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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Schaffhausen authorities are asking the Federal Council to prevent the entry into Switzerland of foreign Communists belonging to military organisations, as the formation of local Communist labour guards is considered inimical to the interests of the canton. On the other hand, a Communist interpellation in the Grosse Rat pointing to excesses committed by Fascist bands was disposed of with the reply that any demonstrations causing disorders would be suppressed.

The divisional military courts have sentenced the 100 men belonging to the Appenzel I.Rh. company to 12 days' solitary confinement for disobedience to a superior officer during the recent repetition course. The judgment is being indignantly criticised throughout the canton and a petition is in course of preparation suggesting to the military department a milder form of punishment. The execution of the judgment is also encompassed with considerable difficulties as it would be necessary to confiscate for this purpose temporarily the cantonal school or other large public building.

A Communist member of the Zurich Stadtrat reminded the council that a resolution proposed and carried two years ago by Socialist and Communist votes calling upon the administration to submit proposals for the disarmament of the municipal police had not yet been acted upon; at that time the Socialists did not control the council. The new mayor, the well-known Socialist Klöti, replied that such a proposal could not be discussed seriously, and that even in Russia this innovation did not find favour.

The Press of the canton Grisons is drawing attention to the activities of Fascist agents who are alienating the Italian-speaking population; it is stated that a black list has been drawn up of those who resent this anti-Swiss propaganda and that they are subject to unfriendly treatment if they happen to cross into Italian territory.

A car having been noticed in the river bed of the Allaine near Courchavon, a subsequent investigation brought to light the body of M. Quelloz, a wine merchant of Porrentruy; it is surmised that during the night he overran the embankment and was drowned or killed on the spot.

The bursting of a rear wheel tyre of a new car which Arnold Meyer, the manager of the Autag garage in Willishofen (Zurich) was on the way to deliver, caused the vehicle to be hurled against a wall, killing the driver instantaneously.

## SAFFA.

Mme. Paravicini wishes us to state that she has been extremely gratified by the way in which the Ladies of the Swiss Colony in London have supported her in her endeavours to bring the British Section of the Exhibition of Swiss Women's Work (Saffa) to a standard worthy of our Colony. Owing to the quality and variety of the exhibits collected by her, that Section is likely to be of general interest and to receive the full appreciation of the visitors.

The Ladies who have so far either sent in their works or promised to do so in the course of the next few days are:

Mesdames Hoffmann-de Visme, Hahn, Steiger, Schubach, Lunghi, Zaehner, Seliger, Campart, Wintsch, Ritter, Uden, Binguely, Jenny (of Liverpool), Rossier, Abersold, Friberg, and Mesdemoiselles Lunghi, Carmine, O. Carmine, G. Notari, J. Matthey, S. Gerber, A. Hagen and H. A. Vuffray.

It may be mentioned on this occasion that, owing to the great pressure of work with which Mme. Paravicini has had to deal during the summer, it has not always been possible to acknowledge the receipt of the parcels by return of post and, in certain cases, surprise about such "delays" has been expressed rather openly. Mme. Paravicini wishes to assure all Exhibitors that every piece of the collection is taken the greatest care of and will be exhibited at Berne as advantageously as the circumstances will allow.


## FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION.

The following is the list of those compatriots who have contributed to the fund raised, under the auspices of the Swiss Minister, for the purpose of celebrating the 1st of August in our Colony:—

	£	s.	d.
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A. Meschini ....	3	3	0
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Anonymous ....	1	1	0
Swiss Rifle Association ....	5	5	0
Chas. A. Barbezat ....	5	0	0
Swiss Mercantile Society ....	5	5	0
Anonymous ....	1	1	0
Union Helvetia ....	3	0	0

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Preliminary particulars of this year's celebration, which takes place on the ground of the Swiss Rifle Association at the Welsh Harp (Hendon), have already been published; further details will appear in our next issue.



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Fête Nationale Suisse  
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## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Marschbereit.**—Nun haben unsere Matchschützen auch das letzte Training hinter sich. Sechs Tage weilten sie im Lande Tells, freundlich behütet und gepflegt von den Aلتdorfer Kameraden, die ihr Möglichstes taten, um den Schützen ihre Aufgabe so viel wie möglich zu erleichtern. Die weit-aus grösste Zahl der Leser hat wohl kaum eine Ahnung davon, was es heisst, bei diesem Sonnenbrand fünf Tage hintereinander jeweilen das ganze Matchprogramm auf 300 Meter oder jenes auf 50 Meter zweimal täglich durchzuschossen.

Schon der erste Tag brachte eine Ueber-raschung. Die neue Schiessanlage in Aلتdorf, ein Bijou, dessen Besitzer zu beneiden sind, hat ihre

Tücken, die an jene des Burgdorfer Ständes her-anreichen. Es gelang den einzelnen Schützen an-fänglich sehr unterschiedlich, dieselben zu meistern. Hartmann brachte es immerhin sofort fertig, in der Liegendstellung eine Passe von 100 Punkten, das Maximum, herauszuholen und am letzten Tag schloss Zimmermann in der gleichen Stellung mit demselben Resultat in der vierten und letzten Passe ab. Am dritten Tag war die Mannschaft voll ein-geschossen. Nun setzte es eine Sensation ab, indem sich Hartmann in seinen bisherigen Leistungen neuerdings selbst übertraf. Zimmermann und Lien-hard, die im Vortraining wiederholt an der Teil-nahme verhindert gewesen waren, haben das Ver-säumte rasch und gründlich nachgeholt und auch Pelli, den die vielen Turnkurse im Frühjahr arg mitgenommen hatten, hat seine alte Form wieder gefunden.

An Hand der in Aلتdorf geschossenen Resul-tate ergibt sich folgende Rangliste: Hartmann, Zimmermann, Lienhard, Pelli, Tellenbach, Reich, Braissant, Kuchen, Schenker, Schweizer. Das Durchschnittsresultat Kuchens ist nur 8/10. Punkte kleiner als dasjenige von Braissant und um einen Punkt niedriger als jenes von Reich. Die schwei-zerische Gewehrmatchgruppe wird sich somit aus den sieben Erstgenannten zusammensetzen. Ein Vergleich mit dem Resultaten der letztjährigen Trainings in Langnau für den Match in Rom er-gibt, dass die Spitze der Gruppe noch ein Merk-liches an Form zugenommen hat, die übrigen Er-gebnisse halten sich ziemlich im Rahmen der Letztjährigen.

Prächtig ausgeglichen ist die Pistolengruppe. Dr. Schnyder, der infolge starker beruflicher In-anspruchnahme die meisten Trainingsschiesse, dar-unter auch dieses letzte, zeitweilig hatte unter-brechen müssen, hat es durch seine wahrhaft kameradschaftliche Beeinflussung so weit gebracht, dass auch diese Gruppe gegenüber dem letzten Jahr noch eine Verstärkung der Schiessfertigkeit der einzelnen Mitglieder aufweisen kann. Schnyder dürfte es vielleicht diesmal gelingen, den noch im-mer bestehenden Rekord des Belgiers Van As-bröeck zu brechen.

Die Pistolenmannschaft für Loosduinen setzt sich nun aus folgenden Schützen in der Reihen-folge ihrer Resultate zusammen: Dr. Schnyder, Wiederkehr, Zulauf, Fischer, Revilliod de Budé, Blum und Schwab. Als überzählig fallen ausser Betracht Vogt, Brunner und König. Auch hier findet also eine teilweise Erneuerung statt in der Besetzung, wobei besonders erwähnenswert ist, dass sich Revilliod de Budé, der erst kürzlich seinen 60. Geburtstag feiern konnte, für die engste Konkur-renz zu klassieren vermochte. Das Gleiche gilt übrigens auch in der Gewehrgruppe für den erst 25-jährigen Tellenbach.

Direktor Keller, der Leiter der Matchschützen, hat es durch seine taktvolle und dabei energische Tätigkeit so weit gebracht, dass die Reise nach Holland, die am 16. Juli morgens von Basel aus stattfindet, getrost angetreten werden kann. An schärfster Konkurrenz wird es nicht fehlen; wir sind namentlich darauf gespannt, wie sich die Amerikaner den schweizerischen Stützern, die sie eigens auf diesen Match hin in Lenzburg haben fabrizieren lassen, angepasst haben.

Für den internationalen Armeegewehrmatch, der entsprechend dem Orte der Abhaltung des Matches mit der holländischen Waffe zum Austrag gelangt, sind für die Schweiz alle Matchschützen beider Waffen zur Teilnahme angemeldet.

—Aargauer Tagblatt.

**Die Verteilung der Hilfsgelder an die Wasserschädig-ten.** Unter dem Vorsitz von alt Regierungsrat Näge-li (Zürich) fand in Bern eine vom Departement des Innern einberufene Konferenz statt zur Be-sprechung der Grundsätze, nach denen die für die Wasserschädigten gesammelten freiwilligen Bei-träge verteilt werden sollen. Anwesend waren an dieser Konferenz ausser den Mitgliedern der Auf-sichtskommission des Fonds für nichtversicherbare Elementarschäden Vertreter der sämtlichen inter-essierten Kantone. Bundesrat Chuard nahm an den Verhandlungen teil. Ein vom Sekretär der Aufsichtskommission, Notar von Greyerz (Bern), aufgestellter Verteilungsplan wurde nach längerer Diskussion und unter Anlehnung verschiedener Abänderungsanträge gutgeheissen. Danach soll die Verteilung der dem Fonds für nichtversicherbare Elementarschäden zur Verfügung stehenden Gelder erfolgen nach Massgabe der durch besondere Er-hebungen festgestellten Schäden und unter Berück-sichtigung der ökonomischen Situation der Ge-schädigten. Die Entschädigung wird ausgerichtet den Kantonen Graubünden, Tessin und an Liechten-stein für Hochwasserschäden; den Kantonen Bern und Zug für das Unheil, das die Unwetterkatastro-

phen angerichtet haben, und den Kantonen Waadt, Luzern und Freiburg für Hagelschaden. Die Beiträge, die den einzelnen Kantonen aus den öffentlichen Sammlungen direkt zugegangen sind, bleiben zu ihrer Befügung und sollen zu eventueller Ausgleichung verwendet werden. Nach dem aufgestellten Plan werden einzig die 2,5 Millionen Fr. verteilt, über die der Fonds für nichtversicherbare Elementarschäden zu verfügen hat.

Aus dem dem Fonds für nichtversicherbare Elementarschäden zugeflossenen Sammelergebnis kommen 2,047,455 Fr. an die vom Unwetter heimgesuchten Kantone zur Verteilung. Nach der am Montag genehmigten Verteilung wird Luzern zu dem bereits bezogenen 276,205 Fr. noch 23,395 Fr. erhalten; Graubünden zu den bisherigen Fr. 120,000 noch 468,400 Franken; der Tessin zu den bisherigen 32,171 Fr. noch 335,729 Franken. Liechtenstein erhält zu den bereits bezogenen 35,000 Fr. noch 640,400 Franken. Bern erhält 20,000 Franken. Die Ansprüche verschiedener Kantone sind bereits befriedigt. —St. Galler Tagblatt.

**Le chapeau de Gessler.**—On se souvient de l'histoire du chapeau de la maison d'Autriche que Gessler avait fait placer sur un pieu à Altorf. Tous les Uransis durent, au 13e siècle, saluer cet emblème de la puissance autrichienne, maintenant déchu. Guillaume Tell refusa, et beaucoup d'autres avec lui, de se plier sous le joug. Il eut raison. C'est pour cela qu'il demeure le type de la fierté helvétique.

Joué, la direction de la police communale de Fribourg faisait planter, derrière la poste du Bourg, un pieu qui indiquait l'emplacement d'une nouvelle colonne d'affichage que l'on voudrait ériger au milieu de cette petite place pas plus grande qu'un mouchoir de poche. Sur ce poteau bien droit et trop fier, les habitants du quartier ont posé, hier matin, un chapeau noir, avec plumes de coq jaunes. Une affiche indique aux passants de s'arrêter, de se découvrir et de méditer un instant. Tout le monde fait une pause. Personne ne salue, cela va sans dire.

Chacun s'étonne, et à bon droit, que l'autorité communale autorise l'érection d'une colonne d'affichage à cet endroit. Ce n'est rien moins que ridicule, d'autant plus qu'à plusieurs reprises on a parlé de raser la verrière que forme la poste du Bourg, derrière l'église de St-Nicolas.

S'il vous plaît, armons-nous d'un peu de bon sens et laissons cette place pour les véhicules et pour la circulation.

La manifestation toute innocente des propriétaires du quartier est significative... Si l'on voulait contrecarrer l'opinion populaire, les affaires pourraient se gâter.

Allons, sans tarder, enlever ce poteau et que l'on n'en parle plus.

—Indépendant, Fribourg.

**Das goldene Buch.** Die beiden schweizerischen Motorradfahrer Corboud und Maret, welche am 15. Oktober dieses Jahres zu einer Weltreise durch die fünf Kontinente per Motorrad starten werden, werden ein "Goldenes Buch der Schweizer" mit sich führen. Dieser schwere Band wird zahlreiche, von den beiden Weltreisenden vor dem Start bei den schweizerischen Behörden und im Schweizervolk gesammelte Unterschriften und Adressen an unsere Mitgedenossen in den fünf Weltteilen enthalten. Die Schweizer im Ausland werden ihrerseits ihre Gefühle dem fernen Vaterland gegenüber in diesem Buche niederschreiben. Bundespräsident Schulthess sowie die Bundesräte Motta und Musy haben in unseren drei Landessprachen patriotische Zeilen in das goldene Buch eingetragen. Die beiden Motorradfahrer sind bereits mit dem goldenen Buch auf der Reise durch die 22 schweizerischen Kantone. —Luzerner Tagblatt.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

### Engineering Successes.

The large contract secured by the Winterthur Locomotive Works for thirty-six engines for the South African Railways has scarcely been referred to in the English Press, but the *Daily Despatch* (July 5th) bemoans what it considers a *faux pas*; we can only admire the business acumen of those who acted on behalf of the Swiss firm and who were up against all the imperial influence.

A contract which is said to amount to £29,000 has been secured by a Manchester firm for the supply of two locomotives for the South African railways. That is good news, and it is a great pity that the pleasure it occasions in the minds of Englishmen should be modified by the announcement that a contract for 36 locomotives, costing £200,730, has been given to a Swiss firm. Unfortunately, we are beginning to expect that sort of thing in England. It is typical of what our legislators so euphemistically call "Imperial trade." The Mother Country, £29,000; the foreigner, £200,730. Some difference!

Not long ago we commented on the fact that the biggest paper-making concern in Finland had placed an order for £100,000 worth of paper-making machinery in Bury because "Great Britain is the principal buyer of Finnish paper, and it is considered only reasonable to give that country the preference in orders for machinery." Finland is not a part of the British Empire;

the Union of South Africa is. We therefore sought for an explanation for this overwhelming preference on the part of the South African railways for Swiss locomotives. Possibly they had decided to follow the example of Finland and buy from the people who buy from them. *We find that the value of goods exported from South Africa to Great Britain for the year ended Dec. 31, 1927, amounted to £48,394,157.* That is not a bad sum to take from the pockets of the people of this country. Switzerland would have to buy heavily from South Africa to account for the immense difference in the orders just placed for locomotives. *The value of goods exported from South Africa to Switzerland during the same period was £1,225.*

The people who put over £48,000,000 into the pockets of the South Africans are asked to supply two locomotives costing £29,000. The people who send the South Africans a beggarly thousand pounds are given orders for 36 locomotives costing £200,730. That is what is called inter-Empire relations. It is for that, apparently, that the British taxpayer spends £1,000,000 a year to tell himself to buy Empire goods, including South African oranges and lemons. It is for that, apparently, that British Cabinet Ministers stomp the country imploring us to smoke Rhodesian tobacco. We notice that in his latest utterance Mr. Amery would have us look to the United States as a shining example of co-operation which the British Empire would do well to follow. It is good that the Secretary for the Dominions now sees eye to eye with us in this respect. We have long pointed out that there is not one little tariff barrier between any of the States of the Union, whereas nearly every British Dominion has run up tariff barriers against the goods of England.

### The Liechtenstein Experiment.

The arrangements in connection with the working parties have been severely criticised in a few of the English papers; some of the English undergraduates who took part in this relief work evidently anticipated being in for a boisterous holiday. Several participants have given their own version, and the following is taken from a batch of letters which appeared in the *Observer* (July 18th).

"Mr. Speaight's letter in your last issue regarding the relief work in Liechtenstein contained many ill-founded statements which need correcting. I, too, volunteered for the work, and apparently my experiences from April 2nd to April 24th were very different from his. I will deal with his statements one by one.

He refers to the Socialist character of the organisation, and says he was led to believe that volunteers would be drawn solely from Universities. I cannot understand how he got this impression, since it is clearly contradicted in the wording of the appeal sent to British Universities. The title was, "An Appeal for Active Help from All Men of Goodwill." Later on the appeal stated that the enterprise represented willingness "to co-operate with people of all views, classes and nations."

I was not aware of the presence of any Communists in the party or Swiss political agitators. There were certainly a number of Pacifists present and possibly a few Socialists, but the variety of people met with made the enterprise more than worth while.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Speaight's travelling arrangements were not better made. I myself found all the arrangements excellent, and had no trouble whatsoever. At Basle I was handed my ticket through Switzerland to Liechtenstein, and before I left Liechtenstein I was given my return ticket to Basle.

We cleaned out our sleeping quarters every Saturday afternoon, and if Mr. Speaight expected someone to clean his for him I am of the opinion that he should never have volunteered. I admit that the sanitary quarters were bad, but the sleeping accommodation was good, and to say that it was infested with vermin is outrageous. The Swiss Government provided us each with a palliase and three blankets, besides supplying us with old Army suits in which to work.

The food was certainly plain, but at the same time ample. It is true that we were not given butter or margarine during our stay, but there was an abundance of milk food. Some of the dishes were strange to Englishmen, as we expected them to be, but none was inedible. The people of Liechtenstein do not eat much meat, and therefore we could not expect it. We were, however, given green vegetables and vegetable broth almost daily. I cannot understand Mr. Speaight's complaint that the officials were disrespectful and insolent. The Swiss Colonel in charge was an exceedingly jovial fellow, and never disrespectful in any way.

It is an exaggeration to say that we worked nine and a half hours a day, as work rarely began at the appointed time owing to the Colonel's fondness for making speeches. Mr. Speaight says we often had to work for hours on end under a blazing sun. He does not mention that herb tea and bread were provided in the middle of the morning and in the afternoon. Many English

Undergraduates so enjoyed the blazing sun that they stripped to the waist daily to take sun baths.

Whatever the hours were, I regret to say that there was a serious amount of slacking, and if necessary I am prepared to furnish Mr. Speaight with particulars of the quarter in which it was most prominent. Some of the Englishmen gained for themselves a reputation as poor workers, and it was owing to this fact that an Englishman told the officials that more supervision of the work was necessary if it was to be carried through efficiently."

### Women Conquer the Alps.

Under this title the *Morning Post* (July 11th) reminds us of the contribution of the fair sex towards conquering the Alps.

"The modern cult of mountains is comparatively recent in origin. Even in Dr. Johnson's time, the Scottish hills were looked upon with feelings of indifference or abhorrence. At best they were inconvenient, barren obstacles to travel. Nearer our time, a friend of Wordsworth's was so impressed by his own daring in ascending Helvellyn—a grassy three thousand feet hillcock—that he required to be let blood twice during the expedition as a precaution against excitement!

But a change has come. Now not only men but women, too, of all ages and nationalities are enthusiastic Alpinists. Especially among Englishwomen the sport is becoming increasingly popular, and for those who are strong, with good balance and power of endurance, it is ideal.

Of course, exceptional women, from the earliest days—about the middle of the 18th century, when a few wandering eccentrics and curious naturalists were discovering Mont Blanc and the Bernese Oberland—were members of parties who climbed the great Alpine peaks.

Only twenty years after the first ascent of Mont Blanc, Marie Paradis was taken to the top of the mountain. I have to say "taken" because she was more or less hauled up to the top—but then, on the other hand, how many men amateurs who preceded her were not treated by the hardy lake peasants in the same way? Did not the immortal De Saussure himself require the assistance of countless guides?

But Marie's performance was admittedly a financial deal so I will not dwell on it. Henrietta D'Angeville, having made her will (but they all did that in those days) went up Mont Blanc in 1838. She was a genuine pioneer—for she climbed in knickerbockers. Her good sense was shown in her entire outfit, since unlike Captain Beaufoy, who climbed in what was practically a suit of pyjamas, she had sufficient appreciation of the sort of rude climate she was going to meet in the higher altitude to go thoroughly well equipped.

She therefore donned the following warm and comprehensive kit. Lots of red flannel underclothes, heavy woollen stockings over silk ones, Scotch tweed knickers lined with more flannel, a thick woollen blouse reinforced with pleats on the back and chest, fur-lined gloves and bonnet, also a straw hat. This was sufficient for

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