Zeitschrift:	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber:	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band:	- (1939)
Heft:	919
Artikel:	The international situation as seen abroad
Autor:	Meyer, Gerald
DOI:	https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693893

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. <u>Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.</u>

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. <u>Voir Informations légales.</u>

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. <u>See Legal notice.</u>

Download PDF: 15.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch



The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON,

PRICE 3d.

Vol. 20-No. 919

Telephone : CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

LONDON, 1 JULY, 1939.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

	B	asle V	571	8).				
(Swiss subscription		nay be	paid	into I	Postscheck	-K	onto	
SWITZERLAND	{ 1	Mont	hs (26 (52	issues.	post free) ")	1+.	Frs.	7.50 14.—
UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	11	30.	(26 (52	01.1	post free)	:		3/6 6/6 12/-

HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contem-poraries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.) FEDERAL

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AT THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Members of the two Federal Chambers have travelled by special train to Zurich to visit the Swiss National Exhibition, they were entertained to Luncheon by the Government of the canton of Zurich. M. Vallotton, President of the National Council, and a patriotic speech, in which he emphasized, that both the Army and the civil population are determined to oppose any aggres-sion to the "last man and the last woman."

" LAUPENSCHLACHTFEIER."

The 600th Anniversary of the battle of Laupen was celebrated in Berne, a service was held in the Minster at which the cantonal govern-ment and the Federal Council attended *in corpore*.

PRESENTATION OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT TO THE FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN LUCERNE.

The French Ambassador in Berne has pre-sented a beautiful Sèvre porcelain vase, to the organisation committee of the Federal Shooting Festival in Lucerne, on behalf of the President of the French Republic.

THREE MILLION VISITORS AT THE SWISS

NATIONAL EXHIBITION. On June 24th the three millionth visitor at the Swiss National Exhibition passed the turnstile.

"AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG" AT THE FEDERAL

SHOOTING FESTIVAL IN LUCERNE. The "Auslandschweizertag" of the Federal Shooting Festival in Lucerne took place on Thurs-day, June 29th, amidst great enthusiasm.

Already early in the morning special trains from every corner of Switzerland, brought large numbers of marksmen and visitors to the pic-turesque capital of the canton of Lucerne; in addition countless motor cars, motor coaches, and every conceivable means of conveyance discharged their loads in and around the "Festplatz."

At 10 o'clock a.m. the "Auslandschweizer' At 10 o'clock a.m. the "Auskandschweizer" were officially welcomed on behalf of the town of Lucerne. Dr. G. Schürch, "Auskandschweizer Sekretär," gave an address on "Die Auskand-schweizer und die Landesverteidigung." At 11 o'clock an "Apèritif " was offered by the can-tonal Government and the Municipal Council," this was followed by the official Bouwart in the this was followed by the official Banquet in the "Festhalle" at which Colonel of Division H. Pfyffer von Altishofen gave a patriotic address.

In the afternoon the official guests paid a visit by motor-cars to the "Schlachtkapelle" at Sempach, and in the evening they attended the performance of the "Festspiel."

SWISS LEGATION FOR DUBLIN.

SWISS LEGATION FOR DUBLIN. The National Council has approved a bill for the elevation of the Swiss Consulate-General in Dublin to the status of a Legation under a *Chargé* d'Affaires. The representation will thus be changed from the consular to the diplomatic wash rank

According to the Swiss national law, this proposal does not take effect for three months after promulgation, so that it will become effec-tive in September next.

Mr. Charles J. Benziger is the p Consul-General for Switzerland in Dublin. present

The Irish Government will in due course con-sider the appointment of a similar representative in Switzerland.

FUNDS OF SWISS NEWSPAPERS TO BE

M. Baumann, Chief of the Department of Justice and Police has agreed to examine a pro-posal made in the National Council that the funds of newspapers published in the Confeder of newspapers published in the Confederation should be subjected to control. He remarked, however, on the difficulty of supervising the finances of the 523 newspapers which were pub-

LESS UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

lished every day.

According to figures just published there are at present 31,552 unemployed, or 10,088 less than at the same period twelve months ago.

PROHIBITION OF SWISS PAPERS IN ITALY. The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" (Zurich) and "Der Bund" (Berne) have been prohibited in Italy.

FRENCH MINISTER OF COMMERCE VISITS SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

M. Gentin, Minister of Commerce in the Daladier cabinet has paid a visit to the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich. He was later on received in Berne by Members of the Swiss Government. A Banquet was given in honour of the distinguished visitor.

NEW SWISS MINISTER IN WASHINGTON

Dr. Karl Bruggmann, until recently, Swiss Minister in Prague, has been appointed Swiss Minister at Washington.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS DELEGATION

LEAGUE OF NATIONS DELEGATION. The Federal Council has nominated the fol-lowing members to represent Switzerland at the 20th Autumn Meeting of the League of Nations : M. Motta , head of the Federal Political Dept., Professor Rappard, C. Gorgé, Counsellor of Lega-tion, E. Péquignot, National Councillors Aeby (Fribourg) and Grimm (Berne) and States Coun-cillor Mouttet (Berne).

LOCAL. ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of Dr. Justus Gaule, from 1887-1916 Professor of physiology at the University of Zurich, at the age of 90

Pfarrer Lukas Stückelberger for the last 25 years "Pfarrer "at the "Stadtkirche" in Win-terthur, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

An airship built by M. Hug, an engineer, crashed near Oerlikon and burst into flames. The pilot, M. Eberhard was slightly injured, but the four passengers escaped without injury. The air-ship is a total wreck.

The University of Zurich is losing two of its most eminent teachers in the persons of Dr. Paul Mutzner, Professor of law, and Dr. Ernst Gagliardi, Professor of History; both are retiring for morems of heatth for reasons of health.

Dr. J. Zemp, for many years Professor at the Technical University in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

The population of the town of Zurich on the 31st of May numbered 333,893.

BERNE.

The well-known alpine guide, Abraham Muller, has died in Kandersteg at the age of 82.

Dr. Hans Markwalder, "Stadtschreiber" and "Staatsarchivar," has been made an Honorary Citizen of the town of Berne in recognition of his historical researches.

LUCERNE.

The town of Lucerne has bestowed on Maestro Arturo Toscanini, the famous conductor, the freedom of the City.

National Councillor, Dr. Max Wey, has been elected mayor of the town of Lucerne in succes-sion to Dr. Zimmerli. Dr. Wey, who is 47 years old, has been in the administration of the canton and town of Lucerne for the last 23 years; he was from 1921-1927 a member of the cantonal govern-ment, and for the last twelve years he held the post_as, "Direktor der industriellen Betriebe." Dr. Wey entered the Graud Council of the canton of Lucerne in 1919 at the age of 27.

BASLE. M. Jacob Hecht, one of the Founders of the "Basler Rheinschiffahrt" has celebrated his 60th birthday.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

M. Hans Fischer from Meisterschwanden (Ct. Aargau) has been elected a member of the Can-tonal government. He studied at the Federal Technical University in Zarich, and later on was in charge of the cantonal "Obstberatungsstelle."

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

SCHAFFHAUSEN. The death is reported from Schaffhausen of Dr. L. Peyer Reinhart, President of the Superior Court of the canton of Schaffhausen at the age of 66. The deceased held the rank of Colonel of infantry; during the Frontier occupation he was in command of the 25th Infantry regiment and bater on of the Infantry heigade 13 later on of the Infantry brigade 13.

ST. GALL.

The death has occurred in St. Gall of Dr. Leonard Gmür, from 1897-1930 State prosecutor of the canton of St. Gall, at the age of 75.

TICINO.

Colonel Giuseppe Albisetti, from Massagno near Lugano, was arrested by the Italian authori-ties on passing the Italian Frontier. The political Department in Berne has asked for an explana-

VAUD.

A military machine crashed near Vallorbe, owing to a thick fog. The pilot, Lieutenant Décombaz, received serious injuries, whilst the observer, lieutenant Hager was killed outright.

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS SEEN ABROAD.

Back from a trip on the Continent where in Paris, Marseilles, Nice, Geneva, Lausanne and Berne I had the opportunity of speaking with people of all classes on the international situation — as seen by them — it might interest readers of the *Swiss Observer* to know what my impressions are after these conversations. are after these conversations.

Firstly, I was struck by the note of optimism and confidence on the other side of the Channel.

In France, a close analysis of the challer, so different from the atmosphere of discourage-ment and defeatism prevailing after the Munich "agreement." when France found a belated con-solation in her empire, showed that it was actuated by the following facts:

(1) growing consciousness of the military strength and present unity of France;

- the introduction of conscription in Great Britain, coupled with the gigantic rearmament programme ;
- (3) the coalition of European powers now pre-pared to stem further aggression in Europe;
- (4) confidence in the Poles and their army:
- (5) the conversations between France, Great Britain and Russia in view of a mutual assistance pact.

Even the nationalistic-minded Frenchman, always so suspicions of Moscow and everything Sovietic, admitted the practical uses of an alli-ance with Russia. In fact on the broad principles of French foreign policy unanimity was the keynote

Other factors which encouraged hopes of Other factors which encouraged hopes of peace were the unwillingness of Japan to be too closely associated with the Axis powers, the moral support of the U. S. A. for the democracies and continual rumours of discontent among the Italian people with the ever increasing influence of Germany in Italy's domestic affairs. These last rumours give a certain colour to the current joke that the Italian people are now restless because " they were better off under Mussolini than now under Goering."

In Geneva, I was shown a pamphlet pub-lished in Italy and which. I was told, is circu-lated in thousands to the people of Italy. This manifesto expressed in unrestrained language its disfavour at the "prussianisation" of Italy and strongly condemned the recent military pact con-cluded between the Reich and Italy.

On the Riviera I found the "meridional" spirit unchanged. In fact the Mediterranean ap-

peared more azure than ever and the inhabitants still full of the " joie de vivre."

Wherever I went the British Prime Minister was exceedingly popular — even more so than in his own country.

In Paris non-stop varieties featured Mr. Chamberlain and his umbrella, in certain ballrooms " la Chamberlain " was danced and in Nice I had coffee in la rue Chamberlain.

I did not meet a single person who did not express his pleasure at the introduction of conscription in Great Britain. In Switzerland where the same pleasure was manifest it was pertinently remarked that compulsory military service should have been introduced a long time ago in England and on a far more important scale.

On the Riviera I found a profound contempt for Mussolini and the fighting powers of the Italian army. Nowhere did I find any aggressiveness but simply self-confidence. The prevailing opinion was expressed in a nut-shell in a little sketch I saw at a casino. This depicted a Corsican gendarme chatting with a tourist. Their conversation is interrupted by a terrific noise. The Corsican leaves his companion to find out the cause of this vacarme only to return a few seconds later with the words "Ce n'est rien — ce ne sont que les Italiens "... This was loudly cheered by the audience which comprised many people of Italian origin.

Despite the self-confidence all along the Southern French coast, one meets pickets of French Colonial troops bent on an eternal vigil.

Several times I tried to take a photograph of a Senagalese soldier but every one of them refused to pose for a snapshot and looked with deep misgivings at my camera.

In Switzerland, where up to a few months ago, I was told, Berlin was the principal focus of interest, London has become the chief centre of attraction. Significant remarks are heard about the strength of Switzerland's precautionary measures on " one" of her frontiers. There again confidence seemed to reign. In Berne I had a very interesting conversation with Docteur Ludi, President of the Agence Telegraphique Suisse, who told me of the continual efforts of the Switzerland. It seems that Switzerland is a favourite hunting-ground for the spreading by alien sources of news known as " kite balloons," (ballons d'essai), this, explained Docteur Ludi, is due to the excellent reputation of the Swiss press abroad where it is widely quoted.

After reviewing everything I heard and saw during my little sejour abroad, it appears to me that people in this country are much more gloomy and given to jitters than either in France or Switzerland.

Is it because the English masses have suddenly become political-minded? On my arrival at Victoria Station, I was met by a gloomy looking porter who complained at the poor tourist traffic for the Continent this year.

I must admit at the time of writing, even here people are brightening up and perhaps by the time this article is published (it it is) readers will complain that it is out of date and that there never was a "crisis." Events, no sooner they are enacted nowadays, become ancient history.

(GERALD MEYER).

LEMBO TICINESE.

Primavera. La montagua, color di viola, alla base, ha un chiarore di madreperla in cima. La sua più alta vetta è d'oro ... illuminata tutta com'è dal sole nascente, dietro ad un arrabattarsi di nuvole, che vorrebbero non lasciarlo passare ... Una rondine fende l'aria, stride, e poi vola via, silenziosa, si perde lassà ove il sole nasce. Dalla terra bagnata di fresco da ricca pioggia, s'alza una fraganza caratteristica. Sotto pulsa tutta una vegetazione nuova che fa appena appena capolino.

Osservo. Penso. E. chissà per quale motivo, penso non al travagliare odierno; non alla vita intensa d'oggi, piena di elettricità, di sgomento, satura di avvenimenti politici che rendono per plessi gli animi. Penso invece al buon tempo andato. Forse è la calma dell'ora, la bellezza della natura che si sveglia, che mi inclina a volgermi indietro, a quando la vita era quieta e schietta, scevra di prepotenza e d'ingordigia ...

dall E ne ho nostalgia. In questo mattino, chiaro di sole e di rugiada, un tempo sarebbe apparso ...

"L'è scià ul magnan " lanciando la sua canzone "L'è scià ul magnan, l'è scià ul magnan, donnett vegnii "... E sarebbe stato un affaccendarsi di pentole e pentolini, in rame scintillante, anneriti quà e la dal buon fuoco del camino. Le donnette, le nosre soavi ave dal sorriso aperto e la parola arguta e generosà, le affidavano al ramaio per stagnarle, per ribatterle. E lui prometteva " ma si che le avrebbe fatte come nuove, si proprio bene e per un nonnulla quasi." Cantando se le portava via quelle pentole, cantando le riportava, qualche giorno dopo, accomodate per bene ...

Poi? poi la vita moderna, lo snobbismo novecento, non volle più vedere queste pentole in rame, orgoglio e ricchezza delle nonne nostre, splendore di ogni cucina di allora. Alluminio invece, altre composizioni nuove ... e il buon rame scomparve, relegato in qualche oscuro angolo di solaio ...

Sarebbe apparso, un tempo

... L'ombrellaio, con il suo grido " ombrellat, ombrellat." È una schiera di ombrelle abbisognanti riparazioni sarebbe comparsa. Lui si sedeva in un angolo, un po discosto dalla strada, apriva il suo fagotello con i pochi arnesi per la bisogna, e incominciava, fischiettando, il lavoro. Ombrelle logore proprio, dal lungo manico secco, nere, nerissime ... ombrello che volevano avere un tantino di civetteria — ombrellone rosse ... tutte li allineate, pronte per la riparazione.

... Il cenciainolo. "Chi ha stracci? chi ha bottiglie, scatole, scarpe vecchie?" E alla luce compariva un reggimento di bottiglie, scatole, scarpe, stracci, che finivano tutti in un sacco che non si riempiva mai ... sembrava almeno così agli occhi degli osservatori ...

E il "nuletta" — l'arrotino — sempre burlone, che per tutti aveva una barzelletta, affilava, affilava coltelli, forbici, sulla sua ruota svelta e lucida che ogni tanto bagnava d'acqua, e che strideva, girando rapida ...

Sarebbe apparsa una donnina, tutta timidezza, che offriva cestelli, sedie e tavolini in vimini, che non mancavano nelle nostre case allora, proprio forse al medesimo posto che ora è occupato trionfalmente, ostentatamente da una radio rumorosa ... E altre ancora di queste tipiche figure nostrane, di cui, oggi, non rimane neanche forse il ricordo. Mi passano accanto, leggere e come avvolte da un tenue velo che le rende invisibili quasi ... salgono, salgono, verso il più alto cielo, si lasciano prendere nelle spire delle nubi, scompaiono ... anche dalle mie rievocazioni ...

Un fremito ansioso. Rabbioso. Una rafica. Un torpendone rosso fianmante é filato via, quasi non visto tanta la velocità. Da esso una radio mandava, all'aria, le note di una canzonetta in voga. Altre antomobili lo seguono. Altre ancora. E il pieno 900 che passa... che vuol cancellare il lirismo del buon tempo che fu!

E. G. L.

1ST AUGUST SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

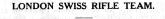
Arrangements are practically complete to celebrate this great day in a truly patriotic manner.

All good Swiss in or near London will no doubt make a point of taking part in the great rally at St. Paneras' Town Hall, on Tuesday, August 1st next.

Tickets are free — obtainable from members of the committee and all Swiss Societies.

There will be Swiss music, Swiss songs, patriotic speeches. — Our esteemed Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, will address his compatriots, — and there will be dancing till midnight. Buffet and bar open throughout the evening.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT IT, AND MAKE SURE TO RESERVE THE FIRST OF AUGUST FOR ST. PANCRAS HALL.





We regret to inform our readers that on going to Press, we had not received the result obtained by the London Swiss Rifle Team at the Federal Shooting Competition in Lucerne.

PERSONAL.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mlle. Jacqueline Paravicini, younger daughter of the Swiss Minister, and to M. Eric de Schulthess-Rechberg, eldest son of Colonel and Mme, de Schulthess-Rechberg, of Schloss Au, Lake of Zurich, on the occasion of their engagement.

