

# Home news

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1922)**

Heft 60

PDF erstellt am: **29.06.2024**

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*  
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, [www.library.ethz.ch](http://www.library.ethz.ch)

<http://www.e-periodica.ch>

# The Swiss Observer

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Published weekly at  
21, GARLICK HILL, E.C. 4.

Telephone: CITY 4603.

No. 60

LONDON, JULY 29, 1922.

PRICE 3D.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	{ 6 Months (26 issues, post free) - - - -	6/6
	{ 12 " (52 " " " " ) - - - -	12/-
SWITZERLAND	{ 6 Months (26 issues, post free) - - - -	Frs. 7.50
	{ 12 " (52 " " " " ) - - - -	14.-

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto: Basle V 5718).

## HOME NEWS

The Archbishop of Canterbury has accepted an invitation to preach a sermon at the Genevese Cathedral on Sunday, September 3rd, which precedes the opening of the third session of the League of Nations.

\* \* \*

At the invitation of the Swiss Government, who acts as host, the Council of the International Labour Bureau (Geneva) has opened its 13th session in the Kursaal at Interlaken on the 25th instant.

The International Labour Bureau is represented by its Director, Minister Albert Thomas, and 24 functionaries.

The assembly further comprises 75 participants (16 of whom are ladies), delegated to the session by the governments of the following countries:—

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

\* \* \*

The President of the Reich, Herr Ebert, received last week the members of the Mixed Commission for Upper Silesia and its President, ex-Federal Councillor F. Calonder, in the presence of the German Chancellor, the Swiss Minister, the Prussian Premier and a number of Under-Secretaries of State.

President Ebert pointed out that M. Calonder, as head of the Germano-Polish Commission, had exercised a lofty conception of duty during the difficult negotiations, greatly facilitating completion of the agreement which was eventually reached by the two States through his just and conciliatory attitude.

In reply, M. Calonder thanked the President of the Reich for his kindly words and expressed his confidence that the members of his Commission would succeed in justifying the trust reposed in them by removing existing differences in Upper Silesia and restoring order, peace and goodwill to that country.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways are gradually improving their position in regard to revenue and expenditure, although the acute industrial crisis continues but little abated, and the number of passengers still lags behind the figures of the previous year.

The recovery is mainly due to a slight increase in goods traffic and to the rigorous cutting down of expenditure. While for the months of January and February of

this year expenditure still exceeded receipts by 5.79 and 3.76 million francs respectively, the subsequent months produced a surplus over expenditure, viz.:—

March	...	...	2.36 million francs.
April	...	...	1.96 " "
May	...	...	2.80 " "
June	...	...	4.16 " "

\* \* \*

The following table illustrates the export development of the Swiss watch industry since 1891:—

Year	Watches and movements (Pieces)	Export value in Frs.
1891	4,347,316	103,397,053
1911	12,057,929	164,026,760
1913	13,815,727	183,049,199
1914	10,019,005	120,813,099
1915	13,877,456	136,607,936
1916	17,998,775	207,576,764
1917	16,821,782	210,946,819
1918	15,395,542	215,270,887
1919	16,865,132	314,787,644
1920	13,729,870	325,582,350
1921	7,853,240	169,131,000

It will be seen that the record exports of 1913 were considerably lowered in the following year, when the Great War intervened, only to rise from 1916 onwards, until in 1920 the value of exports was more than treble that of 1891, while, on the other hand, the critical year of 1921 again reveals a drop of nearly 50 per cent. compared with the boom year of 1920.

To what extent the value of the goods exported fluctuates, is clearly demonstrated when the number of pieces is compared with the export value figures.

How universal the trade depression has become is also evident from a glance at the figures which follow the names of those countries who, during and after the war, proved the best customers of Switzerland's watch industry:

Country	Value in million francs	
	1920	1921
United States of America	68.3	35.1
Great Britain	32.7	18.6
British India	21.0	5.0
Spain	19.0	7.4
Japan	18.3	15.7
Argentina	14.0	4.8
China	11.5	7.8
France	10.2	5.2

Germany, who was the biggest customer in pre-war days (32.6 millions in 1913), has only absorbed 6.8 millions worth of watches in 1921.

\* \* \*

Owing to Major Gerber's inability to take part in the balloon race for the Gordon-Bennett Cup at Geneva, Switzerland will now be represented by the following aeronauts:—

Balloon "Helvetia"—Pilot: Capt. Armbruster;  
Asst. Pilot: Dr. Bachmann.

Balloon "Genève"—Pilot: Lieut. Ansermier;  
Asst. Pilot: C. von Grünigen.  
Balloon "Zürich"—Pilot: R. O. Müller;  
Asst. Pilot: Prof. de Quervain.

\* \* \*

The employees of Hasler, A.G., Berne, manufacturers of telegraphic apparatus and appliances, have gone on strike, after arbitration concerning reduction of wages has failed to lead to an agreement.

\* \* \*

Four alpinists, members of the Berne section of the S.A.C., ascended the Balmhorn (3,712 m) on Saturday last and were surprised by a terrific snow storm, which forced them to remain on the summit. The intense cold during the night completely exhausted Messrs. F. Steiger, notary, and Bäschlin, librarian, so that they could not undertake the descent. Messrs. Baumann-Zurbuchen and Th. Hüry managed to reach Schwärenbach and summon a rescue party, who, however, found Steiger and Bäschlin dead, they having succumbed to the exposure.

\* \* \*

*Toll of the Edelweiss!*—A boy of 12 years from Maloja (Grisons) was gathering Edelweiss on the rocks of the Piz Margna, when he fell over a precipice. His companions immediately descended to the valley for help, but the rescue party could only recover the dead body of the unfortunate lad, who in his fall of over 200 metres had nearly every bone broken.

\* \* \*

#### OBITUARY.

States Councillor Jean Sigg died at Geneva on Sunday last, aged 57. A native of Schaffhausen, he was born at Zürich and became teacher; this occupation he relinquished on being elected Secretary to the Swiss Workers' Union in Geneva, which function he exercised until 1918, when he became Director of the Federal Unemployment Office.

M. Sigg was member of the Grand Council of Geneva for 30 years, National Councillor from 1911 till 1918, and was elected States Councillor at the beginning of 1921.

\* \* \*

Dr. Th. Vetter, Professor of English and English Literature at the University of Zürich and the Federal Polytechnic Institute, died at Zürich on Monday last at the age of 70.

#### EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**La tête de Nicolas Chenaux héros gruyérien.**—A la fin du 18e siècle, Fribourg était devenue l'une des citadelles des idées oligarchiques. Son gouvernement avait pris tous les défauts de celui de Berne, sans le cachet de grandeur et de sagesse politique qui dissimulait les vices de ce dernier (A. Daguét). Une cinquantaine de famille de robe et d'épée s'étaient arrogé tous les emplois de l'Etat. Une chambre secrète avait usurpé tous les pouvoirs. Le peuple était privé des droits politiques qu'il avait possédés; il souffrait dans ses intérêts matériels de péages vexatoires; un vif mécontentement régnait dans les campagnes; les paysans, unis aux bourgeois du chef-lieu et aux familles ennoblies à l'étranger, réclamèrent la restitution des anciennes franchises. Deux mille campagnards, conduits par le major Nicolas Chenaux, de la Tour de Trême, marchèrent, le 2 mai 1781, contre Fribourg, après avoir fait bénir leurs drapeaux par deux curés. Incapable de résister, le gouvernement fribourgeois manda l'aide de Berne; grâce à cet appui, il mit en déroute les assaillants; Chenaux, qui s'était enfui à Posieux, fut assassiné par deux de ses affiliés désireux de rentrer en grâce. Le gouvernement s'acharna sur son cadavre, le fit écarteler et trancher la tête par le bourreau. La tête de Chenaux fut conservée, mais on ignorait ce qu'elle était devenue. On apprend aujourd'hui qu'elle se trouve actuellement chez M. Paul Moriaud, à Genève, qui la remettra plus tard au Musée gruyérien.

**Les combats de vaches dans le Valais.**—Aux Etablons, pâturage d'été situé dans le val d'Isérables sur la rive gauche de la Fare, au-dessus de la forêt de ce nom, à l'altitude de 2700 mètres où paissent de 125 à 150 bêtes à cornes appartenant en commun aux communes de Saxon et de Riddes, a eu lieu samedi dès 8 heures le traditionnel combat annuel de vaches de la race d'Hérens, pour la désignation de la "reine du pâturage." Douze concurrentes étaient en lice. La lutte principale s'est faite entre la lauréate de 1921, "Marmotte," de 195 centimètres de largeur de poitrail, propriété de M. Camille Morand, gérant du domaine de Montibeux, à Riddes, et "Violette," nouvelle venue de 205 centimètres de poitrail, propriété de M. Denis Pitteleud, à Riddes. "Marmotte" avait contre elle la masse et le poids de "Violette" et le fait qu'elle était indisposée et atteinte d'une boiterie, si bien qu'elle a perdu la royauté et que c'est sa concurrente qui l'a emporté et qui a été proclamée, pour la saison, "reine des Etablons." Les autres lutteuses se sont mesurées en second rang. Le spectacle suivi par de nombreux curieux de la contrée a été palpitant d'intérêt. C'est la "Violette" qui est, pour cet été, reine aux Etablons. ("La Tribune de Genève.")

\* \* \*

**Le courage de l'Anglais!**—Un grave accident a failli arriver à une demoiselle de Neuchâtel qui, accompagnée d'un jeune Anglais, avait entrepris dimanche la course de la Grande Ecœurne. La jeune fille servait de guide à son compagnon. Elle passa la première la Grande Ecœurne, mais, quand vint le tour de l'Anglais, celui-ci fut pris d'une peur terrible et refusa net de la suivre. La jeune fille ne pouvant revenir en arrière, les deux excursionnistes restèrent ainsi, séparés seulement de quelques mètres, l'un en deçà, l'autre en delà, de la Grande Ecœurne pendant toute la nuit. Ils appelèrent longtemps au secours. Mais, bien que leurs cris eussent été entendus au Champ-du-Moulin, personne ne vint à leur aide. Ce n'est que lundi matin qu'un jeune homme du Champ-du-Moulin, qui était parti à leur recherche, parvint à les délivrer de leur périlleuse position. Les rescapés ont été restaurés au Champ-du-Moulin, puis ramenés en automobile, lundi après midi, à Neuchâtel. Ajoutons ce détail que la jeune fille a passé toute la nuit en toilette légère, son compagnon n'ayant pas pu lui rendre son manteau.

("Le Droit du Peuple," Lausanne.)

\* \* \*

**Flower Festival at Montreux.**—When it was suggested, after last year's successful fête, to celebrate the blooming of the famous narcissus fields round Montreux, that it should be repeated annually instead of once every two years, there were some who thought that it would be too often, and would fall flat. If these were present at the 1922 fête held on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, they must have changed their minds, for it was evident that this Fête des Narcisses supplies a form of enjoyment very definitely wanted in Switzerland. There is nothing like it anywhere else in this country, and, apart from the natural beauties of the Montreux district, the fête is worth going a long journey to see. Among the visitors this year were thousands from German Switzerland, while, falling as it did at Whitsuntide, it enabled several parties to travel direct from England, one from as far away as Glasgow.

It would take too long to describe the programme in detail. After an official luncheon, at which the Committee welcomed several "big guns" from Lausanne, Berne, Zurich and elsewhere, who had graciously accepted invitations, and, incidentally, appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly, the musical part of the fête opened in the Jardin Anglais before the huge stands which had been erected to hold more than three thousand persons. When it began there was scarcely a vacant seat.

The "Jeu du Feuillu" is a poetic and musical scena with dancing, written and composed by Jacques-Dalcroze for the Festival Vaudois in 1903 as an ode to Spring. Over three hundred performers took part, among them many children who carried out their share with wonderful accuracy and charm. The orchestra, the choir and the dancers must be highly complimented, as well as M. de Ribaupierre, the conductor, and the other producers responsible. Mlle. Bard, the soloist, had no easy task in the open air, but her clear, strong voice proved fully equal to the occasion.

Next came the procession of decorated cars, carriages, bicycles, groups on foot, allegorical cars, advertisement cars—a long and wonderful array. Certainly there were some which would have ranked high in any prize list at Nice or Cannes. The winning car was a Rolls Royce encased in cream roses, carrying a golden and rose-bedecked cradle containing a young girl. Another, "Amour," represented some sweet little Cupids riding in a rose-covered car drawn by a huge dragon-fly. This