEVELAND STREET, W.1.

Telephone: MUSeum 9431.

For Swiss Quality Cooking

Another international sporting event is the victory of our compatriote Mme Payot-Dodille who won the women's singles in the Lawn Tennis tournament played at Paris at the beginning of this month.

\* \* \*

Two guides from Wengen, Otto von Allmen and Karl Schlunegger, succeeded on July 23rd to climb the summit of the Jungfrau for the first time from the steep northern wall. Departing from the Jungfrau at 5 a.m. they reached the Wengen-Jungfrau at 2 p.m.

\* \* \*

A Sunday excursion on July 22nd by six experienced alpinists from Geneva had a fatal ending. They had successfully climbed the summit of the Grand Muveran (Valais) when during the descent the leader, Marius Terrebilini, made a faux pas and fell, in full view of his comrades, about 50 metres to his death.

Another fatal climb in the Alalinhorn by three Basle tourists resulted in the death of Paul Gaeng, age 25 in business at Muttensz, and Paul Bieber, age 25 in business at Oberwil. The third one, Karl Hügin from Basle, is still in the district hospital at Visp.

Two pathfinders from Zurich, Theodor Meier, 19, and Alfred Lutz, 17, lost their lives in tragic circumstances on the Titlis. Being the leading two of a party of five they stepped on a snow bridge and disappeared in the crevasse; in a frantic effort to pull them up by the rope the latter snapped and the two victims made a further fall. A professional guide was then let down and found one of the youths dead; the other one was attached to a rope and after being pulled up to the top collapsed from exhaustion and reeled back again.

\* \* \*

One of the ablest guides in the Mont Blanc massive fell over the steep incline of the northern wall of the Aiguille du Grépos. Jean Ravenel together with his son, who was acting as porter, were accompanying a tourist. The accident is so far unexplained but the two bodies were later on recovered by a search party from Chamonix.

\* \* \*

An unlucky Sunday excursion in the Campo Tencia region (Faido) ended in the death of the Solothurn professor Dr. Oskar Keller and his son Eugen. The father had left a hut with his son and daughter in order to proceed to a glacier; halfway the children stayed behind and then decided to return to the hut. On the descent Eugen Keller lost his footing and was precipitated into a crevasse. In the meantime the father returned and not finding his children where he left them hurried on to the hut; he disappeared into a crevasse at exactly the same spot where fate had overtaken his son. The two bodies were later on recovered.

\* \* \*

The innocent pastime of collecting alpine flowers has now become a punishable offence if a warning over the Swiss radio is to be believed. We certainly do not excuse the deliberate uprooting and commercial exploitation of these simple and unadorned witnesses of the

solitude and purity of the alpine world but these modest messengers carry contentment and happiness to many below and should not be allowed to fade away unheeded. On a recent Sunday the police working in unison with the Swiss Alpine Club confiscated hundreds of Edelweiss from tourists. The matter has even moved so staid a paper as the "Manchester Guardian" which in its issue of July 28th visualizes developments as follows:—

"It seems unlikely that the real tourist season can have yet set in with any vehemence, and it is improbable that many of the mere English can have been bearing back their Alpine trophies to embellish the gardens of Tooting or Chorlton-cum-Hardy. But goodness knows what may happen when foreign travel really gets into its full swing again; having escaped being plundered by the Germans during the war, Switzerland may be dismembered by the ardent souvenir-hunters of the peace.

However, judging by the new wireless warning, the cautious Switzer should be ready for marauders; all the more notable peaks may be ringed round with barbed wire and beyond it a crop of neat little notices, "Please Keep Off the Snow," "Don't Disturb the Glacier," and "Penalty for Picking Edelweiss: Forty Shillings or Seven Days." It is possible that such precautions may be necessary. There may be a new type of tourist in the making who will appear with a bulldozer and dismember Mont Blanc in the interests of a rock-garden at Rotherhampton. It should be remembered that the Swiss have lately placed themselves among the firmest European custodians of private property. 'Heinrich, I tell you we must act in time now that those demented English have gone Socialist at last.'"

\* \* \*

"Now it can be told" is now as familiar a phrase as the erstwhile elf-like "es war einmal" and the following story which is of course the copyright of the "Daily Express," August 14th, 1945, is at least "ben trovato." It refers to some Guernsey cattle that the special division of the Swiss Legation in Rome had to take under its protection at the request of some fair countess; after this we shall not be surprised to hear that some of our Legations have been secreting whole menageries including countesses. But here is the story:

"When the Allies landed at Anzio, 12 almost priceless pedigree Guernseys were grazing on the estate of Count Senni, 20 miles away. They were the descendants of those that the count had shipped from Guernsey in 1911 and practically the only specimens of their breed in Italy.

All was well until two days after the landing, when Annie, the great German railway gun, steamed on to the Senni estate.

When not firing at the beachhead, she puffed into a tunnel which runs under the Senni house.

The Allied bombers came. The Guernseys were frightened.

So, the count being away from home, the American-born countess and her two daughters said: 'We must save the herd before all else.'

Vittoria, the younger daughter, had an idea. She drove into Rome on a haycart, dressed as a peasant girl, and knocked at the British Embassy.

Would the Swiss, who were looking after British interests there, look after some Guernseys, too?



Yes, said the Swiss, if we can have their milk for the refugees who are under our protection here.

So, walking two by two, the herd and the bulls were driven to Rome and ushered into the embassy garden.

The countess bargained for black market hay for them.

For 18 months they browsed in splendour. And to-day I met them back home on the Senni estate — gentle dreamy cattle with something of a discreet elegance.

Eighteen months in an embassy does a lot for one's manners."

\* \* \*

Many will regret the death of our former Minister, M. Walter Thurnheer, who took over from M. C. R. Paravicini at a delicate time and under difficult conditions. Here is the obituary notice published in "The Times," August 8th, 1945:—

"Born in Baden, Aargau in 1884, son of Kaspar Thurnheer, he was educated at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig, and Lausanne. Entering the Swiss Diplomatic Service, he was an attaché at the Foreign Office in Berne before going to the Swiss Legation in Berlin (1915-16). From 1917 to 1921 he was back in Switzerland as first secretary, and later assistant head of the division of Foreign Affairs. He served as a secretary to the Paris Legation, 1921-23, counsellor to the Legation in Washington, 1923-25, Consul-General in Canada, and Swiss Minister to Japan, which he became in 1934. He came to London in 1940, and was recalled to Switzerland in 1943 to give his report on affairs to the Federal Government. It was intended that he should return to London, but a bad illness prevented him from doing so, and he resigned in 1944."



## 25 YEARS SWISS OBSERVER.

Few of our readers of the Swiss Observer will realise that our little paper is celebrating this year the 25th anniversary of its foundation. In this age of hustle and bustle, at a time when momentous decisions are being taken, which will affect the destiny of millions of our fellow men, it seems to be almost pre-tentious to even mention this anniversary.

And yet the passing of a further mile-stone should not pass unrecorded. An anniversary like this will most certainly not cause any stir in the newspaper world, nor will it affect the international situation in the slightest degree, in fact it will be hardly noticed, and yet, as a former Editor of our Colony's paper, I feel that such an event concerning mainly the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, should not pass without at least a few words of gratitude to the present Editor and Publisher, Mr. P. F. Boehringer.

During the last six years, so full of tragic happenings, he has carried on this patriotic work under often trying circumstances. Right through the "Blitz", which affected, in an unpleasant manner, the Printing Works, and later on, during the rocket period, the Swiss Observer, has appeared without a break; this is surely an achievement which is worth while mentioning. Only those who have been in constant contact with Mr. Boehringer, can judge with what difficulties, sometimes almost unsurmountable, he had to contend with.

What would we have done without the Swiss Observer during the last few years, when almost every channel of communication was sealed off? Thanks to his ingenuity, the Swiss living in this country, were able to keep in touch with the happenings in our country.

The Editor can to-day, with some measure of pride point to the fact, that the Swiss Observer in spite of hard and difficult times has managed to carry on this publication for the last twenty-five years, thus establishing an almost unique record amongst Swiss papers published abroad.

We as subscribers and readers are deeply grateful for his undaunted tenacity and for his patriotism, and on this happy birthday anniversary we are sending to the Editor and Publisher, as well as to his collaborators and the staff our sincere wishes for "many happy returns of the day".

The Swiss Observer has supported in the past many a Society, and many a venture in the Colony, the paper has been successful in collecting on various occasions considerable sums through its medium for all sorts of purposes and institutions, and it is now entitled to the same support, which so often has been asked from it, and which it has never refused.

On this 25th anniversary we pledge ourselves to help Mr. Boehringer to carry on this venture, of which he is the founder, wishing him health and strength, to continue a work which is truly of national importance to all Swiss living in the British Isles, and once more,

THANK YOU !

ST.

When in BOURNEMOUTH on HOLIDAY  
don't forget to pay a visit to the

**SWISS RESTAURANT**  
BOURNE AVENUE — Phone 2727

*Excellent Food :: Good Service*

**LUNCHEONS — AFTERNOON TEAS — DINNERS**

Dinner Dancing nightly (except Sundays) to  
Meeus' Orchestra. OPEN SUNDAYS.

SWISS RESTAURANT (Bournemouth) LTD.

Managing Director :  
W. ALLENSPACH.