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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

PROFESSOR PICCARD'S FLIGHT.

M. Haeberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation has sent the following telegram, to Professor Piccard, a compatriot of ours:

"Ich beglückwünsche Sie namens des Bundesrates zu der ausserordentlich kühnen, erfolgreichen und bahnbrechenden Tat, auf welche wir Eidgenossen alle mit Ihnen stolz sind."

Federal Councillor M. Pilet also sent a telegraphic message, to the two explorers:

"Im Namen des Eisenbahndepartementes und des Luftamtes dem Erschaffer des Stratosphären-Luftfahrzeuges, dem genialen Ballonführer, dem heroischen Forscher und seinem Assistenten herzlich Glückwünsche aus der Heimat."

MOTOR VEHICLES CENSUS.

During 1930, a total of 124,676 motor vehicles were in use in Switzerland, consisting of 60,735 cars, 46,421 motor cycles, 15,843 lorries, and 1,677 tractors.

EXPENDITURE ON SWISS RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION.

According to a report issued recently by the Union of Swiss Banks, a total of £27,176,000 has so far been expended by the Swiss Federal Railway authorities on railway electrification in the country. Of the total, £6,144,000 has been spent on power stations, £4,756,000 on contact lines, £2,964,000 on l.p. apparatus, £1,704,000 on transformer stations, £1,628,000 on transmission lines, and £9,980,000 on electrical rolling stock.

SWISS OFFICERS IN COLUMBIA.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gantier who is the head of the Swiss military mission to Columbia has received the permission of the Federal Council to join the Columbian army.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

A serious fire destroyed a part of the works of the Doctor A. Wander A.G. in Berne. The alarm was given shortly before 1 o'clock p.m. and the fire brigade arrived promptly to find that part of the building was enveloped in flames. Unfortunately the loss of a life is to be registered. The wife of the housekeeper, was trapped by the fire, but was able to leap from the third floor, and although she was caught up, she had received such serious burns that she afterwards expired in hospital, her husband also was seriously burned. The damage is partly covered by insurance, but is nevertheless considered to be extensive.

N.Z.

A terrible tragedy occurred at Biemme, where a certain Pedruzzi killed his former wife and then committed suicide. It is reported that the couple went through a divorce some time ago, and the husband left for Paris, whilst the wife took up a situation in a watch factory. Some time ago, Pedruzzi seemed to have returned to Biemme, in order to induce his former wife to return to him, this she flatly refused, after a heated argument, which took place in a little Restaurant at the Aussen Dufourstrasse, Pedruzzi fired two shots at his wife, killing her instantaneously, he then turned the weapon on himself and expired shortly after the arrival of the police.

N.Z.

The death is reported from Berne of M. Jakob Stalder, Editor of the "Schweizer Bauer" at the age of 62.

N.N.Z.

LUCERNE.

The Bank Sautier A.G. in Lucerne, suspended payments. Its deficit is estimated at 3,000,000f. The Bank offers its investors a settlement of 50 per cent. Its difficulties are said

to be due to the recent failure of the Deutsche Auto-Versicherungs A.G., Stuttgart.

F.N.

GLARUS.

On May the 25th, three sisters, the Misses Landolt from Naefels, aged 15, 16 and 17, went on a trip to Oberseeenthal. When arriving at Waag, one of the sisters decided to take a foot bath, unfortunately she slipped, and fell into the lake at a very dangerous spot, the two sisters tried to help her, but owing to the slippery ground fell into the lake too, and as none of the girls were able to swim, they were drowned together. The bodies were later on washed on the shore.

T.S.P.

BASLE.

M. Bay, member of the Basle-Country government died at Liestal after a long illness. The deceased entered the cantonal government at the early age of 30, and belonged to this body until his death, namely 34 years.

N.Z.

GENEVA.

The State Council received a deputation of the unemployed, and after a lengthy discussion it was decided to make a grant of 100,000f. in aid of the unemployed, it has also been decided to start extensive works for road repairs and an amount of 236,000f. has been earmarked for this purpose.

* * *

The National Swiss Costume Fête will be held this year at Geneva on June 27th and 28th, when there will be a display of ancient and modern Swiss costumes by groups from all the Cantons and districts of the country, and 2,500 persons in national costume will take part in a parade.

ST. GALLEN.

The late Mlle. Scherrer from St. Gallen left a sum of 10,000 f. to the community of Ebnat Kappel to be distributed amongst the orphans of the district.

J.S.

LAUSANNE.

As part of the arrangements for the big Anglo-American Music Conference in August, we are informed that two British choirs are going to transport themselves to Lausanne. One is the South-West Choral Society and the other the boys' choir from Firth Park, Sheffield. In addition to these sporting units the conference is to have its own choir conducted by Professor W. G. Whittaker, of the University of Glasgow, and Bruce Carey, chorus-master of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

Performances will be given in the Cathedral at Lausanne, and it is expected that the choirs will give a short programme from a steamer on the lake on that evening (Aug. 1st) when Switzerland holds her Fête National and bonfires light up the mountain heights, and every town and village on the shore has its fireworks and other illuminations.

Sir Henry Hadow (British president) and Dr. John Erskine (American president) preside over the deliberations of the conference. Mr. Stanley Roper, organist to H.M. Chapels Royal, and Professor J. P. Marshall, of Boston University, have charge of the musical programmes.

N.N.Z.

BELLINZONA.

The congress of the "Jeunesse Socialiste Suisse" was held last Sunday at Bellinzona. About 650 delegates, amongst them 150 lady members arrived by special train. In the procession, which was formed, over 1,000 persons were counted. On the "Place de l'Indépendance" a meeting was held, which was addressed by M. E. Patocchi, M. Canevascini, State Councillor and M. Grimm, National Councillor. During the afternoon a great number of the delegates made a trip to Lugano.

J.S.

* * *

An amount of 1,000f., out of the Federal Schiller Fund, was presented to M. Vittorio Frigerio, chief Editor of the "Corriere del Ticino" in recognition of his eminent works on home life in the Italian part of Switzerland.

J.S.

SWISS SPORTS AT HERNE HILL.

SATURDAY, MAY 30th, 1931.

Many anxious glances must have been cast heavenwards on that memorable Swiss Sports Saturday. I can well imagine the solicitous enquiries of the little ones, whether Daddy or Mummy would take them along to the "Sports." Well the sun brightly smiled at all enquirers, young and old, and before breakfast was over, the glad tidings, that Herne Hill would be the meeting place brought joy and happiness to many of the youngsters. But alas, the Swiss seem not to be in the good books of St. Peter, before lunch, threatening clouds assembled and shortly after the programme had started, rain set in and, with the exception of a few intervals, persistently kept us company.

At 2.30 p.m. a pistol shot rang out, and the first event had started, and in rapid succession the Flat Handicap races for men, boys and ladies followed each other. As the results of the various events will be given at the end of this narrative I will, with a few exceptions, desist from commenting on the achievements of each individual performer. As usual these races were followed with great interest by the numerous onlookers and the winners each received a great and well deserved ovation.

The Committee this year dispensed with engaging a band, and the musical programme was provided by an Ampligram, which was "fed" from Mr. Newman's inexhaustible stock of Swiss gramophone records, the familiar tunes at once created a homely atmosphere and the Committee ought to be congratulated on this innovation. The announcing of the various events was done with the aid of a microphone, but this experiment was less successful, as the voice of the announcer did not come through very distinctly, and I for one would prefer the old fashioned way of using a megaphone.

Shortly before three o'clock, Monsieur Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, accompanied by Madame and the Misses Paravicini arrived and was received by M. de Cintra, Hon. Vice-President, who most efficiently deputised for the President, M. Ch. A. Barbezat, who was unavoidably prevented from being present, owing to his absence on the Continent. The proceedings were interrupted for a short time, whilst Monsieur Paravicini addressed the numerous gathering by expressing his pleasure at being once again able to be present at the Swiss Sports, an institution which has turned out to be year after year such an extremely successful and gay affair. He said that he would like to take this opportunity to mention the name of one, who has rendered eminent services to the sporting community both here and at home and ranked at one time amongst the greatest sportsmen which Switzerland has ever sent to Albion's shores, the late Mr. R. Oberholzer, who, only a few weeks ago had departed from us, much lamented by his many old friends. In order to honour his memory the Assembly was asked to pay a silent tribute, and during that short, most impressive silence, many thoughts must have gone back, to that staunch great sportsman whose achievements were not only a credit to himself but also to his country. In concluding, the Minister expressed the wish that all of the competitors in the various events would win.

This short, and very appropriate address was acknowledged with three hearty cheers in honour of Monsieur and Madame Paravicini. A special interest was created by the Veteran's 440 yds. walking Handicap for men over 40; which was won by M. Donati, who by his victory, became the owner of the beautiful Challenge Cup having won it for three consecutive years. It was almost a foregone conclusion, as M. Donati, right from the beginning, set up a pace which gave his fellow competitors a hard nut to crack. Amongst the entrants for this event I perceived the popular Hon. Treasurer lined up in his fullest glory with a confident and determined air on his face, and the participation in this race filled me with considerable envy. Had I not as many years to my credit as he, and why should I not have the pluck to join these valiant men?; there was even more than mere envy, a feeling of unaccountable jealousy took hold of me, which shortly afterwards however, turned into not less creditable joy, when, after having walked but a few yards, our friend left the track and the field to his fellow companions. The reason of such an inglorious ending was not apparent then, but I think he

(Continued on back Page).

(Continued from front Page)

SOLOTHURN.

M. Théodore Trog a merchant in Olten, has given an amount of 40,000f. to the town of Olten towards starting a Fund for charitable purposes.

VAUD.

A performing bear attacked two spectators at St. Sulpice, a man called Constant Krieg and his 5 year old son. The little boy was so badly bitten, that he had to be taken to the hospital at Lausanne. M. Krieg was also seriously bitten. The owner of this ferocious animal, an Austrian, has been arrested and the bear has been put under lock and key.

N.N.Z.

TICINO.

About 50 school children from Dino, Cadro, Villa and Sonvico, have been taken for a trip to Zurich, none of them have ever left their native place, and some of them have never even seen a railway. They were taken round the town in motor coaches, and a visit to the Zoo was included in the programme. A trip on the lake was greatly enjoyed and the authorities excelled themselves in giving these youngsters a good time. Judging from the exciting faces the guests from beyond the Gotthard enjoyed this trip immensely.

N.N.Z.

GRAUBUENDEN.

M. J. Schmid, former National Councillor died at the age of 81 at Zizers. In the nineties the deceased was a member of the cantonal government and afterwards belonged for 25 years to the cantonal tribunal, over which he presided.

N.N.Z.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. H. Renold, Aarau: "Experiments on Animals."

Miss C. Chollet, Vevey: "La Fête des Vignerons."

Mr. H. Katzenstein, Zurich: "Foreign Visitors in Switzerland."

Miss L. Gehrig, Bern: "Jewellery."

Miss M. Schmid, Zurich: "Oberammegau."

Mr. H. Blass, Horgen: "Bullfight."

Miss M. Rigling, "Evening in the Valley of Zermatt."

Miss H. Ritter, "A Day on the Thames."

Miss N. Ebnetter, "The International Day for Mothers."

Mr. W. Von Arx, "The Pan-European Union."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"That Persons of different Nationality should Marry."

Proposer: Mr. Ramsauer.

Opposer: Mr. A. Gander.

"That Cigarette Smoking is a Vice."

"That Holidays as such should be abolished."

An extremely able and interesting lecture on "Jerome K. Jerome" was given by Mr. F. Blackaby on Friday evening the 29th of May.

The lecturer gave an excellent portrayal of the humour of this great writer, taking examples from the book "Three men in a boat."

The lecturer was well received by the students and at the close the lecturer was enthusiastically cheered.

DIE "FETE SUISSE" VOM 25. JUNI.

Wie schon mitgeteilt, wird am 25. Juni die 62. "Fête Suisse" in der schönen und geräumigen Westminster Central Hall stattfinden. Dazu sind alle lieben Landsleute recht herzlich eingeladen. Das Programm ist reichhaltig und gediegen und so sind wir sicher, dass die Landsleute aus allen Gauen und von allen Landessprachen sich dort heimisch fühlen werden. Wir hoffen auch, dass das Gefühl der Einigkeit dadurch gefördert werden möchte. Das ist der Sinn und Zweck dieses Familienfestes.

R. OBERHOLZER.†

We have much pleasure to acquaint our readers, that a subscription list has been opened in order to perpetuate the memory of our compatriot M. R. Oberholzer, who was at one time one of the finest all round athletes Switzerland ever produced, in the form of a Memorial.

We recommend this appeal especially to all the members of the colony, who have at one time witnessed the glorious ascent of our compatriot to fame in the sporting community. He has been a true and faithful son to our land, and the least we can do now, is to make his resting place a sanctuary to which he was fully entitled. Subscriptions will be received at the office of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2, and by Mr. E. A. Nussle, Hon. Secretary, Swiss Club, Schweizerbund, 74, Charlotte Street, W.

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PARIS.—SWISS BANK OFFICIAL, personally known to the undersigned, wishes to arrange exchange for his Son aged 13 to attend school here for about one year from next Autumn.—Write J. Pfander, 24, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.

"FUNNY CUTS."

A negro woman was telling a friend that she had been to a wedding. She described the bride's white satin gown, the veil, the slippers, the flowers and everything.

"And what did the bridegroom wear?" asked the friend.

"Well, do you know that good for nothing nigger never showed at all," was the astonishing reply.

Everybody's.

* * *

In reply to the teacher's question, "Which is the national flower of England?" the class answered in unison: "Roses, miss."

"Good. Now, what is the national flower of France?"

"Lilies, miss."

"Excellent. Now, which is Spain's national flower?"

There was a long pause, then one small boy volunteered the answer, "Bulrushes, miss!"
Tit-Bits.

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de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 10.30—12 h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 7. Juni 1931.

11 Uhr vorm., Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule
7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und
Religionsunterricht sind erbeten an Pfarrer C.
Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4.
(Tel. Chiswick 4156).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, June 10th, at 7 p.m.—Société de
Secours Mutuels: Committee Meeting, at 74,
Charlotte Street, W.1.

Wednesday, June 10th, at 8.30 p.m.—Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd.—Extraordinary General Meeting—at "Swiss House" 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, June 13, at 4 p.m.—Unterhaltungsa-
bend zu Gunsten einer Ausflugskasse für die
Sonntagschule.—at the "Foyer Suisse,"
15, Upper Bedford Place W.C.1. Jedermann
ist herzlich eingeladen. Das "Schwyzer-
chränzli."

Wednesday, June 17th at 7.45 p.m.—Nouvelle
Société Helvétique—Monthly Meeting, fol-
lowed by an address by Dr. Walter E. R.
Mons on: "The origin and activities of the
order of St. John." at "Swiss House," 34-
35, Fitzroy Square W.1. Members and
Friends very cordially invited.

Thursday, June 25th, from 6-10.30 p.m.—62nd
"Fête Suisse" at Central Hall, Westminster.

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