

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1922)

Heft: 65

Rubrik: Home news

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Download PDF: 02.04.2025

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It is estimated that this year's table fruit crop from the whole of Switzerland will yield a surplus of 8,000 waggons for export, while the harvest of apples and pears for cider-making will exceed the needs of the home market by 15,000 waggons.

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The seemingly ever-open farmyard cesspools have claimed two further child victims: in Thunstetten a little boy aged two, and in Bütschwil a girl of four years.

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In a fit of frenzy Fulgenzio Borla (35), a peasant of Medeglia (Tessin), murdered three of his young children in their sleep by cutting their throats with a razor. He then took a rifle and killed his uncle, afterwards turning the weapon upon himself and inflicting a serious head wound. Two other of his children escaped the murderer's hand, one of them by taking to flight, and the other through having been taken in by neighbours to sleep.

Borla, who has been a widower for about two years, has always been an industrious worker, but for some time past has shown signs of mental derangement, due, it is stated, to the refusal of his sister-in-law to become his wife. When charged with the crime, he declared that his intention was to reduce the number of his children, whom he considered the obstacle to his marriage plans.

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The *St. Galler Tagblatt* is pointedly reminded by the Zürich Press that it shows little neighbourly love and much thinly veiled egoism by publishing in its columns the following criticism shortly after St. Gall herself had, with much ostentation, courted the presence of Federal Councillors on the occasion of the recent Federal Gymnastic Festival:—

“Zwei Herren Bundesräte werden als Vertreter entsandt an das demnächstige internationale Flugmeeting in Zürich. Ohne Anwesenheit von Bundesräten, ersichtlich, geht es einfach nicht mehr. Jegliches Ding muss offiziell sein, und ganz und gar offiziell ist es erst, wenn ein Bundesrat dabei ist, mindestens einer, besser zwei. Dann gibt es das Höchste: einen offiziellen Tag. Uns erbarmen diese abgehetzten Wanderleute, die von Fest zu Fest, von Tagung zu Tagung ziehen und sprechen, sprechen, sprechen. Sie haben sicher sonst schon gar viel zu tun — die Zeiten sind darnach —; sind sie als Dekorationsstücke an allen Ecken und Enden tatsächlich unerlässlich? Ist es für das Vaterland nötig? Für die internationale Welt? Oder ist man ganz einfach in einen Unfug und in eine modische Maschinerie hineingeraten? . . .”

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The final accounts of the 23rd Eidgenössische Sängerkonst, which was held in Lucerne, show a net profit of 153,000 frs.

Of this amount 10,000 frs. have been allocated for special prizes of honour for the next Federal Glee Festival, and 18,000 frs. have been distributed as bonuses to societies and persons whose services merited special recognition.

The newly founded Orchestergesellschaft receives a subsidy of 15,000 frs.; 20,000 frs. will be handed over to benevolent institutions, while the residue of 90,000 frs. is shared in equal amounts of 30,000 frs. by the three Lucerne societies who bore the financial risks and contributed to the organisation of this successful festival.

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Alpinism.

The Swiss Alpine Club, which will hold its annual General Meeting on September 2nd and 3rd at Zermatt, is now composed of 76 sections, with a total members' roll of 21,695.

The severe economic crisis has also impressed its mark on this splendid organisation, resignations from the

club attaining an unprecedentedly high number, while new admissions only registered 224 during the past year.

A brighter aspect, however, is shewn by the financial accounts for 1921, the revenue of 184,961 frs. being in excess of the expenditure by 8,609 frs., whereas 1920 showed a clear loss of 44,857 frs.

Worthy of particular mention is the effort of the Swiss Alpine Club to recruit and maintain an efficient and thoroughly reliable corps of 700 alpine guides, towards whose accident insurance premiums the S.A.C. alone contributes nearly 50%. Splendid service has been rendered by these devoted and fearless champions of the mountains to many an alpinist in danger and distress, fully justifying the financial sacrifices which are made on their behalf and amply vindicating the trust which is reposed in these gallant men.

The 89 huts of the Swiss Alpine Club gave shelter to 44,233 climbers during the year 1921, 36% of whom were S.A.C. members.

In the Grison and Tessin Alps the S.A.C. have erected and maintain 26 of these welcome refuges, in the Bernese Alps 22, in the Valais Alps 17, the Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden Alps 14, and in the Glarus, Appenzell and St. Gall Alps 10.

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OBITUARY.

The Swiss Hotel world has sustained a serious loss through the death of Mr. J. V. Dietschy, the owner of the Salinenhotel-im-Park, Rheinfelden, who succumbed to an insidious cancer disease in his 75th year.

The development of Rheinfelden as a curative bathing resort is largely due to his initiative and enterprise, which development he directed most disinterestedly for over 40 years. The deceased did not, however, localise his efforts to Rheinfelden; he took a leading part in the furtherance and perfecting of the Swiss hotel industry in general and he was the prime mover in promoting a combined effort to effectively propagate Swiss health and bathing resorts far beyond Switzerland's borders. This effort culminated in the publication of an extremely useful and well edited work, which appeared in the Dutch, English and French languages, dealing informatively with Swiss watering places and rendering useful guidance to the medical profession abroad.

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Ex-Grand Councillor M. Adolf Boss, director of the Hotel Adler in Grindelwald, died last week at the age of 73.

He was the last survivor of the nine brothers of the well-known Boss family of the Grindelwald “Bären.”

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

La fresque de Bieler à l'hôtel de ville du Locle.—Hier, jeudi 17 août, un étrange branle-bas se faisait sur les échafaudages dressés contre la façade est de l'Hôtel de Ville du Locle. Un sapinet, tout enguirlandé de serpentins, apparaissait bientôt sur l'immense toit. Des éclats de voix joyeux s'entendirent, et bientôt le sympathique claquement d'un bouchon hors du col épais d'une bouteille: Ernest Bieler, et ses quatre aides, fêtaient l'achèvement d'une fresque immense, — la plus grande de Suisse sur une seule muraille, — commencée le 27 juin, et menée avec tant de hardiesse, de sûreté et de joie que six semaines plus tard on l'inaugurait, ainsi, modestement.

L'Hôtel de Ville du Locle, commencé avant la guerre, n'a pu être achevé selon les plans primitifs, fort luxueux, que grâce à l'opiniâtreté et au civisme de la petite cité. C'est un vaste bâtiment qui rappelle un peu l'Hôtel de Ville de Lucerne: façades inspirées de la Renaissance et surmontées d'un vaste toit paysan. N'était une flèche, il s'harmoniserait assez bien à l'architecture ambiante.