

Home news

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FETE NATIONALE DE 1921.

Appel du Comité national suisse pour la fête du 1er août.

Chers Confédérés,

A partir de la date funeste du 1er Août 1914, l'anniversaire de la fondation de notre patrie porte l'empreinte du souci et de la tristesse.

La lumière commence, sans aucun doute, à se faire dans les esprits, les consciences se réveillent, la foi et la puissance victorieuse du droit et de l'ordre s'affermir. Mais bien des pays sont encore en proie à une violente agitation, et l'Union des peuples, que nous avons acclamée avec enthousiasme, suit une voie hérissée de difficultés. Un égoïsme aveugle, une lutte insensée des classes et des partis entravent la marche des divers Etats vers l'assainissement de leur situation intérieure. La crise économique, enfin, qui sévit dans notre pays, nous inspire les plus vives inquiétudes.

Le peuple suisse aurait cependant tort, si, sous l'impression de l'état de confusion qui caractérise notre époque, il renonçait le 1er août, à son droit au bonheur et à la joie. Il ferait même preuve d'ingratitude, car il paraîtrait oublier qu'il lui est resté ce qu'il y a d'unique, de meilleur au monde: la patrie. Ne possédons-nous pas en elle la source vive de tout progrès et de toute prospérité, source qui, aujourd'hui comme il y a cent ans, apportera la guérison aux maux dont nous souffrons ?

Peuple suisse ! Souviens-toi donc avec joie et reconnaissance du grand jour auquel nos pères prêtèrent le premier serment de leur union. Fête ce jour dignement et avec confiance. Espère en l'avenir, te rendant bien compte que nos vies sont faibles, nulles même, tant que nous ne les unissons pas pour qu'elles deviennent la grande vie de la nation, cette vie qui va progressant et se développant sans cesse.

L'aliénation de chacun en faveur de la communauté peut seule assurer au pays les conditions de son existence, à savoir: l'estime des nations, un esprit sain, la ferme volonté de maintenir son indépendance, l'amour du travail et sa juste récompense. Seule, elle nous rendra capable de mener à bonne fin la belle œuvre des assurances populaires, œuvre de mutualité qui honore un peuple de frères.

Aidez-vous les uns les autres, vivez les uns pour les autres. Le Conseil fédéral insiste tout particulièrement sur cette pensée, en consacrant le produit de la vente des cartes postales de cette année à l'Alliance suisse des Samaritains.

Notre pays, vrai samaritain pendant la guerre mondiale, s'honore en prêtant son appui à une union dont l'activité bénie symbolise la charité, le renoncement à soi-même, le dévouement pour nos frères qui souffrent. L'œuvre à laquelle l'Alliance suisse des Samaritains s'est consacrée nous fait sentir avec force combien nous devons faire entrer dans notre vie l'idéalisme, la bonté, l'assistance mutuelle.

Peuple suisse, témoigne ta sympathie à ceux qui travaillent gratuitement pour tes malades.

VIVE L'ESPRIT DE FRATERNITE !

Pour le comité national suisse de la fête du 1er août:

Schulthess, président de la Confédération, Berne, président d'honneur.—Dr. Meyer, conseiller national, Zurich, président.—H. Micheli, ancien conseiller national, Genève, vice-président.—Dr. Bertoni, conseiller aux Etats, Lugano, vice-président.—Calame, directeur, Winterthour, président du comité exécutif.—V. Schuster, Zurich, président de la commission de propagande.—G. Bislin, Zurich, trésorier.—J. Brandenberger, Zurich, secrétaire.—O. Vaterlaus, Thalwil.—A. Rauber, Olten, secrétaire de l'Alliance suisse des Samaritains.

HOME NEWS

On Tuesday last the Director of the Political Department reported to the Swiss Federal Council that the negotiations between the French and Swiss delegates concerning the *Free Zones* question have been concluded.

Agreement on all material points has been reached to the mutual satisfaction of both Countries.

Should further differences result when the terms of the agreement are put into practical operation, such differences shall be submitted by the two contracting Governments to independent arbitration.

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The Swiss Federal Council has accepted the resignation of the Consul-General for Switzerland in Cologne, Councillor of Legation Walther Deucher.

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Unemployment in Switzerland.—The Swiss Federal Employment Board publishes the following figures for July 18th: Unemployed 52,255, employed on short time 76,822. On April 25th the figures were: 47,949 and 95,374 respectively, so that the number of totally unemployed has increased by nearly 5,000, whilst the number of workers employed part-time has been appreciably reduced.

Compiled according to Cantons, total unemployment has increased in the Cantons of Appenzell A.-Rh., Basle-Stadt, Neuchâtel, St. Gall, Solothurn and Zurich, and decreased considerably in the Cantons of Geneva and Thurgau.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to devote frs. 300,000 from the unemployment funds for the support of destitute artists, who will be engaged for re-decorating Federal and public buildings.

In receiving a delegation of the Bernese unemployed, Baudirektor and Government Councillor von Erlach pointed out that the Government of the Canton of Berne had, up to the present, spent nearly 13 million francs in providing work for unemployed, emphasising at the same time that the finances of the State were far from being brilliant, the State also living only from hand to mouth.

The delegation formulated the following demands: (1) Increased provision for employment through construction of roads and buildings and river corrections. (2) Unemployment pay for all for whom work cannot be provided. (3) Grant of minimum payment of frs. 100.— to all those who have been out of work for 60 consecutive days, for the purpose of providing themselves with clothes and boots. (4) In view of the fact that the situation of the unemployed will become still more aggravated during the coming winter, the Government of the Canton Berne shall prepare a scheme which will prevent the further progress of pauperisation of the unemployed.

The Committee of the Basle Unemployed has addressed an appeal to the Swiss working classes advising appointment of special committees in every centre which are to put forth the following demands: Employment or full pay, and continuation of uncurtailed relief pay until work is provided for everyone. Re-engagement of unemployed by the same employers who have dismissed them. Control of labour by the working class. Resumption of trade and commerce with Soviet-Russia.

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The Canton Thurgau is in the happy position of furnishing the exception to the rule concerning fiscal accounts for the year 1920.

The financial years of 1915 to 1918 have all been blessed with an excess of revenue over expenditure. Only 1919 disclosed a deficit of just 1 million francs, principally due to the sharp increase of the civil service pay-roll. This was promptly countered by the aid of a severe revision of the taxation registers, so that the balance-sheet for the year 1920 again shows a surplus of revenue amounting to frs. 400,000.

Total revenue for 1920 amounted to frs. 10,491,715, total expenditure to frs. 10,091,727.

Favourable conditions in agriculture and industry of the Canton during the past few years enabled the State to considerably increase assessments of taxpayers, which is evident from the fact that increased taxation in 1920 realised frs. 4,579,000, against frs. 2,724,000 in 1919 and frs. 1,908,000 in 1918.

The industrial crisis of the present year has, however, also engulfed the Canton of Thurgau, so that the deficit of frs. 801,000 which is budgetted for the year 1921 will, in all probability, be found not to have transformed itself into a surplus (as has been the case in previous years) by the time the fiscal accounts for 1921 come to be made up.

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Gross revenue of the Swiss fiscal stamp duties for the first six months of the current year produced frs. 10,554,693, 4.7 millions of which amount were derived from stamp duty on shares.

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The Swiss literary production for 1920 totalled 1,453 works, against 1,626 in 1919. Swiss writers abroad produced 295 works for publication, against 215 in 1919.

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The athletic competitions between members of the French and the Swiss Athletic Associations, which were held at Lyons on Sunday, the 24th instant, resulted in a decisive victory for the Swiss athletes, who have gained first place with 58 points, winning 9 events out of 14, the French athletes coming second with 68 points.

The following events were secured by members of the Swiss team:—100 and 200 metres races: Imbach (11 1-5 and 22 3-5 secs.); 800 and 1500 metres races: Martin (1 min. 56 2-5 secs. and 4 mins. 06 2-5 secs.); 110 metres hurdle race: Willi Moser; 4 x 100 metres relay race: Imbach, Steiner, Schuler and Leibundgut (44 2-5 secs.); long jump: Gerspach (6.55 metres); high jump: Willi Moser (1.71 metres); pole jump: Gerspach (6.55 metres); putting the weight: Garnuss (11.51 metres); throwing the javelin: Moser (46.25 metres).

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A mountaineering feat of great daring and endurance was performed on Sunday, July 24th, by Max Liniger, of the A.A.C., Zurich, and Hans Lauper, of the A.A.C., Berne. The two alpinists achieved the first ascent which has

been made this year of the Mönch, selecting the most difficult and rarely chosen south side for their ascent, which occupied fully 11½ hours. The mastering of the "Schlüsselstelle" alone, a distance of about 300 feet only, demanded 3½ hours' strenuous exertion on the part of the plucky mountaineers.

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Owing to the collapse, on Monday last, of an iron footbridge leading to the women's baths at Solothurn, 30 out of 70 children who were on the bridge were thrown into the river Aare, 10 of whom were drowned.

The bodies of the following have been recovered:—Rosa Baumgartner (aged 12), Hedwig Felder (5), Marg. Kappeler (12), Dora Wirz (10), Josephine Hirsig (9), Hedwig Meister (12), her little brother Ernst (3), and Ida Buri (12). Missing are the bodies of Martha Frey (10) and Bertha Christen (6).

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The most disastrous factory explosion which has ever happened in Switzerland occurred on July 21st in Bodio, Tessin, destroying completely the nitrate factory of the Nitrumwerke, A.G., killing 15 persons and injuring 30. The force of the explosion was so terrific that adjoining factories also suffered extensive damage.

Among the dead are: Dr. Jos. Belser, director of the works (from Niedergösgen), Dr. Heinr. Schellenberg, chief chemist (from Wädenswil), Ernst Wymann, assistant chemist, and Mrs. Strubin, wife of Mr. Strubin, civil engineer, who happened to be in her villa situate near the factory, which was also blown to pieces.

According to the "Gazetta Ticinese" it would appear that the explosion was caused by highly dangerous chemical experiments, which the directors, the chemical experts, four factory foremen and the chief engineer were conducting at the time. The correctness of this assumption will, however, probably never be established, as all the principals engaged in the experiments suffered instantaneous death.

The material damage caused by the explosion is estimated at over six million francs.

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A regrettable tragedy terminated the holidays of a party of scholars from Zurich secondary schools, who with three of their teachers were staying at Trübsee above Engelberg. On the last of their daily excursions from Trübsee some of the scholars, guided by the teachers, paid a visit of inspection to the well-known "Schneeföhle," a large cave, which in stormy weather is often used by the Sennen for their cattle as temporary shelter. Hardly had the party entered the cave when its roof fell in, tremendous volumes of snow and ice burying them. Some were rescued unharmed, others injured, while three of the scholars, named Willi Brüttsch, Fritz Müller and Walter Schnyder, whose ages range from 14 to 16 years, unfortunately lost their lives.

* * *

OBITUARY.—Colonel Heinr. Heusser has succumbed to stroke at the age of 56, at Riehen near Basle, on the day which should have been his daughter's wedding day. The deceased was Commanding Officer of the 21st Infantry Brigade, President of the Swiss Officers' Association and Grossratsmitglied for the Canton Basel-Stadt.

For over 20 years Colonel Heusser directed the affairs of the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Riehen with unexampled devotion and foresight, and his tragic and far too early departure will be particularly severely felt at this centre of his fruitful activities.