

Home news

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Message from the Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation

Monsieur PILET-GOLAZ.

Au moment où le "Swiss Observer" fête le vingtième anniversaire de sa fondation, je me fais un devoir de lui exprimer de vifs remerciements au nom du Conseil fédéral. En publiant d'intéressants articles sur la vie en Suisse ainsi que des études sur les relations économiques, intellectuelles, artistiques, morales, de la Grande-Bretagne et de notre pays, en faisant connaître les jugements qui sont portés en Angleterre sur nos institutions et en renseignant ses lecteurs sur les manifestations patriotiques organisées dans les colonies suisses et dans notre pays, ce journal rend les plus grands services à nos compatriotes établis outre-Manche et à nous-mêmes. Je le félicite de son activité bienfaisante et lui souhaite une longue prospérité.

Je saisis aussi cette occasion pour adresser un cordial salut à la colonie suisse de Grande-Bretagne, qui garde à notre patrie un amour fidèle et qui, par son opiniâtre labeur, contribue fortement à entretenir l'amitié et la considération dont la nation britannique honore notre pays.

PILET-GOLAZ,
vice-président du Conseil fédéral suisse.

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND THIRD IN THE INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN LUCERNE.

The official total results published in the three positions, (standing, kneeling, laying down) places Switzerland third in the International Shooting Match in Lucerne; the results are as follows:—

| | Standing | | Kneeling | | Laying | | Points |
|----------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Points | Points | Points | Points | Points | Points | |
| 1. Estonia | 1,666 | 1,880 | 1,887 | = | 5,433 | | |
| 2. Finland | 1,717 | 1,844 | 1,864 | = | 5,425 | | |
| 3. Switzerland | 1,734 | 1,800 | 1,881 | = | 5,415 | | |
| 4. Sweden | 1,699 | 1,778 | 1,854 | = | 5,311 | | |
| 5. Norway | 1,657 | 1,701 | 1,897 | = | 5,255 | | |
| 6. Germany | 1,632 | 1,706 | 1,859 | = | 5,197 | | |
| 7. Denmark | 1,561 | 1,686 | 1,871 | = | 5,118 | | |
| 8. France | 1,525 | 1,748 | 1,841 | = | 5,114 | | |
| 9. Latvia | 1,523 | 1,373 | 1,848 | = | 4,744 | | |

SWITZERLAND WORLD CHAMPION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARMY RIFLE AND PISTOL SHOOTING COMPETITION.

Switzerland has been declared World Champion both in the International Army Rifle and Pistol Shooting competition at Lucerne. The team consisting of: Lienhard, Zimmermann, Horber, Tellenbach and Hartmann have shot 2,607 points (Army Rifle competition) and have thus established a new world record. The "Mannerheim" Cup thus once again remains in Switzerland.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

On Sunday last, July 9th, four million visitors had entered the turnstiles since the opening of the Exhibition.

SWISS MILITARY MACHINE CRASHES.

A Swiss Military machine, type C35, crashed near Seggräben. Lieutenant Georges André Rolaz, born in 1917, from Geneva, was killed.

SHORT WAVE RADIO STATION DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The newly erected short wave Radio Station in Schwarzenburg (Berne) was completely destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to exceed one million francs. The station was principally intended for broadcast to Swiss in North and South America, Africa and Asia.

HENRI NAVILLE †.

The death has occurred in Kilchberg of M. Henri Naville-von Muralt, at the age of 64.

The deceased was one of the most important industrialists in our country. For many years he was on the engineering staff of the A. G. Brown, Boverie & Cie in Baden. In 1934 he was appointed President of the Board of this great concern in succession to Dr. F. Funk. He retired from his post in 1938 for reasons of health, his early death is greatly deplored amongst Swiss industrialists.

SEVENTY-FIVE MILLION FRANCS TO BE DISTRIBUTED FROM THE "WAERHUNGSFONDS."

The Federal Council has sanctioned the following payments, totalling 75 million francs, to be made by the National Bank to the various cantons out of the profits of the currency devaluation: Zurich: 11,392,866frs.; Berne: 12,703,632frs.; Lucerne: 3,493,096frs.; Uri: 423,618frs.; Schwyz: 1,149,733frs.; Obwalden: 357,829frs.; Nidwalden: 277,672frs.; Glarus: 657,578frs.; Zug: 643,376frs.; Fribourg: 2,641,710frs.; Solothurn: 2,659,564frs.; Basle-Town: 2,859,347frs.; Basle-Country: 1,706,811frs.; Schaffhausen: 944,084frs.; Appenzel a.Rh.: 903,324frs.; Appenzel J.Rh.: 275,922frs.; St. Gall: 5,281,613frs.; Grisons: 2,330,194frs.; Aargau: 4,788,836frs.; Thurgau: 2,509,523frs.; Ticino: 2,936,682frs.; Vaud: 6,120,641frs.; Valais: 2,515,628frs.; Neuchâtel: 2,293,011frs.; Geneva: 3,160,646frs.; total 75,000,000frs.

STRONG SWISS PROTEST IN ROME ABOUT TYROL BAN.

The Swiss Chargé d'Affaires in the absence of the Swiss Minister, who has been called to Berne to report, called at the Italian Foreign Office in Rome to protest against the expulsion of Swiss nationals from the Tyrolean province of Bolzano. He pointed out that the expulsion was "a flagrant violation" of the Swiss-Italian Treaty. The Swiss Consul in Venice has left for Bolzano. The measures taken by the Italian government has caused great indignation throughout Switzerland.

PROFESSOR E. BUGNION †.

The death is reported from Aix-en-Provence of Professor Edouard Bugnion, of Lausanne, who was 94 years of age. After lecturing for many years in anatomy and histology at Berne University, he was appointed Professor of Anatomy at Lausanne University, where he lectured for 34 years. He made numerous scientific journeys, including four in Ceylon, where he made a full study of the termites. A well-known Alpinist, he was the last surviving person concerned with the creation of the Alpine Club, which took place in 1863.

NEUTRALITY OF SWITZERLAND.

During the course of the Anglo-Russian negotiations there has been much discussion in the Swiss press, particularly with regard to the proposed guarantee of Switzerland's integrity. At a meeting of the Federal Council in Berne, M. Motta, the Swiss Foreign Minister, reported on the international situation and on the recent negotiations in which "Swiss neutrality is being alluded to."

At the end of the meeting a communiqué was issued to the effect that the Federal Council shares in all respects the opinion and attitude of the Swiss Political Department, which has emphasised for at least two years the necessity for maintaining Swiss neutrality in all eventualities. Further, Swiss neutrality, which is absolute and cannot be attenuated, is above discussion.

Commenting on this declaration, the "Tribune de Genève" states that it shows concisely that Switzerland asks no one for special guarantees and refuses to join one group of Powers against another. Switzerland will accept nothing which will limit its neutrality, already solemnly recognised.

Going even farther, a leading article in "La Suisse," which, like the "Tribune," is one of Geneva's most Right-wing papers, expresses the

fear that pressure will be brought on the Swiss Government by the French and British Governments for the purpose of forcing Switzerland into recognising Russia in exchange for a guarantee not solicited by the Swiss. The paper adds:

It would be inadmissible if, in order to further the game of the Anglo-French entente, diplomatic pressure were exercised on our country to renew diplomatic relations with Russia, even though a guarantee which we did not solicit would be accorded us. Like Holland and the Baltic States, Switzerland is neutral, not because of its egoism, but simply because there is no reason to enter into quarrels where its interests are not at stake.

The question of Russian recognition, however, has already been raised on the initiative of the Left and will come before the National Council (the Lower House of Parliament) in September.

SWITZERLAND AND HER INDUSTRIES.

A third edition of Switzerland and Her Industries has been published by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade. The two previous editions, published in 1928 and 1931, are out of print.

The booklet is illustrated with thirty-eight photographs and contains two maps. It aims at giving to foreigners interested in Swiss commercial affairs an accurate idea of the production, trade and institutions of the country. Various chapters deal with finance and banking, economic relations with foreign countries, manufacturing industries, and agriculture.

I.F.T.U. AND SOVIET UNIONS.

The triennial meeting of the Congress of the International Federation of Trade Unions ended at Zurich. The British proposal that the Russian trade unions should be invited to affiliate with the Federation on the basis of its existing constitution was rejected by 46 votes to 36.

A proposal by the United States delegation, which meant in effect keeping to the decisions taken by the General Council at Oslo in 1938, was carried by 60 votes to five. In 1938 the Council voted, after two days' debate, that the far-reaching Russian terms for affiliation should be rejected, and that having regard to the internal conditions in Russia negotiations should not be resumed.

GERMAN-SWISS ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS.

It is reported from Berne that the German-Swiss economic negotiations which began last winter and were twice interrupted, have ended. The existing commercial agreement has been extended for another period of one year, and meanwhile certain details concerning tariffs and German-Swiss transfers will be reconsidered.

SWISS DRAMA PRIZE.

In the competition for the Scheller Foundation Prize, which is awarded every three years to the Swiss author of the best play written during the previous three years, eighty-nine manuscripts were submitted from sixty-nine authors: sixty in German, twenty-seven in French, one in Italian, and one in Romansch. "Sixth Floor," by the Lausanne author, Alfred Gehri, was awarded the prize of 3,000 francs.

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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TEN THOUSAND REFUGEES IN SWITZERLAND.

There are 10,000 refugees, mostly Jewish, in Switzerland. 3,000 of them are without means, and are entirely dependent on Jewish charitable organisations. The resources of these organisations are rapidly decreasing.

BRITISH RAILWAY QUEEN.

Miss Helen Forrest, the British Railway Queen, arrived at Zurich, and was welcomed by the Mayor of Zurich, to whom she brought a message from the Lord Provost of Glasgow.

She received as a present from the city a hand-carved and hand-painted model of a linen chest.

The railways and the railway trade union presented her with a gold ring as a symbol of good relations between British and Swiss railways.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The balloon "Louis Wolgroth" belonging to the Zurich section of the Swiss Aero Club was burnt on its maiden flight, on landing it came in touch with overhead electric cables.

The pilot and the three passengers escaped without injuries.

M. Volkmar Andreae, the famous Swiss composer and conductor, has celebrated his 60th birthday.

BERNE.

Dr. Rudolf Zeller, Professor of Geography at the University of Berne, and Vice-Director of the Historical Museum in Berne, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

BASLE.

Dr. Fr. Fichter, since 1903 Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

Professor Fichter is one of Switzerland's foremost scientists, and he has represented our country on a number of International Congresses with great distinction.

He is a doctor honoris causa of the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich, and an officer of the Légion d'Honneur.

ST. GALL.

The twenty years old Erwin Bürkli, member of the St. Gall section of the Swiss Alpine Club, was killed when ascending the Ringelspitze (3251 m.), he fell 1,000 feet down onto the Glaser glacier.

GRISONS.

The death is reported from Andeer of Abraham Conrad, a former member of the Grand Council and President of the "Verkehrsverein des Hinterheitals" at the age of 74.

TICINO.

National Councillor Dollfus, from Lugano, has given an amount of 100,000frs. to the "Pro Infirmis," a Fund created for helping children under twenty in the canton of Ticino, in remembrance of his son who was killed in an accident last May.

SWISS VICTORY AT HENLEY.

The Zurich R.C. has won the Stewards' Challenge Cup at the Centenary Henley Regatta, against the Oriel College, Oxford team.

Oriel started off at 10, 20 and 40 to Zurich's 10, 20 and 39, and the crews raced level up the Island. Then Zurich began to go away fast, had two-thirds of a length at the 1/2-mile, were clear by the Barrier in 2.16, and had 1 1/4 lengths at the half-mile.

Hodgson then made a good effort, and, being well backed up, was gaining past Fawley, 3.50, and had reduced the Swiss crew's lead to 1 1/4 lengths at the 3/4-mile. Past Remenham Club the Swiss crew began to go away again, had two lengths at the Mile, and won comfortably by four lengths in the good time, considering the conditions, of 8 min. 9 sec.

To rowing men all over the world Henley Royal Regatta, stands for everything which is characteristic in their sport. It is the ambition of every rowing club to send a crew to Henley, not only because a victory in the Royal Regatta confers a distinction which can be achieved in no other way, but because of the opportunity it gives to see English amateur sport at its delightful best. During these hundred years Henley Regatta has become the great annual festival of English rowing. The keenness of the rivalry between the various schools, colleges and clubs, and the strenuousness of the racing, have not prevented it from becoming a kind of family picnic at which oarsmen from all over the country meet in good-fellowship. This good-fellowship has always embraced the visiting crews.

Whether they have come from the Dominions or the United States or other countries they have been sure of a hospitable welcome, and have taken away and left behind them many happy memories.

International sport has not always tended to promote international friendship, but at Henley nothing except good has come from the admission of oarsmen from abroad to compete in the classic events of the Regatta. The sportsmanship characteristic of amateur rowing has been proof against the narrow chauvinism which regards it as patriotic to begrudge a foreign victory earned by superior skill or by longer or more strenuous training. In fact, some of the most popular and the most enthusiastically admired victors at Henley have come from abroad — such as, to mention only a few, the Belgians in 1906 and 1907, the Swiss in 1935 and 1936.

Perhaps the outstanding foreign crews of post-War years, however, were the Zurich Rowing Club Four, which won the Stewards' Cup in 1935 and 1936, and their Eight which won the Grand Challenge Cup in 1936. These were very fine crews, powerful, well together, with a fine beginning, and, what is far too rare in modern English crews, a fine finish.

It was in 1921 that the present Emperor of Japan, then Crown Prince, on seeing the Grand Challenge Cup at Magdalen College, Oxford, was so impressed by its story that he announced his intention of getting rowing developed at Tokio University to a standard that would enable them to send a worthy crew to compete for it. The crew came to Marlow in 1936, rowed 50 to 54 strokes to the minute, and the effect was that of a jiu-jitsu expert on old time wrestlers. They were rigged perfectly in accordance with their stature and won their first race with the greatest ease. But at Henley good big ones were to prove too much for good little ones. In the end Zurich, rowing their hardest from start to finish, left nothing to chance and beat the Japanese by six lengths.

OUR OWN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

We all know how happy we are when we receive a present which we have been wanting for years. This is what most of us feel now that we are going to have an official National Day Celebration in London. I am sure we shall all make the most of it. St. Pancras Town Hall is an attractive meeting place and easily reached. You will find all the details on the enclosed leaflet. But I should like to remind you to get your free tickets in good time and to tell all your Swiss friends — especially those who perhaps cannot afford to take the Swiss Observer — to come along. It will be truly Swiss — you can listen to our four national languages and sing many homely tunes. You can all come along without having to buy a special frock or a new tie for the occasion. It's the spirit that counts and the good will to show that we are as truly and sincerely Swiss as our compatriots at home. At the present times we have to stand together and where can we show better that we are still "one for all, all for one" than when commemorating the foundation of our beloved Switzerland.

One more word to those who own or could get a national costume. Do put it on for this occasion. They are very beautiful, our Swiss costumes and will never be more appropriate than on Tuesday fortnight at St. Pancras Town Hall.

Mariam.

CONCERT NEWS.

MARGUERITE ROSSET'S ENGLISH DEBUT.

At the invitation of the Music Board of the London Lyceum Club, Marguerite Rosset, a Swiss singer, gave a short recital — her first in England — in the club's common room, accompanied by Louise Summer. Mme. Rosset is an artist of some distinction. Her voice has the true soprano timbre and also a full soprano range, since its higher register is reached without apparent effort.

Her tastes are catholic enough. Opera she has avoided so far; but her programme included examples of music from Belgium, Germany, France, Czechoslovakia, America and Spain, and she gave equally sympathetic interpretations of songs as different in texture and character as Dvorak's "Songs my mother taught me" and the "Air de l'Archange" from Franck's "Rédemption." Mozart's "Alleluja" showed how agile Mme. Rosset's voice can be. But her most completely satisfactory contribution was Duparc's "Chanson Triste"; its passionate expression was conveyed in a way that was devoid of all exaggeration but nevertheless profoundly moving.

F. B.

1st OF AUGUST SERVICE.

A 1st of August catholic service will be held at the Church of St. Peter and St. Edward, 43, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Sunday, July 30th, 11 o'clock by the Rev. A. Lanfranchi.

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