

The international situation as seen abroad

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AT THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Members of the two Federal Chambers have travelled by special train to Zurich to visit the Swiss National Exhibition, they were entertained to luncheon by the Government of the canton of Zurich. M. Vallotton, President of the National Council, made a patriotic speech, in which he emphasized, that both the Army and the civil population are determined to oppose any aggression to the "last man and the last woman."

"LAUPENSCHLACHTFEIER."

The 600th Anniversary of the battle of Laupen was celebrated in Berne, a service was held in the Minster at which the cantonal government and the Federal Council attended in *corpo*.

PRESENTATION OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT TO THE FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN LUCERNE.

The French Ambassador in Berne has presented a beautiful Sèvre porcelain vase, to the organisation committee of the Federal Shooting Festival in Lucerne, on behalf of the President of the French Republic.

THREE MILLION VISITORS AT THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

On June 24th the three millionth visitor at the Swiss National Exhibition passed the turnstile.

"AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG" AT THE FEDERAL SHOOTING FESTIVAL IN LUCERNE.

The "Auslandschweizertag" of the Federal Shooting Festival in Lucerne took place on Thursday, June 29th, amidst great enthusiasm.

Already early in the morning special trains from every corner of Switzerland, brought large numbers of marksmen and visitors to the picturesque capital of the canton of Lucerne; in addition countless motor cars, motor coaches, and every conceivable means of conveyance discharged their loads in and around the "Festplatz."

At 10 o'clock a.m. the "Auslandschweizer" were officially welcomed on behalf of the town of Lucerne. Dr. G. Schürch, "Auslandschweizer Sekretär," gave an address on "Die Auslandschweizer und die Landesverteidigung." At 11 o'clock an "Apéritif" was offered by the cantonal Government and the Municipal Council; this was followed by the official Banquet in the "Festhalle" at which Colonel of Division H. Pfiffner von Altishofen gave a patriotic address.

In the afternoon the official guests paid a visit by motor-cars to the "Schlachtkapelle" at Sempach, and in the evening they attended the performance of the "Festspiel."

SWISS LEGATION FOR DUBLIN.

The National Council has approved a bill for the elevation of the Swiss Consulate-General in Dublin to the status of a Legation under a *Chargé d'Affaires*. The representation will thus be changed from the consular to the diplomatic rank.

According to the Swiss national law, this proposal does not take effect for three months after promulgation, so that it will become effective in September next.

Mr. Charles J. Benziger is the present Consul-General for Switzerland in Dublin.

The Irish Government will in due course consider the appointment of a similar representative in Switzerland.

FUNDS OF SWISS NEWSPAPERS TO BE CONTROLLED.

M. Baumann, Chief of the Department of Justice and Police has agreed to examine a proposal made in the National Council that the funds of newspapers published in the Confederation should be subjected to control. He remarked, however, on the difficulty of supervising the finances of the 523 newspapers which were published every day.

LESS UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published there are at present 31,532 unemployed, or 10,088 less than at the same period twelve months ago.

PROHIBITION OF SWISS PAPERS IN ITALY.

The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (Zurich) and "Der Bund" (Berne) have been prohibited in Italy.

FRENCH MINISTER OF COMMERCE VISITS SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

M. Gentin, Minister of Commerce in the Daladier cabinet has paid a visit to the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich. He was later on received in Berne by Members of the Swiss Government. A Banquet was given in honour of the distinguished visitor.

NEW SWISS MINISTER IN WASHINGTON.

Dr. Karl Brugmann, until recently, Swiss Minister in Prague, has been appointed Swiss Minister at Washington.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS DELEGATION.

The Federal Council has nominated the following members to represent Switzerland at the 20th Autumn Meeting of the League of Nations: M. Motta, head of the Federal Political Dept., Professor Rappard, C. Gorgé, Counsellor of Legation, E. Péquignot, National Councillors Aeby (Fribourg) and Grimm (Berne) and States Councillor Monttet (Berne).

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of Dr. Justus Gaule, from 1887-1916 Professor of physiology at the University of Zurich, at the age of 90.

Pfarrer Lukas Stückelberger for the last 25 years "Pfarrer" at the "Stadtkirche" in Wintertur, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

An airship built by M. Hug, an engineer, crashed near Oerlikon and burst into flames. The pilot, M. Eberhard was slightly injured, but the four passengers escaped without injury. The airship is a total wreck.

The University of Zurich is losing two of its most eminent teachers in the persons of Dr. Paul Nutzner, Professor of law, and Dr. Ernst Gagliardi, Professor of History; both are retiring for reasons of health.

Dr. J. Zemp, for many years Professor at the Technical University in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

The population of the town of Zurich on the 31st of May numbered 333,893.

BERNE.

The well-known alpine guide, Abraham Müller, has died in Kandersteg at the age of 82.

Dr. Hans Markwalder, "Stadtschreiber" and "Staatsarchivar," has been made an Honorary Citizen of the town of Berne in recognition of his historical researches.

LUCERNE.

The town of Lucerne has bestowed on Maestro Arturo Toscanini, the famous conductor, the freedom of the City.

National-Councillor, Dr. Max Wey, has been elected mayor of the town of Lucerne in succession to Dr. Zimmerli. Dr. Wey, who is 47 years old, has been in the administration of the canton and town of Lucerne for the last 23 years; he was from 1921-1927 a member of the cantonal government, and for the last twelve years he held the post, as "Direktor der industriellen Betriebe." Dr. Wey entered the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne in 1919 at the age of 27.

BASLE.

M. Jacob Hecht, one of the Founders of the "Basler Rheinschiffahrt" has celebrated his 60th birthday.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

M. Hans Fischer from Meisterschwanden (Ct. Aargau) has been elected a member of the Cantonal government. He studied at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, and later on was in charge of the cantonal "Obstberatungsstelle."

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The death is reported from Schaffhausen of Dr. L. Peyer-Reinhard, President of the Superior Court of the canton of Schaffhausen at the age of 66. The deceased held the rank of Colonel of infantry; during the Frontier occupation he was in command of the 25th Infantry regiment and later on of the Infantry brigade 13.

ST. GALL.

The death has occurred in St. Gall of Dr. Leonard Gmür, from 1897-1930 State prosecutor of the canton of St. Gall, at the age of 75.

TICINO.

Colonel Giuseppe Albiseti, from Massagno near Lugano, was arrested by the Italian authorities on passing the Italian Frontier. The political Department in Berne has asked for an explanation.

VAUD.

A military machine crashed near Vallorbe, owing to a thick fog. The pilot, Lieutenant Décomlaz, received serious injuries, whilst the observer, lieutenant Hager was killed outright.

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS SEEN ABROAD.

Back from a trip on the Continent where in Paris, Marseilles, Nice, Geneva, Lausanne and Berne I had the opportunity of speaking with people of all classes on the international situation — as seen by them — it might interest readers of the *Swiss Observer* to know what my impressions are after these conversations.

Firstly, I was struck by the note of optimism and confidence on the other side of the Channel.

In France, a close analysis of this new spirit, so different from the atmosphere of discouragement and defeatism prevailing after the Munich "agreement," when France found a belated consolation in her empire, showed that it was actuated by the following facts:

- (1) growing consciousness of the military strength and present unity of France;
- (2) the introduction of conscription in Great Britain, coupled with the gigantic rearmament programme;
- (3) the coalition of European powers now prepared to stem further aggression in Europe;
- (4) confidence in the Poles and their army;
- (5) the conversations between France, Great Britain and Russia in view of a mutual assistance pact.

Even the nationalistic-minded Frenchman, always so suspicious of Moscow and everything Sovietic, admitted the practical uses of an alliance with Russia. In fact on the broad principles of French foreign policy unanimity was the keynote.

Other factors which encouraged hopes of peace were the unwillingness of Japan to be too closely associated with the Axis powers, the moral support of the U. S. A. for the democracies and continual rumours of discontent among the Italian people with the ever increasing influence of Germany in Italy's domestic affairs. These last rumours give a certain colour to the current joke that the Italian people are now restless because "they were better off under Mussolini than now under Goering."

In Geneva, I was shown a pamphlet published in Italy and which, I was told, is circulated in thousands to the people of Italy. This manifesto expressed in unrestrained language its disfavour at the "prussianisation" of Italy and strongly condemned the recent military pact concluded between the Reich and Italy.

On the Riviera I found the "meridional" spirit unchanged. In fact the Mediterranean ap-

peared more azure than ever and the inhabitants still full of the "joie de vivre."

Wherever I went the British Prime Minister was exceedingly popular — even more so than in his own country.

In Paris non-stop varieties featured Mr. Chamberlain and his umbrella, in certain ball-rooms "la Chamberlain" was danced and in Nice I had coffee in la rue Chamberlain.

I did not meet a single person who did not express his pleasure at the introduction of conscription in Great Britain. In Switzerland where the same pleasure was manifest it was pertinently remarked that compulsory military service should have been introduced a long time ago in England and on a far more important scale.

On the Riviera I found a profound contempt for Mussolini and the fighting powers of the Italian army. Nowhere did I find any aggressiveness but simply self-confidence. The prevailing opinion was expressed in a nut-shell in a little sketch I saw at a casino. This depicted a Corsican gendarme chatting with a tourist. Their conversation is interrupted by a terrific noise. The Corsican leaves his companion to find out the cause of this vacarme only to return a few seconds later with the words "Ce n'est rien — ce ne sont que les Italiens" ... This was loudly cheered by the audience which comprised many people of Italian origin.

Despite the self-confidence all along the Southern French coast, one meets pickets of French Colonial troops bent on an eternal vigil.

Several times I tried to take a photograph of a Senagalese soldier but every one of them refused to pose for a snapshot and looked with deep misgivings at my camera.

In Switzerland, where up to a few months ago, I was told, Berlin was the principal focus of interest, London has become the chief centre of attraction. Significant remarks are heard about the strength of Switzerland's precautionary measures on "one" of her frontiers. There again confidence seemed to reign. In Berne I had a very interesting conversation with Docteur Ludi, President of the Agence Telegraphique Suisse, who told me of the continual efforts of the Swiss authorities to counteract dangerous foreign propaganda in Switzerland. It seems that Switzerland is a favourite hunting-ground for the spreading by alien sources of news known as "kite balloons," (ballons d'essai), this, explained Docteur Ludi, is due to the excellent reputation of the Swiss press abroad where it is widely quoted.

After reviewing everything I heard and saw during my little sejour abroad, it appears to me that people in this country are much more gloomy and given to jitters than either in France or Switzerland.

Is it because the English masses have suddenly become political-minded? On my arrival at Victoria Station, I was met by a gloomy looking porter who complained at the poor tourist traffic for the Continent this year.

I must admit at the time of writing, even here people are brightening up and perhaps by the time this article is published (it it is) readers will complain that it is out of date and that there never was a "crisis." Events, no sooner they are enacted nowadays, become ancient history.

(GERALD MEYER).

LEMBO TICINESE.

Primavera. La montagna, color di viola, alla base, ha un chiarore di madreperla in cima. La sua più alta vetta è d'oro ... illuminata tutta com'è dal sole nascente, dietro ad un arrabattarsi di nuvole, che vorrebbero non lasciarlo passare ... Una rondine fende l'aria, stride, e poi vola via, silenziosa, si perde lassù ove il sole nasce. Dalla terra bagnata di fresco da ricca pioggia, s'alza una fragranza caratteristica. Sotto pulsa tutta una vegetazione nuova che fa appena appena capolino.

Osservo. Penso. E, chissà per quale motivo, penso non al travagliare odierno; non alla vita intensa d'oggi, piena di elettricità, di sgomento, satura di avvenimenti politici che rendono perplessi gli animi. Penso invece al buon tempo andato. Forse è la calma dell'ora, la bellezza della natura che si sveglia, che mi inclina a volgermi indietro, a quando la vita era quieta e schietta, scevra di prepotenza e d'ingordigia ...

E ne ho nostalgia. In questo mattino, chiaro di sole e di rugiada, un tempo sarebbe apparso ...

... Un "magnan" lanciando la sua canzone "L'è sciaù ul magnan, l'è sciaù ul magnan, donnett vegnii" ... E sarebbe stato un affacciarsi di pentole e pentolini, in rame scintillante, anneriti qua e là dal buon fuoco del camino. Le donnette, le nostre soavi ave dal sorriso aperto e la parola arguta e generosa, le affidavano al ramaio per stagnarle, per ribatterle. E lui prometteva "ma si che le avrebbe fatte come nuove, si proprio bene

e per un nonnulla quasi." Cantando se le portava via quelle pentole, cantando le riportava, qualche giorno dopo, accomodate per bene ...

Poi? poi la vita moderna, lo snobismo novecento, non volle più vedere queste pentole in rame, orgoglio e ricchezza delle nonne nostre, splendore di ogni cucina di allora. Alluminio invece, altre composizioni nuove ... e il buon rame scomparve, relegato in qualche oscuro angolo di solaio ...

Sarebbe apparso, un tempo ...

... L'ombrellajo, con il suo grido "ombrellat, ombrellat." E una schiera di ombrelle abbisognanti riparazioni sarebbe comparsa. Lui si sedeva in un angolo, un po' discosto dalla strada, apriva il suo fagotello con i pochi arnesi per la bisogna, e incominciava, fischiettando, il lavoro. Ombrelle logore proprio, dal lungo manico secco, nere, nerissime ... ombrelle che volevano avere un tantino di civetteria — ombrellone rosse ... tutte lì allineate, pronte per la riparazione.

... Il cenciainuol. "Chi ha stracci? chi ha bottiglie, scatole, scarpe vecchie?" E alla luce compariva un reggimento di bottiglie, scatole, scarpe, stracci, che finivano tutti in un sacco che non si riempiva mai ... sembrava almeno così agli occhi degli osservatori ...

E il "muletta" — l'arrotino — sempre burlone, che per tutti aveva una barzellella, affilava, affilava coltelli, forbici, sulla sua ruota svelta e lucida che ogni tanto bagnava d'acqua, e che strideva, girando rapida ...

Sarebbe apparsa una donnina, tutta timidezza, che offriva cestelli, sedie e tavolini in vimini, che non mancavano nelle nostre case allora, proprio forse al medesimo posto che ora è occupato trionfalmente, ostentatamente da una radio rumorosa ... E altre ancora di queste tipiche figure nostrane, di cui, oggi, non rimane neanche forse il ricordo. Mi passano accanto, leggere e come avvolte da un tenue velo che le rende invisibili quasi ... salgono, salgono, verso il più alto cielo, si lasciano prendere nelle spire delle nubi, scompaiono ... anche dalle mie rievocazioni ...

Un fremito ansioso. Rabbioso. Una rafica. Un torpendone rosso fiammante è filato via, quasi non visto tanta la velocità. Da esso una radio mandava, all'aria, le note di una canzoncina in voga. Altre automobili lo seguono. Altre ancora. E il pieno 900 che passa ... che vuol cancellare il lirismo del buon tempo che fu!

E. G. L.

1ST AUGUST SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

Arrangements are practically complete to celebrate this great day in a truly patriotic manner.

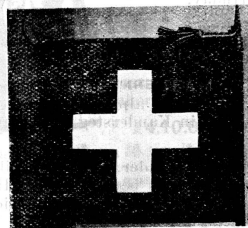
All good Swiss in or near London will no doubt make a point of taking part in the great rally at St. Pancras Town Hall, on Tuesday, August 1st next.

Tickets are free — obtainable from members of the committee and all Swiss Societies.

There will be Swiss music, Swiss songs, patriotic speeches. — Our esteemed Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, will address his compatriots, — and there will be dancing till midnight. Buffet and bar open throughout the evening.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT IT, AND MAKE SURE TO RESERVE THE FIRST OF AUGUST FOR ST. PANCRAS HALL.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.



We regret to inform our readers that on going to Press, we had not received the result obtained by the London Swiss Rifle Team at the Federal Shooting Competition in Lucerne.

PERSONAL.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mlle. Jacqueline Paravicini, younger daughter of the Swiss Minister, and to M. Eric de Schulthess-Rechberg, eldest son of Colonel and Mme. de Schulthess-Rechberg, of Schloss Au, Lake of Zurich, on the occasion of their engagement.

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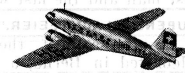
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