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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The official report on the murder of Vorowski formed the subject of a discussion and interpellation by the Communists in the National Council. Mr. Motta explained and justified the attitude of the Federal Council, whose policy towards the Soviet Government was subsequently endorsed by the House by 93 votes to 5.

An economic boycott is reported to have been decreed by the Soviet Government against Swiss trade in general and our few compatriots still staying in Russia in particular.

According to statements made by National Councillor Gelpke, no less than 100,000 Swiss have left their home country in the five years from 1918 to 1922, resulting in a yearly loss of 18,000 army conscripts; he draws attention to the serious consequences of this high emigration figure, especially in view of the increasing number of foreigners who find employment in Switzerland.

Col. div. Heinrich Roost has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Swiss Army, in place of Col. Sonderegger, who resigned a few weeks ago. Born in 1872 in Beringen (Schaffhausen), Oberstdivisionär Roost was for a number of years instructor to the infantry; during the last years of the war he acted as Chief of Staff of the Sixth Division, and in 1920 advanced to the post of *chef d'armes* of infantry (Waffenchef). He has always taken a great interest in physical training, strongly advocating the adoption of English methods in sports and athletics.

Dr. Robert Forrer (St. Gall) has been appointed a representative at the League of Nations, in place of Dr. Usteri, who resigned some time ago. The Swiss delegation now consists, therefore, of Federal Councillor Motta, as leader, Mr. G. Ador, and Dr. Forrer.

By a moderate majority the voters in the canton of Grisons have ratified the new law, opening temporarily a few roads to motor traffic.

At a congress held in Berne of delegates of the organised railway workers, spirited protests were lodged against the proposed increase in working hours and reduction of holidays; the Federation will refuse to enter into negotiations with the management of the Swiss Federal Railways on this intended return to pre-war conditions.

The fourth centenary of the union of Riehen (situate on the German side of the Rhine) and Basle was celebrated last Sunday; the festivities included a historic play, specially written by Red. Albert Oeri, with music by Dr. Hermann Suter.

The recent elections for the Basle Grosse Rat have formed the subject of an enquiry by the criminal court, which has established the fact that, influenced by personal antagonism, the name of one particular candidate was at two polling stations erased after the voting slips had been deposited; one of the officials concerned was condemned to two months' imprisonment, but appealed against the sentence.

The late Mr. Burckhardt-Burckhardt, of Basle, has bequeathed to the Society of Public Utility an amount of Frs. 200,000, the income from which is to be used for the benefit of orphan and destitute children.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Ein lustiges Stücklein spielte sich jüngst in einem bernerischen Dorfe ab. Der Ortspolizist ging mit der Schelle in der Hand durchs Dorf und rief aus: "Die Leute, die dieses Jahr Kinder haben wollen, wollen sich beim Ortsvorsteher melden, der besorgt das." Der Hüter des Gesetzes meinte allerdings "Stadtkinder," die aufs Land zur Erholung kommen sollen. ("Neue Aargauer Zeitung.")

Ein neumodiger Kantonsrat ist im neuen Zürcher Parlament aufgetaucht, ein Jungelchen, das seine Jugendlichkeit noch extra mit einem mächtigen Schilberkragen hervorzuheben für gut findet. Heute ver-

nimmt man über dieses Bürschchen folgendes Nähere: Die Ehre, diesen Kommunisten in den Kantonsrat zu senden, fällt der Gemeinde Wädenswil zu. Er nennt sich Reichert und ist natürlich ein Deutscher. Als er 18 Jahre alt war, im Anfang des Krieges, sollte er nach Deutschland in den Krieg einrücken, zog es aber vor, um das Bürgerrecht in Wädenswil einzukommen. Er ist von Beruf gelernter Spengler, arbeitete zuletzt in der Metallwarenfabrik Deco in Küssnacht, ist aber seit zwei Jahren arbeitslos und bezog die Arbeitslosenunterstützung. Er arbeitete auch im Strassenreinigungswesen, was sich aber für ihn als zu streng erwiesen habe. ("Nidwaldner Volksblatt.")

**Eine interessante Rechtsfrage.**—Der Bundesrat hatte sich mit einer Einbürgerungsfrage zu befassen, die nicht ohne Interesse ist. Der Tatbestand ist folgender: Eine Graubündnerin hatte der Rache nach drei Männer geheiratet und war drei Mal Witwe geworden. Sie wurde dadurch nacheinander Aargauerin, Zürcherin und Reichsdeutsche. Als ihr letzter Mann gestorben war, suchte sie um die Wiedererwerbungsfrage in der Schweiz nach. Welches Kantonsbürgerrecht sollte sie nun erwerben? Die Graubündner Regierung wehrte sich gegen die Verleihung des Bürgerrechtes mit der Begründung, die Frau habe das aargauische und das zürcherische Bürgerrecht erworben. Der Bundesrat hat aber entschieden, dass die Petentin ihr ursprüngliches Bürgerrecht, d. h. dasjenige Graubündens, wieder erwerben könne. ("Freie Räter.")

**L'Assemblée de la Croix-Rouge.**—La Croix-Rouge suisse, qui groupe 57 sections, avec un total de 77,248 membres, a eu, samedi et dimanche, le 16 et 17 crt., à Lausanne, Chillon et Vevey, sous la présidence du colonel Bohny, de Bâle, sa vingt-huitième assemblée annuelle de délégués.

Samedi, une soirée a eu lieu au casino de Montbenon, à Lausanne, au cours de laquelle M. le Dr. André Guisan, président de la section vaudoise, souhaita la bienvenue aux participants. Dimanche, le vapeur "Lausanne" a transporté les délégués à Chillon où a eu lieu l'assemblée. A l'unanimité, ont été approuvés le rapport et la gestion du comité central, les comptes et le budget qui prévoient un déficit de 41,790 francs. L'assemblée à élu membre de la direction, à la place du Dr. Gottlieb Schenker (Aarau), décédé, M. le conseiller national von Matt, de Stans. "La source," école évangélique de garde-malades devient "Ecole romande de garde-malades" de la Croix-Rouge. Les "Blätter für Krankenpflege" deviennent bilingues. La "Croix-Rouge" et la "Rote Kreuz" fusionnent en un organe bilingue mensuel. Un troisième organe bilingue "La Samaritaine" (Der Samaritaner) sera créé pour les samaritains. Olten a été choisie comme lieu de la vingt-neuvième assemblée.

Un déjeuner a été servi dans la grande salle du casino du Rivage, à Vevey, à l'issue duquel des discours ont été prononcés par M. le Dr. Guisan, au nom de la Croix-Rouge vaudoise; par M. Bohny, au nom de la Croix-Rouge suisse; et M. Dimicher, du Département politique, ainsi que par des orateurs locaux.

Puis le "Lausanne" a ramené les participants à Chillon. ("La Suisse.")

**Pour être porte-drapeau.**—Un fait peu banal s'est produit dernièrement à Bramosio. La fanfare du village, la "Laurentia" avait à pourvoir le poste de porte-drapeau devenu vacant. Or, ce titre est si recherché que la société de musique décida de conférer cette dignité au candidat qui offrirait la plus forte somme. Le nouveau titulaire a obtenu la charge pour le prix de 290 frs. Et cela pour deux ans seulement! C'est bien le cas de dire que nous vivons au temps des inventions et des surprises! ("Journal et Feuille d'Avis.")

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

### Swiss Agricultural Revival.

*The Times* (19th June):—

After leaving agriculture for trade and industry, the Swiss population is steadily returning to the land.

This is clearly shown by the statistics published by the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung." In the central Cantons of Switzerland, for instance, the number of agricultural undertakings has in ten years increased from 51,186 to 59,173; an increase is registered in all of these Cantons, except in Canton Glarus. The number of inhabitants living on agriculture has at the same time increased from 127,131 to 137,677 in these Cantons.

Between 1910 and 1920 the number of agricultural undertakings in the whole of Switzerland increased by 3,985, and there was an increase of 1,877 in trade and transport firms. During the same period the number of industrial undertakings decreased by 21,868, a decrease which was mainly caused by the economic crisis. This return to the land is a consequence of the high prices obtained for land products in Switzerland during the last twelve years.

### By Air to the Alps.

*Daily Express* (15th June):—

The Handley Page Company's air service between Manchester, London and Zurich will begin on July 1st. Three flights a week will be made both ways from July to September, and during the following seven months there will be one journey a week.

Londoners, after making an early breakfast, will be able to visit the Alps and return for late dinner the same day, without the trouble of Custom-house formalities.

The world is getting smaller and smaller. I wonder what will happen once atomic energy can be used? I suppose travelling will then lose its present-day meaning, because distances will be



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covered so quickly as to make a journey from, say, London to Bombay of no more importance than now attaches to a trip from Cheapside to Charing Cross! It's difficult to imagine, but it will come all the same, provided this old planet of ours defers its disintegration until mankind has solved some more of the riddles set before it. There will be, when that time has been reached, no more "Colonies" like the Swiss Colony in London.

Meanwhile the world struggles on, and we have still to grapple with all kinds of problems which, by application of atomic energy, would obviously disappear at once. Such a problem is the levelling up of Labour to a standard of living which, subject to proper adaptation to various climates and stages of civilisation, will eliminate by and by unwholesome and unfair competition. This question is one of vital importance for the well-being of mankind and for the elimination, in the first instance, of friction among Nations. The Labour Office at Geneva is dealing with this problem, and, in spite of the rather weak and ill-conceived articles in *The Evening News* and other papers of the same brand, the Labour Office really does an enormous amount of work which cannot but benefit the human family. I was pleased, therefore, to read in *The Times* (June 20th):—

The deed conveying to the League of Nations a site of nearly nine acres for the erection of the new building of the International Labour Office was signed in Geneva yesterday. The site, which lies on the shore of the Lake of Geneva not very far from the League Secretariat building, has been presented to the League by the Swiss Confederation. The International Labour Office will have to provide only for the expenses of the building itself.

### Vive le Canton de Vaud si beau!

I read in the *Dundee Evening Telegraph and Post* of June 15th:—

In the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland, over 48,000 school children are insured under a health insurance scheme approved and aided by the Government. The scheme is worked by a Cantonal Children's Health Insurance Society under a State Act. The scheme is compulsory, and the children contribute 6 francs a year; subsidies are granted by the Corporation and by the Canton, and subscriptions are accepted by the Society. All medical expenses, including medicines and hospital treatment, are defrayed by the Society. Medical attendance covers visits at the home of the insured child, operations, surgical treatment, and dressings. The number of children who were in receipt of benefit last year was 29,000, or 46 per cent of the number insured, this percentage compared with 49 per cent for the previous year. The average expenditure for the insured child decreased from 18½ francs in 1920-21 to 14½ frs. last year. The benefits from compulsory insurance are stated to be considerable. The number of children who would not have received proper medical attention has been greatly diminished. Treatment of apparently mild cases is ensured.

### "Nuisance of Passports."

*The Daily Chronicle* (June 20th):—

An agreement for the abolition of passport visas has just been concluded between this country and France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. This agreement, in our view, does not go far enough. It is high time that a beginning was made with the abolition of the obnoxious passport itself, at least as far as Allied countries are concerned. We believe that both France and Belgium would be only too willing to come to an immediate arrangement with us on these lines. Already they have mutually

agreed to forgo passports as between each other. Up to the present the Home Office has persistently refused to abolish passports, except in the case of holiday-makers spending week-ends at Channel resorts. Its attitude is based upon the wholly illusory belief that the passport is an effective device for keeping undesirable aliens out of the country, and also for protecting the labour market from the bad consequences which would follow an excessive influx of foreigners. As far as the first of these objects is concerned—the keeping out of the undesirable alien—there is no doubt that the power of the passport is ludicrously exaggerated. Dangerous characters, bent on going abroad, are not usually deterred by the lack of a legal passport. As for the second purpose which the passport is presumed to serve—the protection of the home labour market—it is extremely unlikely that any very large inflow of cheap labour from Allied countries would follow its abolition.

Concerning the last sentence in the above, it is certainly true that the Swiss Government made serious representations over here for the removal of the absurd restrictions which now prevent young Swiss from taking up salaried positions in this country. If similar restrictions hold in Switzerland, they ought to be removed as well. Anybody who really knows something about the matter knows that young Swiss do not, as a rule, fill positions which could just as easily and adequately be filled by Britishers, and the same holds good, of course, in the case of young Britishers going to Switzerland. As a matter of cold fact, especially where commercial houses are concerned, the employment of young Swiss, knowing foreign languages, more often than not leads to such houses being thereby enabled to open up more markets abroad, and consequently to employ an additional number of Britishers for every Swiss they have engaged. As for the Hotel Industry, even Britishers know the difference between British and Foreign Waiters, and most of us also know the reasons which prevent the average Britisher from becoming a really good hotel employee. The prevention of young Swiss from coming to England must needs have a very marked and very bad effect on our commercial life, although such effect will only make itself felt fully in some ten years' time. Our Legation in London will probably have an efficient answer as to the reasons which prevent them doing anything in this matter, but I do hope that the feeling in the Swiss Colony will be adequately voiced so as to induce our Legation and the Home Authorities to take serious action.

Of course, if we are too feeble-minded to cry out, if we are content to fold our arms, if we do not wish to give offence in any quarter, if we take the attitude of *après moi le déluge*—well, in that case we are getting on splendidly, and we might celebrate perhaps a few more "Swiss Festivals." But if we really look ahead, if we visualise the importance of this question, and if, without fear, we make our protest in the proper place—well, then the Swiss Colony in London might perhaps justify its existence as somewhat more than an agglomeration of mere social activities.

#### "The Spirit of Sycophants"—An Apology by 'Kyburg'

In *The Swiss Observer* of June 9th I gave under the above heading an extract from the *Saturday Review*, and, in my remarks, I attacked the Geneva Tennis Club. I find now the following in the *Saturday Review* of June 16th:—

Your correspondent Mr. Sanders, writing in your issue of May 26th, expressed a certain amount of quite obviously justifiable distaste for lawn tennis in Switzerland. His objections are, however, I believe, founded on a misconception.

He is doubtless aware that by a ruling of the English Lawn Tennis Association competitors of late enemy nationality are debarred from competing in home tournaments. He is, however, apparently unaware of the fact that, at least until recently, those persons of British nationality who had since the war competed in tournaments in which persons of such late enemy nationality took part, were also debarred from competing in home tournaments. It is thus obvious that those Englishmen who, visiting a neutral country, may be desirous of competing in a lawn tennis tournament, can do so only if Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, and Turks are excluded from them. In arranging such tournaments the Swiss authorities only exhibit the neutrality so much admired by your correspondent.

While I wholly agree with your correspondent's resentment, I submit that the position is one due not to the prejudice of the Swiss, but to the impudence of the Lawn Tennis Association.

I am, etc.,  
IVOR G. S. MONTAGU.  
King's College, Cambridge.

I heartily and willingly tender my sincere apologies to any readers whom my remarks might have offended, and I hope that none of them will bear me any grudge!

Now, as to the apparent facts of the case, I wish to say that in my opinion no Swiss Sport Society ought to take any notice of rules which still prevent former enemies from playing together or against each other. If needs be, it would surely be much better for Swiss Societies to resign from the membership of any Association which still tries to enforce such absurd rules. Such a protest from Switzerland would not fail to have a salutary effect and would certainly make for the Dignity of our Country. *Dixi!*

#### A German War of Revenge.

*Spectator* (June 16th):—

It may be of interest if I give some small indirect evidence in support of the view held by your correspondent "X. Y. Z." in his letter published in your issue of the 9th inst. I spent June, July and August of last year in and about the Gothard massif. During this time I frequently discussed the probability of a War of Revenge with quite a number of Swiss professional and

business men, all coming from the industrial parts of German-speaking Switzerland.

In the minds of these men the comparatively early recovery of Germany, followed by a War of Revenge, was regarded as a foregone conclusion, about which there was no room for any reasonable doubt. Considering the geographical position of the part of their country from which these men came, and also the intimate business relations which exist between them and their German neighbours, they should be in as good a position to judge as most others.

But these conversations brought out another aspect of the consequences of a recovered Germany. The large majority of my informants seemed convinced that, had Germany won in the Great War, political Switzerland, as we know it, would have disappeared; not by open violence, but by peaceful penetration, with an intimation that force would be available if gentler means should fail. What might have happened then may happen hereafter.

It must be remembered that these men were all German-speaking Swiss from the North-West, and therefore likely to be biased, if at all, in favour of Germany.—I am, etc.,  
A. SLADE BAKER.

Cross Lane House, Ticehurst.

From personal experience, and as one who understands German-Swiss mentality better than any Britisher could, I am quite certain that the last sentence of the above is based on an entirely wrong assumption, unless, as might, of course, be the case, the "Swiss business men" were *ci-devant* Germans and Swiss only by naturalisation. The letter fails to make my flesh creep. It would, indeed, be strange if a defeated Nation did not harbour designs of a war of revenge. Did not Schiller say:—

"Das ist der Fluch der bösen Tat,  
Dass sie fortzuegend Böses muss gebären!"—

and has there ever been a Nation which, after having suffered defeat, did not console itself somewhat by boasting about the coming terrible revenge? If anybody held conversations with the French after 1871, I fancy the same sort of remarks could have been heard.

How silly it is to attach any importance to such conversations! How much more to the point it would be to work to influence public opinion everywhere *against war!* Not Nations are each other's enemies, but that fruit of National Insanity: War!! Why do not people think of war as a personal and personified antagonist, like the Devil? They would then get to take a more correct view of this dreadful enemy of mankind.

#### Swiss Welcome British.

In a number of papers in the U.K. and the Irish Free State the following short paragraph, obviously inspired, appeared (*Belfast Evening Telegraph*, June 14th):—

It will be good news for people who are planning to go to Switzerland for a holiday that a friend of mine, just back from a prolonged tour in that country, is loud in his praises of what he describes as the unexampled courtesy the British visitor receives on all hands. One experiences this, he says, from railway officials, hotel keepers, and even the casual stranger in the street. The British and Americans are doubly welcome just now, for to them the Swiss are looking to make good some of the ravages of the war aftermath, which has hit them harder than most people think. The occupation of the Ruhr has cut off the Dutch and what little German tourist traffic was still going. There is nothing coming in from Eastern Europe. The French and Italians are not travelling in any great numbers, so that the Americans and British have Switzerland very much to themselves. There are plenty of Americans, but it is the presence of the British which is sighed for in the great hotels.

Let us hope that the summer weather which we have been enjoying since the 22nd inst.—it was about time summer did start, was it not?—is also visiting Switzerland, and that the season will be delightful for everybody.

#### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The Directors of the Swiss-Romanian Bank in Bucarest have decided to increase the capital from Lei 30 million to Lei 40 million by an issue of a further 20,000 shares. These new shares will be issued at a premium of Lei 50, *i.e.*, at Lei 550 per share. For the first business year this new concern showed a net profit of Lei 4,360,000, and a dividend of 12 per cent. could be distributed.

The accounts of the Jungfrau Railway for the first working year since the reorganisation show a profit of Frs. 144,852, which allowed of a distribution of 2½% on the first mortgage bonds. The capital is Frs. 5,000,000. The report remarks that the bad weather in the summer of 1922 had a very unfavourable influence on the line. There were no long periods of fine weather, and the premature snow in September brought the season to an early finish. On the other hand, it is interesting to read in the report that in the months of July and August the holiday resorts were fuller than they had been since the outbreak of war. The visitors were particularly Americans, English and Dutch; unfortunately there was a great shortage of Swiss among the frequenters of the summer resorts.

The Swiss Coal Mining Company is now definitely to be wound up. It will be recalled that in 1917, when the country was in serious difficulties owing to the lack of fuel for industrial as well as domestic purposes, geological experts expressed the

belief that deposits of coal could be found in the Bernese Jura, which might be worked profitably. Borings were commenced and have been carried to a depth of 1,052 metres, but no coal was encountered. Further surveys made it apparent that the shafts would have to be sunk another 500 metres before the coal could be touched, and in view of the great expense incurred it was felt that Swiss coal could never, under these circumstances, compete with the foreign imported product. The total cost was estimated at Frs. 175 millions—a prohibitive figure.

The report of the Compagnie générale de navigation sur le lac Léman in Geneva, in which we believe some of our readers are interested, showed a profit of Frs. 3,319, which will be carried forward. The reserve fund, which was heavily drawn upon to meet the war-time deficits, has now been reduced to the very small total of Frs. 585. Expenditure has been reduced by some Frs. 144,000, chiefly owing to the lower cost of coal.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

	BONDS.		
		June 19	June 26
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903 ...	78.00%	77.75%	
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5% ...	101.20%	101.12%	
Federal Railways A—K 3½% ...	80.60%	79.67%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921 ...	103.50%	102.87%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892... ..	73.25%	71.32%	
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909 ... ..	100.12%	100.00%	
SHARES.			
	Nom.	June 19	June 26
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation ... ..	500	643	648
Crédit Suisse ... ..	500	683	680
Union de Banques Suisses... ..	500	536	545
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	2142	2080
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2120	2085
C. F. Bally S.A. ... ..	1000	1057	1035
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon... ..	500	678	672
Entreprises Sulzer ... ..	1000	675	665
S.A. Brown Boveri (new) ... ..	500	349	340
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	181	181
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	110	112
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	480	485

#### HOLIDAY TRIP TO SWITZERLAND AT REDUCED PRICES.

We can still accept a few participants, although the accommodation reserved at the Lucerne Hotel is now booked; definite application should be made before July 6th, so as to enable us to secure accommodation at an additional hotel.

It should be noted that the date of departure (July 21st) cannot be altered, and that those who wish to return *via* Laon or Paris must state so in applying for the ticket. On arrival at Basle the party disperses, and the home journey will be completed independently any time within 33 days; those who have booked inclusive tickets (with hotel accommodation) will travel to their destination without staying at Basle.

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