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# Che Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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#### FEDERAL.

**ELECTRICITY EXTENSION IN SWITZERLAND.** The Norman hero of the "Cloches de Corne-ville" considered his triple world tour quite an achievement. On visiting the Electricity Pavilion at the Swiss National Exhibition, however, we find that electric cables installed in Switzerland would reach five times around the world.

#### STUDY-TOURS IN SWITZERLAND.

The central committee for professional organisation in France is arranging a trip to Switzerland with the assistance of various Swiss societies in order that French business men and sources in other that reach outness men and industrial owners may become familiar with Swiss achievements in the realms of industry, economy and social science.

FAVOURS GRANTED TO FOREIGN AUTOMOBILISTS. The Swiss Federal Council has decided to maintain till 31 Mai 1940 the 20 cts. reduction per litre of benzine granted to foreign car drivers.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE EXHIBITION.

During the first nine weeks more, than 4,000,000 visitors came to the National Exhibition.

#### THE RADIO IN SWITZERLAND.

THE RADIO IN SWITZERLAND. There are actually over 500,000 wireless set owners in Switzerland. The increase during 1938 amounted to 45,000. Switzerland occupies the seventh rank for the number of sets in pro-portion with 13.1% whereas last year she ranked colv eight only eighth.

#### THE PRADO EXHIBITION.

On June the first an exhibition of pictures from the Prado Museum was opened in Geneva. Nearly 200 pictures are shown. The exhibition will be closed on August 31st.

#### RIVER TRAFFIC IN SWITZERLAND.

RIVER TRAFFIC IN SWITZERLAND. Switzerland, in the middle of Europe, has no contact with the sea. Nevertheless the problem has been solved by the important harbour at Basle, on the Rhine, which gives indirect access to the North sea. The harbour has been so suc-cessful that many extensions have been neces-sary. Barges and the steam vessels which con-stitute the Swiss commercial navy can reach northern harbours without being unloaded. The importance of the Basle harbour and remarkable development of navigation on the home water-ways is shown in an interesting way in the navi-gation pavilion at the National Exhibition. SWISS MEDAL-ENGRAVERS AND PARAGUAY.

#### SWISS MEDAL-ENGRAVERS AND PARAGUAY.

An order for 4,500,000 copper-nickel 10 and 5 Pesos coins has been passed to a Swiss firm by Paraguay, in spite of serious competition from foreign firms. This is proof of the excellence of Swiss industries and the confidence which they iversion a bacad inspire abroad.

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The mayor of Cologne, Doctor Schmidt, his assistant, Mr. Brenner and other personalities stayed several days in Zurich and visited the National Exhibition.

#### THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH. (By Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich.)

The month under review has been conspicu-ous by the absence of any important business. The market remains in a wait and see position, apprehending disturbances from the field of in-ternational politics. In light trading, prices have responded only in minor degree to the

better disposition of New York during the cur-rent month. Our best industrials are quoted at prices which do not correspond with their present earning capacity.

The bond market has fairly well maintained its level of a month ago. Yields of Swiss Government securities range from 24% to 25%for the short term issues and from 31% to 35%for medium and long term issues. The floating of new loans has come to a complete standstill. The last local conversion issues have not been satisfactory. The Swiss-German Clearing nego-tivitions have here completed at the horizonian of The first for a constant of the Swiss-German Clearing nego-tiations have been concluded at the beginning of July; resulting again in further curtailment of cash transfer for the Swiss bondholders.

Quotations	June 30th July 31st	
	1939	1939
Schweiz. Bankverein	498	506
Schweiz. Kreditanstalt	520	525
Elektrobank	321	335
Saeg Serie A	49	47 bid
Motor-Columbus	180	190
Elektr. & Verkehr	80 bid	93
Italo-Suisse	93	94
Schweiz. Rückversicherung	3275	3280
Saurer	440 bid	435 bid
Aluminium	2360	2365 bid
Lonza	505	487 xd
Brown Boveri	189	180 xd
Nestlé	1034	1065
Sulzer	660 bid	690 bid

#### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

1st August. You will find a full report on the London 1st August celebrations in this issue, but I cannot abstain from coming back on that Day also in these Notes once again. In the "Neues Winterthurer Tagblatt" I find the fol-lowing exquisite description in National Conn-cellor Th. Gut's speech made at Winterthur's 1st August celebration:

" Die Schweiz als kleines, mit sich selbst versöhntes Europa '

which, I think you will all agree, is about as good a definition as one could hope to give of what our country is, stands for and aspires to be.

Again, in the same paper I find the follow-ing "thoughts" by H. Sch.

#### Das Schweizerkreuz:

Das firmenreine weisse Kreuz in blutig rotem Feld, das ist das Kleinod jedes treuen Schweizerherzens. Drei Kreuze sind dem Schweizermanne lieb und wert :

Das Schweizerkreuz im Schweizerbanner, das ist des Vaterlandes Schild und Zeichen. Wo immer Schweizer sind in aller Welt, da tragen sie der Heimat schlichtes Kreuz im Herzen.

Das rote Kreuz im weissen Feld, das ist der Nächstenliebe bestes Zeichen. Wo immer auch das rote Kreuz ersteht, zeugt es von Schweizersinn und Schweizergeist und ruft: Barmherzigkeit und Friede!

Und über beiden, gleichsam in den ewigen Fels gehauen, steht das Christuskreuz, das Kreuz vom Sieg auf Golgatha, der beiden ersten Kreuze Sinn und Ursprung. In ihm hat uns der Schöpfer seine Treu' erwiesen. — Dort hat der Eine einst für uns sein Blut vergossen. — Dort liegt des Rütlischwures heilige Treu verankert. — Von dort her hat ein kleiner Haufe Sempachkrieger einst im Angesicht der Wucht des Feindes auf den Knien Hilf' erfleht. — Von dort her hat ein Winkelried die Kraft zum Opfertod empfan-gen. — Von dort her hat ein Bruder Klaus getrennten Eidgenossen Rat und Heil gewiesen. — Von dort erhielt ein Zwingli Mut und Tapferkeit. — Von dort her schlug ein Herz des Henry Dunant für den Nächsten. Und über beiden, gleichsam in den ewigen

Mag wer da will, Hufeisen oder andere Zeichen Götter nennen; das Schweizerkreuz ist uns Symbol des Einen Herren, dessen Tod, für uns erlitten, uns Gewissheit treuer Vater-liebe unseres Schöpfers gibt. Ein Volk, das restlos ihm vertraut, kann nicht zu Schauden worden werden.

Wir wollen trauen auf den Höchsten, t, und uns nicht fürchten vor der Macht Gott, und uns der Menschen.

think it would have been a great pity to withhold this from our readers.

Switzerland's mission of mercy found a splendid way of showing itself when those child-ren from the Special Areas of Great Britain were invited to Adelboden and I doubt whether any of you can read the following article taken from "The Times," Educational Supplement, 29th July, without feeling very deeply moved:

Four Weeks in Fairyland: (This article was especially written by one of the teachers who went to Adelboden last month in charge of a party of twenty-five children from the Special Areas).

From the dull, drab-grey surroundings and monotony of the Special Areas to the majestic Alpine grandeur of the Bernese Oberland; this was the experience of 25 boys and girls from homes of unemployed parents in Tyneside, Cumberland, Durham, and South Wales, when they spent a month as guests of the Mayor and people of Adelboden.

How excited they all were leaving Victoria on June 13th! Uncle Mac of the B.B.C., with representatives of the National Council of Social Service (which had found the necessary funds towards the cost of travel, clothing, and pocket money), saw them off, and already their scnses were overcome with the wonder of it all. It was a dream come true! The Channel crossing, a motor tour around Paris, and a train ride through the night across France – when the only holiday they had ever had before was a Sunday School treat or an occasional day visit to the seaside.

#### \* \*

The party arrived at the end of their train

What excitement and delight there was on the children's first all-day mountain excur-sion! Armed with rücksacks and sticks they set off for Engstligenalp, the great plateau that lies 6.500ft. above sea level. After a walk through Alpine meadows, ablaze with millions through Alpine meadows, ablaze with millions of flowers, through fragrant pinewoods and alongside rushing torrents of snow water, they reached the cable railway. How amazingly delighted they were at being slung over preci-pices and gorges in a ride which frightens many grown-up people! On reaching the top they found they had been transported in six minutes from summer to spring. Snow lay in huge patches on the plateau, and snowballing and sliding were soon in full swing. A pleasant surprise awaited them, for behind a huge boulder their Swiss brothers and sisters had prepared a huge cauldron of soup, and after lunching together they played games, danced, and amused themselves for the rest of the day.