News at random

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

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

Heft 932

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: Clerkenwell 2321/2. Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD ST., E.C.2. Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 21—No. 932. LONDON, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1939. PRICE 3d.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The German Minister in Berne has expressed his regrets to the Federal Council for the violation of the Swiss frontier recently committed by German aircraft near Schauffhausen.

* * *

As the whole of the parish council of Mellingen (Aargau) has been called to the colours, retired and former councillors are attending to the local administration.

* * *

The export and import restrictions imposed upon Switzerland by the belligerent powers are seriously interfering with our economic life. Negotiations are proceeding with a view of obtaining some relief. The embroidery and watch industries are the greatest sufferers as England has stopped the import of these "luxury" articles.

* * *

The central committee of the Swiss Socialist party has now definitely expelled the Geneva communist Leon Nicole by 44 votes against five. The local papers "Travail" and "Droit du Peuple" are repudiated as long as Nicole exercises any influence on their policy and any socialist section, whether urban or cantonal, which favours or advocates the views of Nicole will be ostracised.

* * *

Don Francesco Alberti died suddenly in Bellinzona at the age of 67. After devoting the early years of his career to the church he drifted into journalism and earned wide-spread popularity as editor of the Ticinese paper "Popolo e Libertà."

* * *

The Swiss contingent called to the colours from Tunis have addressed to the French authorities a memorandum expressing their thanks and appreciation for the hospitality which they enjoyed during their stay in the French Colony.

* * *

Further legacies made by the recently deceased Oberstdivisionär Wilhelm Schmid are published; they are: Frs. 50,000 to the Benevolent Society in Berne; Frs. 50,000 to an existing fund for assisting necessitous soldiers of the fourth division and Frs. 30,000 to the travel fund of the Bernese high school.

The post-office staff of Lausanne have collected an amount of Frs. 800 amongst themselves to alleviate the lot of needy Swiss returned from abroad.

* * *

The calling up of the recruits has been advanced by one year which means that the 1920 class may have to join this year.

* * *

The pending elections for a new National Council are unlikely to evoke any great controversy. In most districts the political parties have agreed to a truce thus maintaining the *status quo*.

* * *

At the opening session of the National Council last Monday week a special tribute was paid to the Swiss from abroad by President Valloton. He said when Mobilisation was decreed the Swiss from all corners of the world hastened to answer the call of the country; some of them had not done any military service for twenty years. He was sure that the local and cantonal authorities would offer them the welcome that was due to them. He proceeded by pointing out that a large number had left behind them family and hard-earned position and that their ultimate well-being demanded the utmost sympathy and co-operation by everyone in Switzerland. The blunders of the 1914 mobilisation would not be repeated.

* * *

"Füsilier Wipf" has now quitted the studio and taken his place in the Solothurn battalion; he is the Swiss film star Paul Hubschmid.

* * *

About ninety Swiss residents have taken refuge in the Swiss Legation in Warsaw; no harm has so far overtaken them and the same applies to a smaller number in the Lodz district. A few of our compatriots from the open country have managed to find a sanctuary with the Swiss Consul in Kaunas.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 3 Octobre à 6h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Admissions.

Démissions.

Activité pu Club pendant la Guerre.

Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité

National Councillor Charles Albert Favrod-Coune died in Berne at the age of 62; it was only last Monday week that he attended the opening of the Swiss Parliament.

* * *

It is officially stated in Basle that none of the civil population has so far been evacuated; should war operations be brought close to the frontier some threatened outlying districts may have to submit to this measure.

* * *

Peculiar and at the same time intricate conditions are ruling in the little village of St. Gingolph on the lake of Geneva. Half of the hamlet is in Switzerland while the other half extends into French territory. Through the closing of the frontier families have been separated and farmers are prevented from looking after their cattle where stables are on the other side of the line. The only church and cemetery is on the French side. The French Maire and the Swiss Syndic are striving hard to amend the imperfections.

* * *

"Konstanz liegt am Bodesee — wers nicht glaubt kas selber gseh" we were taught in our school-days. The "Daily Telegraph" (Sept. 26th) has improved on this by boldly stating that this town lies "partly in Germany and partly in Switzerland."

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"Se non e vero e ben trovato" is probably a fitting description of the following tit-bit which appeared in the "*Evening Standard*" (Sept. 26th): A newshawk had been sent to the German Embassy where he was directed, by a typewritten notice, to a side door by the Duke of York's Steps. Here a wooden notice now identifies the building as "Special Division, Swiss Legation."

The notice has been nailed over the top of a brass plate inscribed "Deutsche Botschaft." While this was being done a policeman asked the responsible Swiss official why he did not remove the brass plate altogether.

"They told us to leave it," was the reply. "They said they expected to be back before long."

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We understand from the Secretary that he has arranged with the Institut Français that they will kindly allow members of our Colony, both ladies and gentlemen, to attend a series of lectures on the International Situation by Professor Denis Saurat of the University of London (King's College) and Principal of the Institut. The opening lecture on the Causes of the War was extraordinarily interesting, presenting quite new lines of thought, and each week different phases and new developments will be treated, running concurrently with the all-important question of Construction for Peace. It is planned to throw the meetings open to general discussion which will naturally add to the interest of this already outstanding opportunity.

This gesture of the Institut Français is very much appreciated, and it is hoped that many of our members will take advantage of it and attend regularly. The lectures are in English on Wednesdays at 5 p.m., or in French on Fridays at 5 p.m., and they last about an hour.

There will also be a free course on First Aid by the famous Dr. J. Moore, on Fridays at 3.30 p.m.

Please let the Secretary know which lectures you can attend so that he may arrange for reservations as far as possible. Just drop a note to Mr. Henry Bingguely, Bulle House, 187a, Tottenham Court Road, W.1.

The next monthly meeting takes place on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6 *p.m.*, this time being set in view of the War. No official dinner has been organized, but those who wish to dine will find accommodation after the meeting if they will kindly reserve their seats by telephoning Mr. Boehringer (Tel: CLErkenwell 2321) not later than Monday.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend so that decisions may be arrived at concerning the Club's activities during the War.

Considering the number of compatriots who have left England it is the earnest wish of the Committee that all those who are fortunate enough to remain here for the time being, will pull together and preserve the patriotic feelings of the Colony.

Bee.

RATIONING PREPARATIONS.

The Swiss Government, as soon as war was declared, took drastic measures to restrict or prohibit the sale of various categories of foodstuffs and fuel.