Prepaid subscription rates

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

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

Heft 604

PDF erstellt am: **28.04.2024**

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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 MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595 — *Published every Friday at* 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. — Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 13—No. 604 — LONDON, MAY 20, 1933. — PRICE 3d.

Where are you going next Saturday? to the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill, of course!

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HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

FEDERAL ASSIZES.

The Federal Assize Court met last Monday for the second time since the beginning of the great war. The court is now trying M. Leon Nicole, the Socialist deputy and municipal councillor, and 17 others, accused of complicity in the November riots in Geneva.

Thirteen people were killed and 60 were injured when troops fired on the crowd.

The court, which has only met a dozen times since it was first constituted in 1848, is composed of the criminal court, presided over by Dr. Agostino Soldati, and the Federal Judges, Drs. Kirchofer and Guex, assisted by 12 members of the jury.

The official Swiss military report states that the plan of attack by the crowd was "organised down to the last detail."

The trial is being staged in a large hall as the local court room is too small to accommodate the 150 journalists sent to Geneva to report the trial.

The riots in Geneva broke out when Nicole attempted to hold a meeting near one arranged by the Fascist party.

When the inevitable clash occurred Geneva for two hours was in the hands of the rioters.

Troops were summoned. They were ordered to proceed singly through the infuriated crowd and to fall-in in front of the Communal Hall, where the Fascists were assembled.

The young soldiers were struck at, peper was thrown in their eyes, and their rifles were snatched from their hands.

Eventually bugle calls rang out, and they were ordered to fire on the crowds.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

The German Ambassador in Berne, Dr. Adolf Müller, will shortly retire from his post, on having reached the age limit. His successor will very likely be the present German Minister at Oslo, Freiherr von Weizsaecker.—

The departing diplomat, Dr. Müller, was appointed to his post in April 1919 in succession to Freiherr von Romberg. Previous to his entry into the diplomatic service he was Editor in chief of the "Münchner Post." During the 14 years which he spent in the Swiss capital, he has managed with tact and sincerity to solve many a thorny problem, and he enjoyed the full confidence of the Federal Council. Dr. Müller was a highly cultured man, and very popular in Bernese social and diplomatic circles, and his departure will be regretted by a large circle of friends.—

His successor, Freiherr Ernst von Weizsaecker, who is a "Württemberger," is no stranger to Switzerland, he was years ago German Consul at Basle, and later occupied a high position at the German Foreign office in Berlin, which post he changed with the present appointment at Oslo.—

* * *

Dr. Emil Beck, Minister of the Fürstentum Liechtenstein has paid a farewell visit at the Federal Palais, as his country has decided to dispense with an Embassy.

COLONEL JULES REPOND †.

Colonel Jules Repond, who was for 11 years, commander of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican, has died in Rome, where he was on a visit, at the age of 80. The deceased, who was born in 1853 at Fribourg, had a very brilliant career; already at an early age he was appointed Professor of Law at the University of Fribourg, and from 1882-86 he sat on the Grand Council. In 1898 he went to Berne as correspondant of the "Gazette de Lausanne," and in 1902 he joined the editorial staff of the "Journal de Genève." For many years he was one of the leading Journalists in Switzerland. In the army he reached the rank of a Brigade Commander. In 1910 he was appointed commander of the Swiss Guard by Pope Puis X, a post which he occupied with distinction for 11 years. He retired in 1921, and lived for the last 12 years either in Switzerland or Spain, having acquired properties in both countries. He paid yearly visits to Rome, and it is on one of these visits that he passed away.

NO PARTIE UNIFORMS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council has issued a decree prohibiting the wearing of party uniforms, or all badges or armlets which denote membership to a political party. (We congratulate the Federal Council to this decision, there is only one uniform in Switzerland: The Field-grey of our Army. Ed.)

PROF. PICCARD'S PLAN.

Final preparations have been completed for a balloon ascent into the stratosphere under the supervision of Professor Auguste Piccard at the Chicago World Fair, which opens on June 1st.

The ascent will be made by Jean Piccard, the twin brother of the famous Swiss scientist, with the object of "a further and more scientific study of the cosmic rays."

Designs for the balloon are being completed by the Goodyear Zeppelin Company at Akron. The envelope will have a capacity of 600,000 cubic feet of hydrogen at is maximum inflation, as compared with the 500,000 cubic feet for the balloon used at Zurich last year.

The Piccard brothers hope to ascend about 5,000 feet higher than the 53,856 feet (over ten miles) attained from Zurich.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING.

The International Broadcasting Union, which includes practically all the European broadcasting organizations and most of the other principal broadcasters, finished its annual summer meetings last Monday.

Members of the union have been asked to approach their Governments for legal protection against such practices as commercial exploitation of broadcast programmes without the previous consent of the broadcasters.

The Union has expressed the view that broadcasts addressed specially to listeners in foreign countries which give rise to protests by those countries are not only inadmissible, but may compromise good relations between States.

As a further contribution to the improvement of broadcasting conditions, the union decided to add to its European observation post at Brussels, which systematically records technical behaviour, instruments for the measurement of wave-length stability, and the recording of any tendency to overload the transmitters. The union has also agreed to support the international campaign against electrical interference.

It was announced that the number of registered listening sets increased in Europe alone in 1932 by nearly 2,000,000.

SWISS SOCCER TEAM TO PLAY ENGLAND.

The Swiss team to meet England at Berne to-day will be: F. Sechenaye (Servette); S. Minelli (Grasshoppers), Biesler (Bâle); Gilardoni (Lugano), Imhof (Etoile Carouge), Hufschmid (Bâle); Von Kaenel (Berne), T. Abegglen (Grasshoppers), R. Passello (Servette), M. Abegglen (Grasshoppers), Jaeck (Bâle).

THE TRAVEL HABIT.

Some interesting comparisons are made in an article by M. Schraff, President of the Swiss Federal Railways administration, which appears in the March issue of the *Bulletin des C.F.F.*, concerning the development of the travel habit. In Great Britain, in 1900, the average number of journeys made annually a head of the population was 28; by 1930 the figure had increased to 33. But in Switzerland the development of tourist traffic has resulted in the jump from a considerably lower figure of 21 in 1900 to one of 44 in 1930. In a corresponding period German journeys rose from 15 to 29, and French journeys from 12 to 19 a head per annum. The relative frequency of journeys is measured by the fact that in 1930, 1,030,000 journeys were made per km. of line in Switzerland, whereas the corresponding figures were 836,000 in Germany, 735,000 on the English Great Western Railway, 734,000 on the French P.L.M. Railway, 446,000 on the Italian State Railways, and 392,000 on the Midi Railway of France. In Switzerland, 69 per cent. of the annual train-km. run were by passenger trains, as compared with 64 per cent. in Germany, 63 per cent. in Italy, and 61 per cent. in France; while 42 per cent. of the traffic receipts in Switzerland were derived from passenger traffic, relatively to 29½ per cent. in Germany, 34 per cent. in Italy, and 22½ per cent. in France.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of M. Theo. Muggli, proprietor of the wellknown Typewriter firm, "Theo Muggli," at the age of 50.

* * *

The Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich, has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Doctor Ernst Wildberger, medical practitioner at Winterthur, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, for his great work for Social Insurance.

BERNE.

Dr. Franz von Tavel (brother of the well-known dialect writer) has celebrated his 70th birthday at Berne. He was for many years a lecturer of Botanic at the Technical University at Zurich. He then decided to give up his profession, and entered the Salvation Army, where he, after a few years, reached the rank of a Colonel, he was also Editor of the paper "Kriegsruf."

GLARUS.

A fire completely destroyed the works of the "Druckfabrik Wyden" at Schwanden, the damage is considered to be very heavy.

BASLE.

The association of Restaurant Keepers has sent a strong protest to the cantonal government, against granting Restaurant licenses to large stores.

* * *

M. Gustav Schwartz, editor in chief of the "Basler Volksblatt" has joined the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Nachrichten."

GENEVA.

Federal Councillor Musy addressed an audience of more than 2,000 at the Salle de la Reformation at Geneva, on "Democracy and Solidarity," he received on the conclusion of his lecture a great ovation.

* * *

The cantonal government has officially received the newly appointed French Ambassador Count Clauzel; a dinner was given in honour of the new representative of the French Republic, at which the Geneva government was present in corpore.

ST. GALLEN.

National Councillor Friedrich Pestalozzi, who represented the Peasants Party has died at the age of 62. In 1921 he entered the Grand Council, and 8 years later was made a member of Parliament.