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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

In the Swiss Federal Budget for 1923 revenue is estimated at fr. 430,730,000, and expenditure at fr. 511,510,000, with a probable excess of expenditure of fr. 80,780,000. The budget for 1922 showed a deficit of fr. 99,400,000, while in 1921 the deficit reached the figure of fr. 127,571,870.

The estimate of Customs revenue for 1923 totals fr. 145,200,000, comparing favourably with the fr. 130,200,000 of 1922. Postal and Railway revenue is anticipated to amount to fr. 203,373,649 (for 1922 this was fr. 210,945,685).

Estimates for expenditure include interest on the national debt rated at fr. 114,624,000 (as against fr. 113,498,005 in 1922) and also includes the Political Department for fr. 6,829,413 (fr. 6,662,922 in 1922). Of the latter sum fr. 2,814,085 is allotted to legations, fr. 1,744,928 to consulates, fr. 440,000 to the League of Nations, and fr. 600,000 in aid of incapacitated Swiss citizens returned home from abroad (fr. 300,000 in 1922).

The development of education, science and art will cost the Confederation fr. 7,547,406; forestry, fishing and hunting fr. 3,892,852; hygiene fr. 1,362,164.

The estimate for military expenditure amounts to fr. 78,895,693 (fr. 80,930,107), of which fr. 17,408,562 is devoted to equipment, the remainder to be allotted to military instruction.

The total estimates for the Department of Political Economy will absorb fr. 37,601,286 (fr. 36,208,877).

To-day and to-morrow the joint elections will take place in Switzerland for the National and State Councils.

Since the proposal to exact a capital levy was first discussed in the National Council a month ago, though the voting for this measure only takes place on the 2nd and 3rd December and its adoption is considered unlikely, an exodus of capital has already taken place, the sale of securities causing an all-round drop on the Swiss Stock Exchanges of 10% to 15%. According to a calculation made by the Swiss National Bank this fall corresponds to an aggregate loss to Swiss investors of one milliard francs. The Swiss franc is approaching par value, and in some circles it is expected that before long it may temporarily exceed 25. The effect on trade is already being felt and will no doubt result in a very considerable increase of unemployment.

The "Semaine Suisse," with its motto *Homage au travail national*, is now being held for the sixth time. This somewhat lengthy "week" extends from 21st October to 4th November, and during this period all shops in Switzerland are expected to display only goods of Swiss manufacture or the products of national art. An appeal is issued to the people to buy only national products throughout the "Semaine," thus showing the most effective way of assisting the unemployed.

The subsidy granted by the Federal Government to the watch industry in Switzerland has been the subject of representations by watch interests in the Franche-Comté, who state that they have been hard hit by this subsidized Swiss competition and demand that the Ministry of Commerce in Paris should take counter measures.

Special measures are under discussion by the Federal authorities to cope with the crisis created by the conditions of the wine market this year, following an exceptionally abundant harvest.

Nearly 18,000,000 gallons of Swiss wine have been produced, and prices are coming down.

It was proposed that the greater part of the harvest should be taken over by the wine dealers and that the rest should be stored. The requisition of wine cellars and wine barrels by the Federal authorities was also discussed, and finally it was decided to form a special commission representing all the interests concerned to further examine the whole situation.

Owing to a printers' dispute, the *Basler Anzeiger* and the *Reformierte Schweizer Zeitung*, two papers published at Basle, did not appear for the reason that the staff refused to set up and print an article dealing with the dispute in the Swiss printing trade, although liberty was given them to submit their point of view for publication as a reply.

A lively debate took place on Saturday last during a sitting of the Commission for the regulation of the International Labour Conference, when M. Jouhaux, a French labour delegate, proposed to add German to the two official languages—French and English—already adopted by the Conference. The delegates of the other Great Powers, jealous of this prerogative, advocated the adoption of their respective languages, and in a short time Spanish, Italian, the Slav languages, even Hindustani and Esperanto were proposed, backed by eloquent arguments, as additions to English, French and German. A repetition of the confusion of the Tower of Babel was already anticipated by the dismayed workmen's delegates, when the voting fortunately showed a majority against the motion.

We Swiss may consider our reputation as linguists reasonably justified, but even our own delegates must have heaved a sigh of relief that their recognised capacities were spared so severe a test.

## OBITUARY.

Colonel Hermann Schlatter has succumbed, at the age of 77, to a cardiac affection at St. Gall. Col. Schlatter was a prominent citizen of St. Gall, where he held responsible posts in cantonal state affairs and in the commercial world. His record as an officer was distinguished, and he had travelled widely. He has described his ride to Rome and his journeys through Egypt and Palestine in two interesting volumes. He presided for a long time, at the height of its prosperity, over the Central Association of the Machine Embroidery Industry of St. Gall.

Mr. Albert Borer, the Director of the Swiss Isola Works, died suddenly of apoplexy on the 19th October at Breitenbach. Mr. Borer was born in 1875, and equipped with only an elementary education, he made his way by sheer force of character and hard work to the directorship of the Isola Works, Breitenbach, which he created and led to prosperity, employing over 300 workmen. The story of Albert Borer's life reads like a romance of endurance and energy, and his untimely end will be widely deplored.

## A LEAGUE OF NATIONS EXHIBITION.

A most interesting International Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts will be held at St. Albans from the 6th to 14th November under the auspices of the League of Nations Union.

Fifty-two nations (all members of the League) will send examples of their home industries to be exhibited in national pavilions. Switzerland, the home of the League, will have her pavilion decorated with Swiss flags and cantonal coats of arms. Swiss paintings will be shown, and arrangements are being made to exhibit a fine collection of the beautiful lace made by the Trêfle of Geneva. These will be for sale, and interesting Swiss literature will be provided for distribution.

It is hoped that Swiss ladies resident here will largely attend this Exhibition and patronize the sales on the Swiss stand, especially the Trêfle of Geneva, not only to acquire the beautiful lace, but also to support the admirable charitable work this represents.

The programme is so varied that it is impossible to give it in detail; contributions to the Art section will come from most of the countries of Europe, America and Asia. Lectures, Readings and "Mystery Plays" will be given, and the lighter side of the programme comprises music and dancing.

## A WARNING.

There are, unfortunately, several cases where Swiss who have obtained a limited English visa on their passports for the purpose of pursuing their studies here, have subsequently accepted employment without informing the English authorities and obtaining the necessary extension to stay. The police have, these last few days, visited some of the large City houses who are known to employ a considerable number of our nationals, and have insisted on the production of their respective passports; needless to say, those not in possession of the official permit will have to suffer for their inattention to the English regulations.

## HERE AND THERE.

By J. H. Conthey.

While London's sky has come back to its own grey tint and overcoats have reappeared, as a wintry indication, politics have suddenly forced themselves upon the people. The long-threatened storm over Coalition has broken in a flash in Carlton House with a devastating effect on that political party, which has for many years ruled not only British destinies, but affected Continental ones. For the moment Mr. Bonar Law has taken Mr. Lloyd George's chair, and the world is awaiting impatiently the chain of events, with the hope that out of it a panacea will be produced for the cure of all worldly ills. This wonderful medicine may be discovered any day, for do we not live in the age of miracles?

The elixir of life, which—like the philosopher's stone, perpetual motion, and other "impossible" problems, the solution of which has so long captivated man's attention—has at last been bestowed upon him. This is not a joke or something of the like nature to give journalists a subject to dwell on, wittily or otherwise, but it is a simple reality. Nor is it a consequence to be feared that, because monkey glands are used in the process, monkey tricks are sure to follow. Yet, however incredulous one might be of the fact that old men can be made young again—and it must be admitted that a certain mental effort is required to realize this—such a feasibility is amply proved, for several Harley Street specialists gathered one afternoon last week in a flat in Baker Street, W., to prod and punch the seventy-six-year-old Mr. Liardet, the Englishman on whom Dr. Voronoff grafted monkey glands—gratuitously, as an experiment. And, says the *Daily Express*—

"Mr. Liardet like I! Old men hate being punched suddenly in the back, but as some unknown monkey has given him at least thirty years of his life back, he treated it just like any other young fellow would have done, and even punched them back!"

"Do I look seventy-six years old?" he cried fiercely to a spectacled old man of thirty-five who timidly asked him if he really felt fit.

"N-no! You look about forty!" cried the other, retreating. But he was not allowed to escape. Mr. Liardet caught him by the shoulder and grasped his hand with the enthusiasm of an orange-ouang.

"How's that grip for a man of seventy-six!"

The poor old man of thirty-five said it was colossal and went round showing his white, crushed hand to the other visitors.

Before he met monkey glands Mr. Liardet stated that he could not walk without a stick. Two months after he was skipping about like a lamb, and even dancing.

The specialists who accepted Mr. Liardet's invitation to feel his arms and his legs looked at each other over their glasses and said, "Marvellous!"

Miracles! Not so long ago we heard constantly that "man is not made to fly. It is against nature to do so!"—as so many attempts had been made and all of them had ended disastrously. But with the advent of the internal combustion engine the saying that "this factor alone had made flying possible" is proved as erroneous as "man is not made to fly," and, wonder of wonders, M. Maneyrol's engineless monoplane that won him the *Daily Mail* first prize of £1,000 in a flight of 3 hours and 22 minutes, was of a design dating 40 years back, that is, long before the practical existence of the oil internal combustion engine. Well may one ask what could have been the cause of the delay in bringing to light an invention of such practical value? Probably the same old story of the man who knows and has not the means, and of the man who has the means but does not know or believe.

The scene of a man flying downwards towards the spectators to ask the time, as he could not see it on his watch, is unique. Not once did he do so, but several times. He had to remain in the air long enough to beat the record of 3 hours 10 minutes set up by Herr Hentzen.

Gliding with ease, down and up again, moving along as if carried by a wave, keeping this up for hours, even in rain, he landed about 100 yards from the starting point.

And what may be the cost of a gliding machine? One of them, which stayed up an hour, a R.A.F., caused an expense of 18s. 6d., or much below that of a bicycle!

And again it is said that soaring causes no feeling of danger—just sheer pleasure and an unqualified opportunity for tasting the joy of living!

Another miracle—

Persons who have suddenly dropped through the air with a rope round their necks, otherwise been hanged, and whose life, it has been attested

by the best authorities, becomes instantaneously extinct, "can now be brought back to life if the endeavour is made shortly after execution." This assertion was made by Dr. A. Godman Levy, in the course of a discussion on the subject of "cardiac massage" at the Medico-Legal Society. A certain number of the "patients" who were experimented upon did recover after massage of the heart, and survived a few days, but their death was due to causes other than the massage.

But as the above subject, although most interesting, is not of a particularly palatable nature, let us talk about the Dairy Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall, which has caused a meeting of 500 beautiful golden-brown cows and as many farmers.

If any country understands cheese, it is surely Switzerland, but it is quite possible that very few of the *fromages* of the Alps have ever heard of the opinion of a British farmer exhibitor regarding his best cheese—the cheese that "smells like violets"—A miracle.

\* \* \*

There is a way to help the accomplishment of miracles, one variety of these being the happy union of old maids to persons of the male sex, and a lesson in marriage promotion can be taken from a newly formed society in Paris.

The members of this society wear a green silk ribbon under the lapel of their coat or fold of their blouse. If they meet a nice young man in restaurant, train or street who shows marked interest, they turn back back the lapel and show the ribbon colour of hope. This equals to a notice declaring that its wearer desires a further acquaintance, but, of course, of honourable intent. "I am free, are you too?" The Paris papers state that this novel method of introducing to each other two young people, perhaps suffering from shyness, has already given excellent results.

The young women hope that the young men will follow their example and give them a similar outward sign of their honourable intentions.

## LA NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. GROUPE LONDONNIEN.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
on Wednesday, October 19th.  
(Communicated.)

1. There were no admissions to be recorded, but there were three resignations. The Treasurer's report was agreed to.

2. Heartly congratulations were tendered to Messrs. Despond and Suter for their successful arranging of the dinner at Paganini's, which resulted in there being no deficit.

3. The President read a letter of thanks from the French Secretary of the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Étranger for our telegram to the General Assembly of the N.S.H. at Schinznach.

4. The fortnightly paper, "Heimat," having asked the Groups abroad to make it known amongst their members in order to increase its circulation, it was agreed that, owing to our present situation, we could do no more than let our members know that this very interesting review could be consulted at our Secretariat.

5. Some literature concerning the "Semaine Suisse," which we received from the Secretary of this organisation, was distributed.

6. A letter from Mr. Borsinger, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, informed us that the Swiss Legation will make the necessary arrangements to represent Switzerland at the coming Exhibition of the League of Nations Union at St. Albans.

It was agreed that the Committee should be charged to appoint suitable members to the Swiss Sub-Committee of the League of Nations Union which is about to be formed again.

7. Some discussion arose with regard to the circular and ballot paper sent out to the members. It was agreed that an amendment to our rules should be put on the Agenda for the next Annual General Meeting which should declare that members who had not paid their contribution by the end of March of each year should lose their membership.

8. A member having drawn the attention of the Secretary to the fact that at a certain college in London a series of lectures were being given about the influences of other nations on English history, but that amongst this group of nations Switzerland was not to be found, the Secretary was asked to enquire into the matter and see what he could do in it.

9. According to a decision taken at the last Council Meeting that the Secretary should at each subsequent Meeting speak on some matter of national importance, he presented after having given a few details about his press activity during the last fortnight, a commentary on the letter by Monsieur Louis Aguet, President of the Buenos Ayres Group, which was published in the September number of the "Echo Suisse." This article raised the very important point of double nationality and also of the Matriculation Card for Swiss Abroad. It even went so far as to state:

"Si ce règlement a force de loi, il doit être égal pour tout le monde. Si c'est un règlement arbitraire, les Suisses à l'étranger ne devraient pas s'y prêter. Tout au plus aurait-on pu prier les Suisses à l'étranger de se faire immatriculer une fois pour toutes, mais non pas chaque année. Le règlement concernant la carte-matricule, tel qu'il a été conçu, n'a pas donné et ne donnera jamais des résultats satisfaisants et sera toujours la source de froissements entre les membres de beaucoup de colonies et les légations et les consulats et l'on arrivera à les considérer comme des bêtes noires, mises là pour ennuyer tout le monde et pour percevoir des taxes que les gens estiment ne pas devoir. Cette taxe matricule a pour effet d'éloigner les Suisses de la Mère-Patrie et de pousser certaines personnes, n'ayant presque plus d'attaches en Suisse à se faire comme représentées, naturaliser argentines. C'est donc un règlement consulaire absolument nuisible aux intérêts de la Suisse en Argentine et je crois avoir

entendu qu'aux Etats-Unis il a été reçu avec beaucoup plus de mauvaise humeur encore qu'ici.

"En qualité de Suisse de la IVe Suisse, ayant vécu presque toujours à l'étranger (je connais 6 pays en Europe et 18 républiques en Amérique, sans compter quelques pays d'Afrique) et comme fondateur des trois Groupes de la N.S.H.: Chili, Argentine, et Pérou, et comme Suisse, aimant son pays, j'ai toujours recherché tout ce qui peut rattacher les Suisses de la IVe Suisse à la Mère-Patrie et j'ai toujours été l'ennemi juré de tout ce qui sépare les Suisses, au lieu de les rapprocher."

In the discussion which followed the question of the Matriculation Card came in for a good deal of comment, and the representative of one of the Swiss Societies in London gave several instances showing how unpopular this tax is in certain parts of the London Colony, expressing just what Monsieur Aguet said about the feeling in Buenos Ayres. The fact that consular regulations enforcing this matriculation have been elaborated in Berne and put into force without the Swiss abroad having been consulted in the matter was also very strongly deplored. The view was expressed that it would not be possible for a passport to be withheld on the ground of the Matriculation Card or the Military Tax not having been paid, and that it would be interesting to have a ruling of the Supreme Court on a concrete issue of this kind. As, however, the London Group of the N.S.H. cannot pretend to express the views of the whole Colony in a matter of such importance, it was suggested that the question should be referred to the Editor of "The Swiss Observer," who, it was not doubted, would open his columns to his readers so that they might express their views on this subject. Accordingly the Secretary was instructed to convey the matter to this quarter. The question will be taken up at the next Council Meeting, when it is felt we shall all be in a better position to tackle it, as we shall probably by then be better informed on the Colony's views.

It was clearly stated, however, that this discussion should not be considered as being directed in any way against the Swiss Legation, with which our relations are of the very best, as it is quite natural that the Legation should carry out the instructions sent from the Political Department in Berne.

In this connection it was also pointed out that the proceeds from the Matriculation Card have not been satisfactory. While in the Federal Budget for 1921 this tax was anticipated to bring in 125,000 francs, it is anticipated that for 1922 it will only bring in 36,000 francs. This shows how unpopular the tax is and explains why, as stated in the course of the discussion, so many Swiss abroad, who used to look upon their Legation as a centre of advice and support, now give it as wide a berth as possible, this Matriculation having turned it into a kind of tax-collecting institution.

10. It was agreed that the Secretary should report to the next Council Meeting on the Fascist movement and its reflection on Switzerland.

Dr. PAUL LANG, Secretary.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

HOW THE SWISS IN ENGLAND CAN HELP  
THEIR NATIVE COUNTRY.

Sir,—The very fact of the publication of this paper demonstrates the large number of Swiss who live in England. Even those who have permanently settled here still have a great affection for their native country, as can be seen by the large numbers who, when opportunity offers, come back for a holiday.

Now, Sir, it has occurred to me if only a few of these loyal Swiss, scattered all over this country, and occupied in most various ways, would agree to give a helping hand in propaganda work for Swiss Travel, they would materially assist in the re-establishment of Swiss prosperity.

I would suggest that hotel managers, shopkeepers and those in business offices should, if willing, display a small and attractive poster, giving particulars and costs of a visit to Switzerland which can now be adapted to all purposes. Many of our countrymen could from personal knowledge amplify the information and awaken a wish to travel in those who saw the poster.

Should this proposal meet with the approval of your readers I should be happy to discuss the matter further in your columns, if you would allow me, and would gladly arrange with the Swiss authorities for the printing of the poster, the supply of free booklets and all other details.

We Swiss know that Switzerland is the most satisfactory proposition in Europe as a holiday resort, and with the increasing rise of the English exchange and the reduced costs in Switzerland it is daily becoming cheaper for people from this country.

Klosters, 22nd October, 1922. L. MEISSER.

## A LECTURE ON SWITZERLAND at the University of London.

Our compatriot, Professor Eugène Borel, the President of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal in London, will give a Lecture on—

### "THE POSITION OF SWITZERLAND IN INTERNATIONAL LAW"

at the London School of Economics and Political Science in Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C. 2, on Monday, November 6th, at 5 p.m.

This lecture is free to the public, and no ticket is required for admission.

The lecture should prove of the greatest interest to Swiss citizens, as will be seen from the syllabus below:—

#### SYLLABUS.

Switzerland first a League of States. — Inter-State Arbitration. — The Laws of Warfare as practised by the Swiss Troops in the Middle Ages. — The 'condominium' on conquered countries and the protection of minorities. — The Swiss neutrality and its influence on the stabilisation of the rules of neutrality in International Law. — The actual status of Switzerland in the League of Nations. — The Swiss contribution to the progress of International Law.

The Chair will be taken by  
THE RIGHT HON. LORD PHILLIMORE, P.C.  
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