Notes and gleanings

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1939)**

Heft 923

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

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LOCAL.

BERNE.

A fountain in honour of the poet Rodolphe de Tavel has been inaugurated.

LUCERNE.

A galaxy of eminent musicians will take part in the first Lucerne Festival which opens on August 3rd and lasts for over three weeks. They include Ansermet, Boult, Busch, Casals, Gigli, Horowitz, Huberman, Rachmaninoff, Walter and Toscanini. The scheme includes two performances of Verdi's "Requiem." Toscanini and his son-in-law, Horowitz, will appear together in Brahm's B flat piano concerto on August 29th.

FRIBOURG.

Professor Anton Picart, of the University of Fribourg, has died after an apoplectic fit. He was well known for his philological works.

SOLOTHURN.

The 440th anniversary of the battle of Dornach has been celebrated at Dornach.

* * *

Nazi propaganda carried on in their leisure time earned seven local residents imprisonment of from one to six months, apart from the cost of the proceedings when they were charged at the tribunal of Solothurn-Lebern. With the exception of one, a local post office clerk, they were workmen of a munition factory, the Waffenfabrik Solothurn A.G.; three of the culprits could not be found and are said to be hiding in Germany. A new commercial Manager has recently been appointed to the company and he is stated to be a German.

BASLE.

Considerable damage has been caused to the crops by hailstorms in the region of Basle.

LAUSANNE.

M. Paul Rossy, vice-president of the Swiss National Bank, has received the degree *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Lausanne. M. Rossy has attended several international economic conferences in London where he is well known in banking circles.

TICINO.

A pioneer of Continental cooking in Glasgow, M. Francis Ferrari, has died at his home in Ludiano. M. Ferrari was 78 years of age and came to Glasgow at the age of 20. He started with a small restaurant in Cowcaddens and then opened several other shops in the town, notably the well-known restaurant of Sauchiehall Street. The Glasgow press publishes affectionate accounts on the life of the noted restaurateur.

NEUCHATEL.

Four canoes were overturned by a sudden gust of wind on the Lake of Neuchâtel. M. Jean Demieville, school-master of Yverdon, and a young man who accompanied him were drowned.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

1291 — 1939

The approach of the 1st of August makes us SWISS feel grateful to Divine Providence for the preservation of our homeland from perils both from abroad and from within and the Anniversary of our Federation's birthday makes us remember its past history and form pious and sincere wishes for its future welfare.

We are living at a time when great changes, affecting the thoughts and actions, the habits based on tradition and experience, and even our ideals, are making themselves felt and are taking place, whether we like it or not.

It is a period, so it seems to me, during which we see the old order which has served up till recently and has achieved what we are wont to call our modern civilisation, slowly, but inevitably make room for a new arrangement which is, as yet, hidden from our eyes, but for which we all, each according to his ideas, strive and yearn.

Some think that the capitalistic system is played out. Others again think that the old order permitting the so-called privileged classes of society to enjoy a better existence than their poorer, or lower brethren, is about to totter, while yet others hope that out of the present period's birth-pangs humanity may see some sort of a religious revival preparing the way to better things.

We, SWISS, on this 1st of August 1939 feel that we too are subjected to all these tormenting, conflicting, perplexing and anxious currents of thought and actions arising from them. We see our, on the whole smoothly and peacefully working, democratic way of doing things, assailed by happenings beyond our frontiers. We are made to feel the repercussions of economical and political experiments forced upon other peoples by circumstances largely produced by the World war 1914-18 and the so-called Peace made by people who had spent years in making war.

We too, we SWISS, feel the voice in our heart telling us that all is not well, and that, if we wish to survive, we must prepare and mend our ways.

Gone are the days when, on the 1st of August, we simply remembered our glorious political past, our National Heroes, and, remembering them, felt that we too were the salt of the earth and able and strong enough to ward off any enemy that might be tempted to attack us and our liberties.

To-day, I think, the feeling is rather that, by the grace of God, and by our own exertions, we are ready to do all that we can in order to defend such liberties, of thought and action, and to continue building up our community along the paths of Justice and Co-operation.

We are strengthened in our task by the fact that we Swiss do not possess, nor covet, that which belongs to others. We are on our guard, lest we should have to surrender that which we took from others.

By our peaceful efforts alone are we strong and by our love for our Country, composed of many nations living amicably together, striving together for progress and better times, are we united unto death.

Switzerland to-day is a nucleus of what Europe to-morrow and the whole World later on might be and we are ready to sacrifice everything rather than that that isle of sanity in the heart of Europe should be destroyed.

And in this spirit we will remember the Ruetli-Schwur and that motto from which springs our whole achievement, political, economical and cultural and to which, perhaps, we have a right to be proud to-day:

ONE FOR ALL: ALL FOR ONE.

Turning to this week's Press Gleanings I find, among lots of articles dealing with various aspects of "Holidays in Switzerland" one that show the splendid effort that is being made for lovers of things musical in Lucerne. Says the *"Sunday Times"* 16th inst.

A Challenge to Salzburg:

Great efforts are being made to establish Lucerne this summer as a musical centre that will challenge the claims of Salzburg to festival honours. Both festivals will take place next month, and while Salzburg has such stars as Richard Strauss, Tullio Serafin, and Karl Bohm, Lucerne has gone out boldly for Tosca-

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1st AUGUST

For several years past the S.M.S. College has had its own 1st of August Celebration when students and masters were addressed by a member of the Swiss Legation or other prominent members of the Swiss Colony. This year there will be no separate function but the whole.

S.M.S. COLLEGE

has been invited to join in the Celebrations at St. Pancras Town Hall. There you will be able to meet many young compatriots and have a chat about things in Switzerland and abroad. And, by the way, whenever you want any information about the S.M.S. College get into touch with the Secretary.

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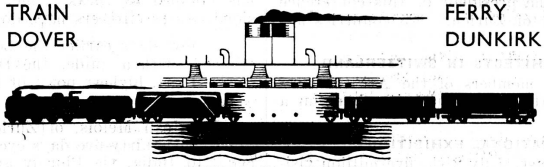
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nini, Bruno Walter, Rachmaninoff, Fritz Busch, and Adrian Boult.

Lucerne is becoming a favourite resort of musical celebrities. Toscanini has a chalet at Kastienbaum, Paderewski lives in the neighbourhood, and close by is Tribschen, for years the home of Wagner, and now a place of pilgrimage for musicians. It was in Wagner's garden that Toscanini gave a performance of the "Siegfried Idyll" last year.

Toscanini, in fact, has been adopted by Switzerland and is to be made an honorary citizen of Lucerne this week. He is to conduct five recitals at the festival, one of which, along with that directed by Sir Adrian Boult, is to be broadcast.

Two Famous Choirs.

Sir Adrian is to conduct the fantasia by Vaughan-Williams on the theme of Thomas Tallis. Tallis, the 16th-century English composer, is known as the "father of English cathedral music." He served in the Chapel Royal under four Sovereigns — Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth — and had William Byrd for one of his pupils. It was to Tallis and Byrd jointly that Queen Elizabeth granted the exclusive right of printing music.

Two famous choirs to be heard at Lucerne are those of the Sistine Chapel and Strasburg Cathedral. The Sistine Choir, which rarely appears outside the Vatican, is to sing the choral music of Palestrina, who was a member of that choir about the same time that Tallis was at the Chapel Royal.

A very interesting article on

Journalism at the Zurich Exhibition — *Newspaper World*, 15th inst., will give many of our Readers for the first time a peep behind the scenery in this Swiss Industry.

In the three languages of the country — German, French, and Italian — this legend appears over the Press Pavilion of the Swiss National Exhibition at Zürich: "The Swiss Press Fights for Liberty and Social Progress."

That the authorities consider a "good Press" of outstanding importance is shown by the large amount of space devoted to native journalism and newspaper production. On the splendid model printing press at the exhibition a special newspaper is daily produced in the three languages.

A remarkably comprehensive exhibit of daily and weekly newspapers, trade journals, monthly reviews, etc., is staged in one room, while giant photographic cut-outs, charts, and paintings on walls and ceilings present in vivid fashion the part which journalism plays in the national life.

Altogether, 1,600 periodicals appear in Switzerland, apart from over 2,000 occasional publications, a large number for a population of only 4½ millions. These 1,600 include 400 daily and weekly newspapers.

460 trained journalists work on dailies, of whom nearly three-quarters are in the Swiss Journalists' Association. An analysis of their ages shows that the bulk of daily journalism in Switzerland is produced by men and women of between 30 and 50. Minimum wages are £15 to £20 per month, according to locality.

Women journalists do good work, and it is to be noted that the official Press bureau at the exhibition, with a staff of 40, is mostly peopled by women, who command two, three, and four languages each.

Pooling Press Services.

Due to the necessarily small circulation of Swiss newspapers, much pooling of services and resources goes on, and printing plants are called on to produce several journals. Paper is invariably of a poor quality and little attempt is made at attractive make-up, except in the case of picture weeklies like the Schweizerische Illustrierte Zeitung, produced at Zurich Verlag Ringer and Co., a big printing concern which employs over 800 people and has a model four-colour rotogravure in action at the exhibition.

By pooling, the dailies are able to make use of all forms of rapid reception of news and production.

Tagesanzeiger, with 90,000, enjoys the biggest circulation in Switzerland, and has as runners-up the National Zeitung (Basle), the Zurich Tagblatt, and Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

Only six newspapers have circulations over 60,000. Two-thirds of the 400 dailies and weeklies sell 5,000 copies or fewer, 51 sell up to 10,000, 26 sell up to 20,000, and only 11 sell up to 50,000. Nevertheless the trains and coaches of the Swiss Post Office handle nearly 429 million copies yearly, and 88,348 tons of paper are consumed yearly for news.

As three-quarters of the population speak German, it is understandable that 281 of the newspapers should be in German. Of the rest 95 are in French, 20 are in Italian, and four are in Romansch, which is the fourth official language of Switzerland, a direct derivative of Latin, spoken by about 45,000 inhabitants of the Grisons.

The Part Of Politics.

Politics play a more considerable part in Swiss local journalism than in ours. This is explained by the fact that Switzerland is a federation of 22 separate cantons or states, each with administrative autonomy. Liberal Democrats lead with 135 newspapers, followed by the Catholic Conservatives with 79. Social Democrats have 20, while the various peasant parties control 39 papers among them. Non-party organs number 120.

The chief school of journalism in the country is that at Zürich University, founded by Dr. O. Wettstein. Here are taught the gathering and handling of news, editorship and collaboration, the legal rights of the Press, work of the news agencies, and economics of publication. The school library contains 4,500 volumes on the Press and houses a great collection of Swiss and foreign newspapers.

Press publicity also has its place at the Exhibition, a joint exhibit in the form of a sliding screen having been arranged by the four leading advertising agencies — Publicitas, Rudolf Mosse, Orell Füssli, and Schweizer Annoncen. Illustrations and Photopress Co., who serve 140 journals in and out of Switzerland with news pictures, are likewise represented.

Switzerland has no sea frontier, but in the case of native journalism this geographical misfortune has its advantages, for a substantial circulation finds its way into the neighbouring countries of Germany, France, and Italy.

And, under-lining our Swiss Nation's Will to be prepared, I quote from the "*Economist*" 15th inst.

Entrenched Neutrality:

Not long ago the Swiss electorate adopted, by 444,200 votes to 195,000, an official proposal authorising the Federal Government to spend about 400 million francs (£=20.77 Swiss francs at current rates) on the strengthening of national defence and on important public works. Some 171 millions will go on defence and 157 millions on public works.

The necessary funds will be supplied, in the first place, by the "Crisis Tax," levied for a further period of three years; secondly, by a credit of 75 million francs supplied by the National Bank, which will use for this purpose a part of the profit of 658 million francs made on the devaluation of the Swiss currency; thirdly, by a new tax ranging from 1½ per cent. to 7½ per cent. levied on those commercial concerns which have numerous branches, and on big shops, on one-price shops and co-operative societies whose yearly sales exceed 200 million francs.

The ordinary military Budget rose from 91 million francs in 1933 to 132 millions in 1939. Extraordinary expenses for the same period totalled about 782 million francs; and to this should be added the 171 millions voted the other day. This makes a total of 953 millions. To the last man, the Swiss are resolved to maintain their neutrality and to defend their territory against any aggression.

This expenditure has made possible the reorganisation of the Army within a short period, development of the Air Corps, and supply of the various Army units with modern and powerful weapons. Several hundred million francs have also been spent on frontier fortifications; these forts, manned by 3,000 to 4,000 men, and powerfully armed, are capable of resisting for several days against any invading force, thus giving the Army time to mobilise. A second fortified line has been erected at some distance behind the frontier "Maginot" line.

As no referendum was demanded, the Bill extending from six to eight weeks the initial period of military service came into force six weeks ago; at the same time, the serving age is extended to include men between the ages of 18 and 60. The Army now consists of three army corps, nine divisions and three mountain divisions with all auxiliary units, so that Switzerland can put about 400,000 soldiers into the field. In addition to this, Switzerland will soon possess some 400,000 auxiliaries, men and women, for A.R.P. defence, Red Cross, transport and industry.

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LA POLITIQUE.

L'enterrement d'un projet funeste.

Le Conseil fédéral a pris une sage décision, mardi, en renonçant à créer au Palais un service de presse centralisé.

A la vérité, l'idée — dont nous avons déjà entretenu nos lecteurs — n'était point nouvelle. Un pareil service a fonctionné durant la guerre (sans avoir rien de commun avec la censure). On l'avait confié à un excellent homme, bon journaliste, M. Schaeppi, correspondant de Bâle à la "Neue Zürcher Zeitung." Son rôle était celui d'un intermédiaire entre les divers départements et la presse accréditée. Il devait aussi rédiger lui-même des articles, qu'il remettait aux journaux ... et qui prenaient souvent le chemin de la corbeille à papier; car on s'est toujours méfié et se méfiera toujours, chez nous, d'un semblable nivellement, d'une telle "standardisation," pour employer le terme à la mode aujourd'hui.

Le pauvre M. Schaeppi, ruisselant de bonne volonté, fut le plus malheureux des hommes. Il n'obtenait pas des bureaux les renseignements nécessaires pour qu'il pût à son tour informer les journalistes.

Ceux-ci, de leur côté, voyaient de mauvais œil cette innovation. Ils redoutaient que la centralisation n'eût pour effet de diminuer leur contact avec les membres du Conseil fédéral; et c'était un risque réel. En 1917 déjà — le service avait été créé en 1916 — M. Schaeppi demanda à être relevé de ses fonctions; et l'on fit aussitôt droit à sa requête.

Les années ont passé; mais les conditions n'ont pas changé de telle manière qu'un bureau de presse devint plus sympathique à ceux qui auraient à traiter avec lui.

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