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THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

In 1933 nine issues of the "Swiss Observer" appeared during August and September. Whilst the format was twice the size, the pages only numbered four, and it may be said that in spite of only two issues a month today's readers get as much reading as those of thirty years ago. The subscription rate is another matter — but relating it to the rise in the cost of living we honestly believe that today's rate compares favourably with that of 1933 (12/- p.a.).

Reading through those issues it struck me that there were only three reports of National Day Celebrations — City Swiss Club, Union Helvetia and Swiss Club Manchester. There was no Official Celebration in London, and the Swiss Minister published a short message to the Colony in the "Swiss Observer".

Most issues contained chatty observations by "Kyburg" and "Mops" and long serialised articles on "Les Troubles Révolutionnaires en Suisse 1916-1919". That subject was of particular interest, seeing that there were also frequent reports on frontier incidents with Nazi Police and other difficulties concerning relations with the Third Reich. It was reported that the "Nebelspalter" had been prohibited in Germany, and the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" wrote an article on "Heil! What For?" very much to the point.

The second issue in August had an article on the "Swiss Financial Position". This was grave — the deficit in 1932 had amounted to 24 million francs, and a new "Crisis Tax" was announced.

In early September we read about "Fürsorge für Blinde Auslandschweizer" and that Prof. Laur had been honoured at the World Wheat Conference in London at the end of August, an institution for which he had been largely responsible.

It was not uncommon in those days to have several articles in German or French in one issue. "Frontenbewegung in der Schweiz" and "Nationale Erneuerung" are two examples.

The issue preceding the Federal Day of Prayer carried two messages by the German and French-speaking Ministers of the Swiss Church. And finally we heard of our well-known compatriot, the soprano, Madame Sophie Wyss, appearing at the "Proms" in London.

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