

Personal

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1933)**

Heft 588

PDF erstellt am: **28.04.2024**

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reasonable grounds for complaint against the last item of the programme, he would give him 100 roubles. This was "Money for Jam" a sheer get-away with 90 roubles! It was a dreadful concert. Everybody was getting ready to complain. The last item was a band of the secret police, which played the "Internationale" and everybody was glad to crawl out without saying anything. Despite the very stern and hard life humour bubbles up. There is an equalitarianism where everybody can do what he likes. If you walked into Stalin's office in pyjamas he would not be surprised. The lecturer, i.e., went to the opera in flannel trousers and a cricket shirt.

In an anti-religious museum the lecturer found a slogan running: "Religion is the opium of the people." Many churches have been destroyed and used for other purposes such as clubs and warehouses. They are being destroyed for various reasons, and a church was taken down to make way for the traffic, but when the lecturer looked round he could not see where the traffic was. There are, however, still opportunities for worship in Russia. A good deal of misrepresentation is made of the women in Russia. They simply have taken their place side by side with the men in the general work. They take their place in public life to the same extent as they do in England. There has not been a woman commissar yet, but women go down the coal mines, bless them! Full rights are granted to the women's organisations. They are united in one woman's movement. In Russia there is a woman attached to every social institution on behalf of the women's movement. The director of the institution is the embodiment of wisdom. He is a red director, because he is a good Communist and technical expert! Entering a court the lecturer found four tables with a chair to each. At one table one got married and nearly divorced. At this table one registered births and at another, deaths. The four ladies in charge were women of training. When the lecturer enquired whose fault it generally was that people got divorced, she replied that she could not tell and did not know herself. She gave divorces for the mere asking. In Russia one can get divorced with as little trouble as one can get a postal order at a British post-office. In Spain you get a divorce under the new Constitution, if both parties ask for it. In Russia at the instance of either party you get a divorce. However, in America one marriage in six is dissolved in the divorce court. In Russia it is only one in four. Again the percentage is much higher in Moscow than in the country. The lecturer recommended the audience to go and see the Russian play "Squaring the Circle," which is due at the London Kingsway Theatre after a long run in Russia and Germany. The lecturer saw it in Prague. He added that plays eventually did come to London.

The lecturer was allowed to visit Moscow schools where children were permitted to ask him questions such as, whether workers were allowed reservations, such as English geography, etc. They were, however, told to ask "comrade" any questions. The Russian adult is singularly uninquisitive, but children asked the lecturer lots of questions such as whether workers were allowed to go to the theatres in England, and whether they were allowed to walk in the main street. They also enquired the reason why the lecturer came into their country, and also, what is called a supplementary question in the House of Commons, "how he proposed to get out of Russia."

The lecturer then reverted again to the question of food shortage in Russia. It began with the Five years' Plan and has been worse since. Very important is the fact, that the economical system is incapable of producing sufficient food. "Russia is starving itself." The industrial system withdraws capital to build bridges, railways, oil-wells and is engaged in the upbuilding of a gigantic scheme. How long will it be till they relax that system? When Stalin recently announced the second part of the Five Years' Plan, he said that Russia would concentrate upon giving the people what they want. How long will it be for the relaxation of the political repression of the people? There is no sign of that whatever. In conclusion the lecturer said that it was impossible to round off in a few words such a vast and paradoxical subject as Russia. It is not easy to give an exact picture, and very difficult to understand a country occupying one-sixth of the land's surface of the earth, with 150 Million inhabitants with most diverse languages and culture; a country where you find the name of a railway station in four different languages; a medieval country which missed all influences of the reformation and the renaissance, trying to rush into the future by adopting high speed American methods of mechanisation.

A very interesting discussion ensued and questions were fired from left and right. It was nothing short of a cross examination, which proved that the lecture was an unqualified success. The Committee will do well in repeating the venture of following the Monthly Meetings by a lecture.

W.B.

DAILY EXPRESS OUTBURST.

Our readers have no doubt seen or heard about the article, which appeared in the *Daily Express* on the 24th of this month, under the heading "Swiss Slander on a British Airman."

One of our subscribers has taken the trouble to reply to this article, and we have much pleasure in publishing this correspondence, as, speaking from experience, we do not expect that our friend's communication will be published in the *Daily Express*. We may mention, that practically the whole Swiss Press strongly criticizes the attitude of the British Airman.

January 24th, 1933....

To the Editor,
"Daily Express,"
8, Shoe Lane,
London, E.C.4.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your article "Swiss Slander On A British Airman" in to-days issue of your Paper, please allow me to send you herewith a translation of an article which appeared in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" on the 22nd instant. Please have the kindness to compare your version of the affair with it.

It seems quite incredible that an important Newspaper which you have the honour and responsibility to direct, should try to turn the noble and heroic efforts of the airmen concerned in the search for Capt. Hope to ridicule, and accuse the Swiss of slandering one of your famous Airmen.

I cannot help thinking that Capt. Hope is alone to blame for what occurred. He had every opportunity to let the Aerodrome La Blecherette know of his whereabouts on Thursday. He should have done so, especially as, according to reliable information, he intimated that he would be back at La Blecherette at about 4 p.m. on Thursday. To make your readers believe that there is no telephone at Sion, is to say the least, doubting their intelligence. Sion is the Capital of the Canton of Valais, a fairly big town, and has an excellent Telephone Service. As a matter of fact, you can telephone there from your own Office. Considering all the circumstances, I do not blame the Swiss for charging Capt. Hope for expenses incurred, and at frs.400 they seem very low, you will admit that. If you consult the Financial Page of your Newspaper, you will find that the exchange value of the £ in Switzerland has been well over 17 for some time.

I do not think you will publish this letter, although it would only be fair to let your readers see the affair in its true light.

I am a Swiss and have resided in this Country for 14 years. I have been a registered reader of the "Daily Express" for many years and you will understand this sort of thing is very painful to me, especially as in many respects I find your Paper excellent.

One of the greatest qualities of the Englishman — and the Nation as a whole — is his love for fair play. Why you and your Paper should make an exception, I cannot imagine. I should think one can pursue an Empire Policy and at the same time be fair to a country smaller in size, whose people have always been friendly to yours.

Yours faithfully,

H.O.E.

Extract from the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" of
January, 22nd.
Lausanne, January 21st, 1933.

According to the result of further investigations, we are able to fully confirm the information contained in the Saturday morning issue of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" relating to the search for Capt. Hope. The attitude of Capt. Hope cannot be understood here and indignation runs high. As a result of exhaustive inquiries, checks and re-checks, it has been definitely established that Hope, who left Lausanne with the alleged intention of looking for his lost compatriot in the Valais and Bernese Alps, landed at Vetroz 21 minutes after his start from Lausanne. This corresponds exactly to the time required for a flight direct from Lausanne to Vetroz, and a Lausanne paper points out ironically, that Hope has even beaten the record for this section, and that he could not possibly have devoted one minute of his time to fly over the snowfields and glaciers for the purpose of looking for Hinkler. Without a care and unconcerned they stayed at Vetroz and later at Sion where they apparently remained Thursday evening and Friday morning.

At Lausanne in the meantime the agitation and concern for the fate of the two airmen grew rapidly and when, on Friday morning there was no news, First Lieutenant Kammacher, Director of the Aerodrome La Blecherette and Cherix, a lawyer in Lausanne and Director of the Aero Club Lausanne, decided to fly to the rescue of the two lost airmen. Early on Friday morning they cruised over the Vaudois and Valais Alps, the alleged route of the missing men, and also went to Thun where the Chief of the Swiss Air Service decided on their information to organise an intensive search campaign. On Friday a number of

Military and Civil Airmen searched the Alps from Les Diablerets to the Simplon Range — without any result, of course, as nobody was aware that the missing machine had already landed in the Rhone Valley on Thursday. This only leaked out when a local inhabitant of Vetroz, on the strength of a Radio S.O.S. advised the Aerodrome authorities at La Blecherette, Lausanne, that a machine as described had landed at Vetroz already on Thursday! On Friday evening the two missing airmen arrived at Lausanne, safe and sound and at dusk Kammacher and Cherix landed at La Blecherette, amazed at the news that Hope and Hinley were already at their hotel.

The latest information from La Blecherette shows that the English airmen have offered neither explanation or an apology.—

On going to Press, we receive the following communication, which appeared in the National Zeitung on the 25th of January:

HOPE ENTSCULDIGT SICH.

Lausanne, 25. Januar.

Am Sonntag abend richtete der Lausanner Flugplatzdirektor Kammacher und der Präsident der westschweizerischen Sektion des Aero-Clubs der Schweiz ein Telegramm an die Redaktion der Londoner Zeitung "Daily Mirror," die einen unglaublichen Bericht über die Flüge des englischen Fliegers Hope veröffentlicht hatte. Im Telegramm wurde gesagt, dass der betreffende Artikel "ein Lügengeschäft sei und dass die ausdrücklichen Vorbehalte gemacht werden müssten, sofern nicht ein berichtender Artikel erfolge."

Hauptmann Hope sandte hierauf an die westschweizerische Sektion des Aero-Clubs der Schweiz folgendes Telegramm:

"Ich habe soeben den Artikel des "Daily Mirror" vom letzten Samstag gelesen. Er enthält in der Tat viel Unrichtigkeiten. Wir sind z. B. nicht fünf Stunden in der Luft gewesen, und ebenso wenig erschöpft gelandet. Ich habe auch nicht versucht, mit London zu telefonieren. Ich bedaure die Veröffentlichung des Artikels, der ohne meine Zustimmung und Kenntniss geschrieben wurde. Ich bitte Sie, für die Ihnen entstandenen Unannehmlichkeiten meine Entschuldigung anzunehmen."

"DAILY EXPRESS," PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.

PERSONAL.

We much regret to inform our readers of the death of Mr. Alfred Müller, at the age of 76. He was for many years collector for the Swiss Churches and the Swiss Benevolent Society, and a former Secretary of the Société de Secours Mutuels. A funeral service was held yesterday at the Swiss Church, Endell Street.

We also regret to acquaint our readers of the passing away, last Monday, of the wife of Mr. Marc H. Mange, at 299, Trinity Road, Wandsworth, S.W.18, after a long and painful illness.

Mrs. Nellie Mange was devoted to all good work, and members of our Colony may remember, the active part she took in the last Swiss Bazaar at Caxton Hall. We wish to extend to her husband and family our heartfelt sympathy.

PIANO LESSONS.
MAESTRA VIOLETTA MONTUSCHI,
Diploma of the Fiere Musicale Bologna
106, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, LONDON, W.1.
Telephone: Gerrard 6765.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

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at the
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RECEPTION DINNER DANCING
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TICKETS at 12/6 can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6693), and City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 7719).