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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The new article 69<sup>ter</sup> of the Constitution, investing the Confederation with powers to regularise the immigration and right of domicile of foreigners, has been accepted by a large majority, i.e., 374,291 "ayes" against 224,533 "noes." The few cantons (Valais, Fribourg, Ticino and Appenzell I.R.) who voted against the measure did so mainly from a disinclination of increasing the powers and authority of the central administration in Berne. The only party which objected to the new article were the Communists, who in every country oppose the introduction of measures likely to stem or check the free entry of foreigners.

The canton of Vaud is to have a new penitentiary, for the construction of which an extraordinary credit of 2.3 million francs is being demanded.

The canton of Schwyz has asked the Federal Military Department for an official enquiry into the serious allegations made by privates of Battalions 86 and 72 as to their treatment and cantonment whilst on service south of the St. Gothard.

"Sonnenberg," a Swiss national institute for the education of blind children of the Catholic faith, was officially inaugurated last Sunday week at Fribourg.

A monument, the cost of which is defrayed by a public collection, is to be unveiled in Lausanne on Nov. 7th in order to perpetuate the memory of Col. Edouard Secretan, who died in 1917.

A novel claim is being made against the French aviation company "Cidua" by a St. Gall sportsman, who has rented the fishing rights of some rivulets flowing into the Sitter. During the recent forced landing of one of their aeroplanes the benzine tank got damaged, and the oil escaped into a ditch which communicated with a little tributary of the Sitter. This particular tributary is reputed to be exceptionally rich in trout, and it is asserted that for a stretch of 700 to 800 metres the whole of the fish has been destroyed. A statement of damages is to be presented to the aviation company.

Col. Keller of Pfungen (near Winterthur) has, on the occasion of his 60th birthday, made a donation of Frs. 20,000 for the benefit of deserving invalids of his commune.

Considerable damage has been caused by a fire which broke out on a farmstead in Grange-Marnaud (Vaud) belonging to M. Aug. Estoppey. No human life was lost, but ten persons were rendered homeless.

A dramatic hold-up was attempted by a carpenter, E. Sonnenhalder from Burg (Aargau), in one of the busiest streets of Basle. During the luncheon hour he entered the shop of a money changer and ordered the lady clerk in charge to hold up her hands whilst he helped himself to a bundle of notes. The lady was able to withdraw into a private office, and when the robber departed with his booty followed him into the street, alarming the passers-by. A policeman was soon on the scene, and after freely brandishing his revolver and realising that escape was hopeless, the man shot himself in the temple; he died the same afternoon in hospital.

One month's imprisonment and a fine of Frs. 200 has been inflicted by the Basle courts on the widely-known Appenzell quack, Mr. J. Gyr of Gais, for affecting to cure a local woman of cancer.

What is reputed as being the oldest maple-tree (Ahorn) in Switzerland was set fire to by some mischievous lads at the Storegg-pass near Melchtal. The tree had a circumference of over 10 metres and was locally believed to be as old as the Confederation.

Col. F. Bühler met with a bad accident during the manoeuvres whilst inspecting an artillery position near Mennau: his horse suddenly shied and threw him off; he had to undergo a serious operation at the cantonal hospital, and is reported to have since died. Col. Bühler was editor of the "Vaterland" in Lucerne.

The district forester, Mr. R. Neeser from Frutigen, sustained serious injuries through slipping and falling down a cliff; he was picked up unconscious.

The following table shows the present constitution of the National Council, elected during the last week-end.

There is little change to be recorded as far as the relative strength of the different parties is concerned. The parties of the Left have slightly increased their representation, being on balance five seats to the good; the Socialists won a seat each in Zurich and Berne from the Peasants, one each in Schwyz and St. Gall from Catholic-Conservatives, and one in Neuchâtel from the Liberal Conservatives, whilst they lost their only mandate in the Grisons to the Catholic Conservatives. The Communists increased their strength to three mem-

Canton	No. of Seats	Radicals	Socialists	Catholic Conservatives	Peasants & Citizens	Liberal Catholics	Communists	Social Political
Zurich	27	8 (8)	10 (9)	1 (1)	6 (7)	—	1 (1)	—
Berne	34	6 (5)	11 (10)	2 (2)	15 (17)	—	—	—
Lucerne	9	3 (3)	1 (1)	5 (5)	—	—	—	—
Uri	1	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schwyz	3	—	1 (0)	1 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	—
Obwalden	1	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Nidwalden	1	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Glarus	2	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	1 (1)
Zug	2	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Fribourg	7	2 (2)	—	5 (5)	—	—	—	—
Solothurn	7	3 (3)	2 (2)	2 (2)	—	—	—	—
Basel-Stadt	7	1 (0)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (1)
Basel-Land	4	2 (3)	1 (1)	—	1 (0)	—	—	—
Schaffhausen	3	1 (1)	—	—	1 (2)	—	1 (0)	—
Appenzell A.-Rh.	3	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Appenzell I.-Rh.	1	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
St. Gall	15	5 (5)	3 (2)	6 (7)	—	—	—	1 (1)
Graubünden	6	3 (3)	0 (1)	3 (2)	—	—	—	—
Aargau	12	2 (2)	4 (4)	3 (3)	3 (3)	—	—	—
Thurgau	7	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	3 (3)	—	—	1 (1)
Ticino	8	4 (4)	1 (1)	3 (3)	—	—	—	—
Vaud	16	8 (8)	3 (3)	—	1 (1)	4 (4)	—	—
Valais	6	2 (1)	—	4 (5)	—	—	—	—
Neuchâtel	7	2 (2)	3 (2)	—	—	1 (2)	—	—
Geneva	9	2 (2)	3 (3)	1 (1)	—	3 (3)	—	1 (1)
Total	198	69 (58)	47 (43)	44 (44)	32 (35)	9 (10)	3 (2)	4 (5)

The figures in brackets denote the position of parties at the dissolution.

Dr. Louis Emile Alfred Bonson died in a nursing home near Territet after a short illness at the age of 53. Most of his life was spent in the service of the Swiss Federal Railways; from 1910 to 1915 he was Vice-Chancellor of the Confederation. Since 1922 he carried out, as representative of the League of Nations, several missions, notably in the Saar district and Greece.

C. Schulthess, the elder brother of Federal Councillor Schulthess, died in Zurich at the age of 64. He was a retired engineer and previously director of the Borsigbahn in Basle and afterwards on one of the district boards of the Swiss Federal Railways.

Albert Wyler, one of the founders of the Swiss "Blue Cross," died in Geneva at the age of 68; at the time of his death he was a director of the Havas Agency.

Run over by a cyclist in a Zurich street, Miss Elsa Herzig, a music teacher, has succumbed to her injuries.

Simon Simonett, a partner in the Zurich engineering contractors concern of the same name, died at the age of 53. He designed and superintended the construction of the narrow-gauge lines Asti-Chivasso and Cento-Valli, the large power station in the Aosta valley, electrical works in Klosters-Küblis and in the Wäggi valley and recently the reconstruction of the great railway viaduct near Grandsey (Fribourg). He was born in the village of Zillis (Grisons).

The well-known organ builder Theodor Kuhn died in Männedorf at the age of 61 after a protracted illness.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

Well? Last week's steady downpour, accompanied by a heat-wave sending the mercury to over 60 in the shade and turning the City into a regular Turkish bath, coincided happily with a plethora of "copy," so that our Editor was able to give me a week's holiday, from which I return refreshed to my labour of entertaining you, dear readers, by endeavouring to give you the very best of the news found in the British Press as far as Switzerland is concerned. Phew! What a long sentence all at once!—(interval for the purpose of another sip of refreshment to stimulate further efforts!)—My yes, soda water is so, so, so—now what

on earth is it? Bracing? Not quite. Refreshing? Yes and no! As a matter of fact, soda water is like a bachelor, bubbling over with its own exuberance, but requiring a partner to make it really palatable! Rather good that, and all my own!

Well, well, it looks as if we were going to have a good time this week. We have started well. *W/e!* There is something which it is not easy to express in words, when one writes of oneself as *We*. Megalomania, some rude persons would say. Wrong! Rather is it the feeling of responsibility in addressing such a distinguished circle as the readers of our *S.O.* One feels that only the very best effort is good enough for them; one feels that one is hardly able to fulfil the task adequately, and in an endeavour to make up for one's own shortcomings, one resorts to the *We*, which leaves a regal feeling behind it.

But to come to our business. We will start with the lighter side first, putting you in a good frame of mind, as it were, evoking your chuckles. Is it not said that laughter is the finest 'trait d'union' the human race has ever known? It has been said so. I have just said it.

The Locarno Conference has focussed English public opinion anew on our country, and, strangely enough, the Yodel of Switzerland has been written of more than at any time since I remember. The latest effusion of this kind appeared in the *Sunday Chronicle* of the 18th inst.:

**The Yodel Young Man.**  
[The Swiss practice of yodelling, says a newspaper correspondent, is becoming a common practice in some parts of England.]

Polite conversations I've stifled astutely  
With murmured agreement, as anyone would,  
Exclaiming in timorous tones, "Absolutely!"  
"That's certain!" "Oh, quite!" "Bless my soul!" or "Dashed good!"

But now I may stagger assembled Society,  
Bowling and smiling, with hand upon heart,  
With a "tra-la-la-la" and a "tra-la-la-liety!"  
Silencing duchesses, earls and a Bart.

Each day at the office a marvellous minion  
Will shy like a mustang to hear me dictate,  
Not "Sir (or else Madam): We are of opinion—"  
Or "Thanks for your favours of yesterday's date."

Oh no! I'll aspire to the spice of variety—  
"Sir: Yours to hand. We would state in reply  
"To complaints, you can jolly well tra-la-la-liety!"  
"Yours to a yodel, Spick, Span, Sons and Spry."