

# Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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## FEDERAL.

### GERMAN-SWISS TRANSFERS.

Swiss trade with Germany is relieved by the transfer agreement concluded by the two countries that came into force on 26th July, for, in view of the fact that Germany declared her impossibility to fulfil her obligations to foreigners, Switzerland had no alternative other than the terms of the new agreement to obtain satisfaction of the interests of her traders.

The Swiss negotiators have now ensured that the excess of devisen falling to Germany from the fact that Swiss exports to that country are of much greater value than the imports therefrom can now be applied to the service of the Swiss tourist traffic and of the Swiss creditors for interest and dividends.

Until recently the Reichsbank placed Rm. 700 per month at the disposal of travellers to Switzerland, 200 of which might be carried freely across the frontier, while the remaining Rm. 500 could be drawn through the banks for consumption in Switzerland. A short time ago the Rm. 200 was reduced to 50, and the Swiss negotiators have succeeded in obtaining the assurance that the total of Rm. 550 per month will be allotted to every German during his stay in Switzerland as a visitor.

They have also received a promise that the question of raising the amount of Rm. 700 may be discussed in the autumn. The Swiss exporters are therefore urging the Federal Council to further exports to Germany, so that ever more devisen may be available for the use of German travellers to Switzerland, as in this way so many home industries might be benefited.

The Swiss negotiators had to make sacrifices in order to obtain this concession. The Germans offered to transfer 4 per cent. instead of the average 6 per cent. that the Swiss loans to Germany yielded, but the delegation fought for 4½ per cent., and ultimately secured this, though only on the condition that German products should be imported into Switzerland to the value of the extra ½ per cent., which is about 10,000,000 Swiss francs.

The Federal Council agreed with its delegation that it would be more advantageous to the Swiss creditors to receive definitely 4½ per cent., for which there is always, too, a pledge in their own country, than to have an average of 6 per cent. placed to their credit in Germany, the transfer of which was very uncertain.

The difference between the 4½ per cent. and 6 per cent. is to be applied to amortisation purposes. The value of the Swiss loans to Germany is improved in this process, but apparently, confidence is not yet altogether restored, for the quotations on the Swiss Bourses have not improved.

Although the agreement is for five years, it is understood that if one of the parties considers, as time goes on, that his interests are suffering under it he may ask to negotiate for a revision, and should such negotiations not produce the desired result, it is understood that the agreement may be terminated before the date now fixed.

### SWISS FOREIGN TRADE.

F.T.

Swiss foreign trade returns show that during the first half of 1934 imports were valued at 712,700,000f., against 770,700,000f. in the first half of 1933, the decrease being due to import quotas and restrictions. Exports were 405,000,000f. in value, a decrease of 9,000,000f., although a rise of 7 per cent. was recorded in weight. The excess of imports for the half-year was 307,700,000f., against 354,700,000f. in 1933.

Three of the four chief industries show an improvement in exports over last year, with an aggregate value of about 189,000,000f., against 185,000,000f. in 1933. The watchmaking industry has been improving gradually since last year, and its exports totalled 43,000,000f. during the first half-year, against 36,000,000f. Cotton exports aggregated 54,000,000f., against 52,000,000f. Exports of machinery reached 44,000,000f., against 41,000,000f. Silk exports, however, only totalled 47,000,000f., against 52,000,000f.

Commercial exchanges with Great Britain were more active. Imports from her reached 45,400,000f., compared with 42,100,000f. in 1933, and exports to her aggregated 43,700,000f., against 42,000,000f.

The chief purveyors to the Swiss market were: Germany (196,000,000f.), France (110,000,000f.), Italy (59,000,000f.), Great Britain (45,000,000f.), and the United States (40,000,000f.). The chief purchasers of Swiss goods and products were: Germany (43,000,000f.), France (63,000,000f.), Great Britain (43,000,000f.), Italy (32,000,000f.), and the United States (26,000,000f.).

The Swiss labour market shows an improvement, which is favoured by an increase of employment possibilities of a seasonable nature in agriculture, the building industry, and tourism. At the end of June the persons in search of employment totalled 46,900, against 53,800 at the end of June, 1933. The number of totally unemployed has dropped by about 52,000 since the beginning of the year.

### MONUMENT TO SWISS GUIDE.

Thanks to the initiative of M. Charles Gos, the Geneva Alpine writer, a monument has been erected in the cemetery of St. Niklaus, near Zermatt, on the tomb of the famous Alpine guide, Franz Lochmatter, who was killed on the Weisshorn on August 17th, 1933.

Lochmatter, who had made a number of first climbs in the Alps, was the guide to Sir Edward Davidson, President of the Alpine Club, of Captain V. J. E. Ryan, of Mr. C. F. Meade in the Himalaya, and of Mr. P. C. Vissler in the Karakoram. His daring feats were recalled the other day when the monument was handed over to Lochmatter's family after several speeches had been delivered, among others by Sidney Spencer, hon. secretary of the Alpine Club, and by Mr. Geoffrey Winthrop Young, who paid a tribute to the memory of one of the best guides of our time.

### MOTOR RACE OVER THE KLAUSEN PASS.

British, German, and Italian motor-cars were among the starters in the Alpine trial over the Klausen course last Sunday.

The winner was the German, Rudolf Caracciola, in a Mercedes. He covered the course in the remarkably fast time of 15 minutes 22.2 seconds, beating his own previous record of 15 minutes 50 seconds.

Another German, Hans von Stuck, was second.

### NESTLE SHARE CONVERSION.

Full particulars are now available of the offer to Preference shareholders of Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. to convert their holdings into Ordinary shares.

It will be recalled that the chairman in his speech at the annual meeting held in April indicated that proposals were under consideration in connection with the rearrangement of the capital of the company represented by the Preference shares.

The scheme now submitted provides that the Preference shares shall be converted into Ordinary (Bearer) shares of francs (Swiss) 10 each. These shares will rank pari passu with the existing Ordinary shares, subject to the following equitable and consequential modifications: (a) Each Ordinary share of francs (Swiss) 10 will enable the bearer to one vote; each existing Ordinary share of francs (Swiss) 200 will, in future, entitle the holder to 20 votes; (b) the dividend payable on each Ordinary share will be calculated pro rata according to the nominal value of such Ordinary shares, and as respects the year 1934, the dividend on the new Ordinary shares created as a result of the conversion will be calculated at the rate of one-quarter of the percentage of the full yearly dividend, by reference to the nominal value thereof, declared on the Ordinary shares.

A dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum in respect of the three months to September 30th, 1934, will be paid on October 1st, 1934, to all Preference shareholders appearing on the share registers on August 20th, 1934.

Any Preference shareholder who does not desire to retain in whole or in part his holding in the company's capital, may elect to avail himself of the following offer as an alternative to receiving the equivalent of his Preference shares in Ordinary shares, namely:— To receive from the company £2 in cash and one Ordinary (Bearer) share of francs (Swiss) 10 in exchange for every two Preference shares held by him and to receive one Ordinary share of francs (Swiss) 10 for any odd Preference share held in excess of a number divisible by two.

Arrangements have been made whereby any shareholder who so desires may dispose of the Ordinary shares of francs (Swiss) 10 each receivable by him under the offer to a group which has offered to purchase such shares at the time of their issue at the price of £2 4s. per share.

Meeting, Cham, Switzerland, September 11, at 3.30 p.m.

### ALPINE ACCIDENTS.

Mont Blanc has claimed six victims during the past few days. M. Felix, of Ugene, fell 1,200ft in a couloir near the Miage glacier and was killed. In a couloir of the Aiguille du Goûter the guide Broisat, of Chamonix, was struck by a falling stone and died soon after. Above Argentière Mlle. Pickowa, a Czechoslovak, slipped on a grass slope while gathering edelweiss, fell 300ft. and was killed. M. Cordailat, of Geneva, was climbing on the Gaillands rocks—the training ground of the rock-climbing school started by the Chamonix guides—when a foothold broke under him and he fell 100ft. and was killed.

Some tourists who had lost their way on the Biomassay glacier discovered the body of a man of about 50 which had apparently been a year in the ice. It has not yet been identified as no papers were found on it.

A 16 year old Zurichier named Bollinger was killed on the Krachenhorn, about 10 miles up the Sertigal from Davos, by a fall of 300 feet in a rock chimney.

It is said that a group of German Alpinists have offered a prize of 15,000 marks to the climber who succeeds in ascending the Grandes Jorasses by the hitherto unclimbed north wall. That may account for the number of German and Austrian climbers who attempted that difficult ascent and were killed during the past years—four in 1933 and six in 1932. Recently, the Chamonix guide Armand Charlet made an attempt on that north wall, but met with such difficulty that he wisely abandoned the attempt. On Monday two Viennese, Herr R. Haringer and Herr Peters made another attempt on it in spite of the unsettled weather. The progress of the climb was followed from Chamonix by means of telescopes, but as on Tuesday night no camping-light was seen on the rock a search party set out and the body of one of the climbers was found at the foot of the mountain.

### TIR FEDERAL FRIBOURG.

The Tir Fédéral at Fribourg came to an end on Monday last.

M. Emil Grünig from Thun (Ct. Berne) has been declared "Schützenkönig." The results of the "Sektionswettbewerb" is as follows: 1st "Standschützen Neumünster-Zürich" with an average of 54.943 points. 2nd: "Stadtschützen von Bern" (2/10 points less). 3rd: Schützen-gesellschaft der Stadt Zürich."

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PRESIDENT V. HINDENBURG.

A memorial service for President v. Hindenburg was held at the Münster in Berne. M. Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal-Councillors Schulthess, Meyer and Baumann, as well as all the members of the Diplomatic Corps attended the service.

### DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION IN BERNE.

M. Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillor Schulthess, have received the new Belgian Ambassador, Count d'Urserel, in special audience, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials to the Federal Government.

## SWITZERLAND'S MOTOR VEHICLES.

Switzerland has 66,310 motor-cars, 1,273 motor-coaches, 18,258 lorries, 2,176 tractors, and 31,434 motor-cycles, making a total of 119,451 motor-vehicles.

## LOCAL.

## ZURICH.

Six notorious communists, all of foreign extraction have been arrested in Zurich, they will be charged for conspiracy against the security of the state.

## LUCERNE.

Dr. Florin Decurtins-Baumann, from Herisau, has been elected head of the "Heil und Pflegeanstalt St. Urban."

## BERNE.

The cantonal government has suspended M. Dällenbach, administrator of the Asylum "Waldau" from his function, the investigation has not yet been completed.

## FRIBOURG.

Professor Jakob Benninger, a prominent teacher at the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule" at Grange-Neuve has died at the age of 45. M. Benninger was for many years Editor of the "Freiburger Bauer."

## GENEVA.

M. J. Bouvard from Rumilly, a cheese merchant was robbed in Geneva of over 5,000frs.

## A YEAR AT BOARDING-SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND.

("La Roseraie" s/Coppet — Lac Léman.)

Accompanied by my father I arrived at Coppet on September 1st, 1932. I was not at all pleased at the prospect of being left there alone, where I knew nobody. However, my father was obliged to leave again and I was now to start upon one of the happiest years of my life, although I was quite unaware of the fact, at the time. After a few days I felt quite at home at "La Roseraie;" Madame, the mistresses and the girls were all very nice to me and helped me as much as possible. I soon began to understand and to speak a little French, and each day I felt I made progress. I slept in a lovely little room, overlooking the lake of Geneva, framed by the Mont Blanc and the Dents du Midi in the distance. "La Roseraie" is a Household School (Ecole Menagère) and the Directrice is Mme. Dr. C. Rittmeyer-Pailler; the time-table includes lessons in cooking, washing, cleaning, ironing, mending and sewing. The girls have to do all the work of the house themselves, but the rough work is done by two maids. We used to work in three groups, cooking, sewing and gardening, changing round every week. Three times a week we had our French lessons with an excellent mistress; one can also take German, Music and Gym. The sewing lessons are also very good indeed and the mistress is extremely patient. Every fortnight we did our own washing and ironing and every Saturday we cleaned our bedrooms and the other rooms thoroughly. Let me hasten to add that "La Roseraie" is not all work and no play and I should like to add something about our many and lovely outings, excursions and games.

During the first week of my stay we went to the Château de Bon Mont in the Jura, where we picniced and made tea. About the middle of September we visited the Comptoir Suisse at Lausanne. During the winter months we took season tickets for Concerts and the Theatre at Geneva; these performances we visited about every two to three weeks. In October we assisted the peasant of the adjoining farm to pick the grapes, which grow very abundantly round here. According to an old custom the girl who leaves a grape on the vine has to receive a kiss from one of the young peasants. This always caused great amusement and, needless to say, almost everyone managed to get "punished" in this fashion. The weeks, until Xmas approached, soon flew by and a few days before the festive days we lighted a lovely big Xmas tree and everybody received a present from Madame. The next day we left for home, to spend a fortnight with our parents.

Soon after our return to "La Roseraie," we started on our winter sports at Les Diablerets s/Aigle, in the Rhone valley. We spent 18 days up there, in a beautiful new Chalet, which Madame hired for us and, during our stay there, did all the work ourselves; thus putting into practice all that we had learnt during the previous six months. Every day we went skiing and skating, while two girls stayed behind, to see to the kitchen and prepare the meals.

The time up in the mountains simply flew and, if we returned to the low land with many regrets, it was also a fact that we were the richer for many beautiful souvenirs.

Back at "La Roseraie" we were pleased to take up the old routine again and by the time spring came along, we had to say good-bye to four of the girls from our happy little crowd.

We accompanied them to Geneva and then we went from there for an excursion into Haute Savoie, on the French side of Lake Geneva. The plains were covered with all sorts of spring flowers: daffodils, violets, gentians, soldanellas and primroses. We started mounting and after several hours arrived in the region of eternal snow. On the last lap and during about one hour we often sank into the snow up to our thighs, but eventually we reached the Châlet where we were to spend the night. The view from there was wonderful, all around us snow-capped mountains and right opposite us the massive of Mont Blanc. It was just Easter time and, on descending, we reached Geneva on Easter Saturday. We slept well that night in our good beds and next morning celebrated Easter at Geneva. After dinner we returned to "La Roseraie," where we had to seek for coloured Easter-eggs, which Madame had hidden for us all over the large garden.

During the week following the new girls arrived and so the house became full again. Our next excursion was to Les Pleiades s/Montreux, where we saw, for the first time, the marvellous snow-white fields of narcissi, with just here and there, a touch of gold from the shining globe flowers. We all picked heaps of these lovely, starlike messengers of spring and sent them, in special boxes, to our parents and friends.

In July we returned to Les Diablerets just for a week-end and were delighted to meet again our various friends we made up there the previous winter. On another cloudless day we travelled round the lake by steamer and also visited the impressive Château de Chillon. Yet another time we crossed to Excenvex, on the Savoyan shore of the lake, where there is a fine, sandy beach. We stayed there all day and could bathe to our heart's content.

Some time later another excursion took us to visit the chocolate factory Peter-Köhler-Cailler-Nestlé at Broc, where, on leaving, we were all presented with a cake of their product. Afterwards, we proceeded to Gruyères, where we visited the wonderful old castle. Then we drove over the Juan Pass into the German-speaking part of Switzerland (Simmmenthal) and eventually mounted the Col du Pillon, descending to Diablerets, where we had tea. Then down to Aigle and along the borders of the lake back to "La Roseraie," where we arrived very sleepily, but happy over the lovely day's events. About the middle of August my father came to visit me and we passed a very happy time together. On the last Sunday I spent at this school two of my friends and I were confirmed in the lovely little chapel at Chavannes. Each one of us had some of our near relatives present for the great and solemn occasion. It was a befitting conclusion to my happy stay at "La Roseraie."

The following week we were all busy cleaning and packing and on October 14th I left for England, with the English mistress as my travelling companion. After a day at Paris, with old friends of my parents, we reached dear old London safe and sound.

These lines are being written at "La Roseraie" for, at the moment, I am here on holidays and happy to renew all my old friendships with dear Madame, my teachers, the lovely garden and the dear old house itself.

I am sorry to find that, owing to the crisis, Mme. Rittmeyer has only 10 pupils this summer. She tells me that she will gladly give special terms to girls from England, in view of the adverse rate of exchange. If these lines should reach the eyes of parents who would like to send a daughter to Switzerland, to learn French and all household duties, might I ask them to remember "La Roseraie?" As one of the many who has been here and has been happy, I can almost guarantee that any young girl would love it and spend her time profitably, too. The S.O. will be pleased to put you into touch with people in a position to furnish personal references and prospectus.

B.I.D.

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## ECHOS DU 1er AOUT.

L'anniversaire de la fondation de la Confédération a été célébré dans toute la Suisse avec un ferveur et un enthousiasme particuliers. Un souffle de sain, d'ardent patriotisme a passé sur le pays, du Rhône au Rhin, des Alpes au Jura, faisant vibrer à l'unisson les cœurs de tous ceux — et ils sont encore, Dieu merci, la très grande majorité — qui en dépit de la malice des temps, comme disaient nos pères, de la crise économique aiguë, de l'incertain lendemain, ont gardé jalousement le culte de leur petite patrie qu'ils sont fermement résolus à défendre contre tout ennemi, extérieur ou intérieur.

Aucun incident grave n'a troublé la solennité de cette belle soirée du 1er août sur laquelle planait aussi l'ombre — douloureuse celle-là — du 1er août 1914, date que partout également, dans nos villes comme dans nos campagnes, on a commémoré en rendant un pieux hommage à nos soldats morts au service de la patrie, et en exaltant l'armée, rempart de notre indépendance et de nos libertés.

Certes, et nous nous en voudrions de le dissimuler, il y a bien eu çà et là quelques taches au tableau, et singulièrement à Genève où les conjonctures politiques sont malheureusement telles qu'elles ont empêché que se réalisât, sous le signe de l'amour du sol natal et de la fraternité entre concitoyens, cette union, symbole de la force, qui, seule, peut sortir notre petite république du pétrin où elle s'englué chaque jour davantage. Oh est le Nicolas de Flue qui jouira d'un prestige suffisant pour pacifier les esprits échauffés et faire en sorte qu'en un futur 1er août, les deux cortèges qui se tournaient le dos, crainte de s'affronter, s'amalgament pour communier d'un même esprit et d'un même cœur, sur l'autel de la patrie?

Citoyens d'un pays libre, où la vie, quelque difficile qu'elle soit pour un grand nombre, un trop grand nombre, est cependant moins dure et moins amère qu'en beaucoup d'autres lieux — il n'est que de jeter un coup d'œil par delà nos frontières pour s'en convaincre — nous ne pourrions conserver cette liberté acquise par nos ancêtres au prix de tant de difficultés qu'en serrant les rangs, en nous groupant autour du drapeau à la croix blanche, le seul qui symbolise, et avec quel éclat, notre idéal de paix et de bonne volonté envers les hommes.

Tâchons à oublier ce qui nous divise; cherchons sincèrement à nous rapprocher les uns des autres. Tel a été, en bref, le leit motiv des discours prononcés le 1er août aux quatre coins de la Suisse. Comme l'a si bien dit, avec toute l'autorité que lui confère sa haute fonction, le président de la Confédération: "Rejetons les germes de découragement, de division et de haine que d'aucuns tentent de semer parmi nous. LIONS en un faisceau solide les forces dont nous disposons. Gardons confiance..."

Car nous ignorons quelles épreuves douloureuses un avenir peut-être prochain nous réserve. Le ciel international est chargé de lourds nuages. Une étincelle suffirait à faire éclater la foudre. Chacun le sent, plus ou moins consciemment. Et c'est aussi pourquoi la fête de la semaine dernière a revêtu un tel caractère de solennité. Malgré tout, elle a marqué un réveil réjouissant du sentiment patriotique dont l'engourdissement apparent n'était que de surface, et c'est pourquoi nous gardons quand même confiance, comme nous y a exhorté M. Pilet-Golaz, confiance dans l'esprit de civisme et de dévouement du peuple suisse, confiance dans les destinées de notre chère Suisse.

Edgar Junod.

## UNION HELVETIA

1st of August Celebration.

This function took place as usual, with an attendance of about 250 compatriots. We were honoured by the presence of Messrs. Schneider and Pernet from the Swiss Legation. Our President, Mr. A. Indermaur, was in charge of the evening and introduced the well-known Terry Cabaret. No patriotic speeches were made, but the gathering was outstanding in its joviality, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, helped by the excellent entertainment.

The Hall was suitably decorated, the background being decorated by a specially devised Swiss cross with electric lamps giving a very lively and unusually attractive effect. Hanging flower baskets and flowers on the tables all in red and white decorated the Hall, as well as the flags of the 22 cantons.

It was regretted, that a good many of our old friends and supporters, were away, either on Holiday or on business, as for the most part the assembly consisted of the younger generation and a number of students.

The evening concluded with the usual onion soup, a good many expressing their appreciation of a pleasant evening spent.

J.J.K.