

Extracts from Swiss papers

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: **13.09.2024**

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.")

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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.)

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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

was an "equal-first." Among the others were cooks, flower-girls, boy-scouts, bakers and confectioners, etc., representing different societies in the district. Among side-cars an enormous ladies' shoe, all of pink roses, was the prettiest. Some children's scooters were most ingeniously decorated.

Then came the gun which announced the opening of the battle of flowers and confetti. After that the fun waxed fast and furious until, with but a short respite for dinner, the illuminations and fireworks brought everyone to the lakeside. The Venetian Fête was as charming as may be expected where the natural surroundings adapt themselves so perfectly as they do at this lovely hill-encircled town on the edge of the lake. No more need be said than that. Special steamers and numberless little boats crowded the nearer waters, while the town and hills were ablaze with coloured fires and fairy lights. The end came with a fine display of fireworks. Fêtes de Nuit at the Kursaal and the Pavillon des Sports of the Montreux Palace concluded the evening's and began the night's entertainments.

There was not a hitch in the proceedings from start to finish; even the weather, which looked threatening at times, had the decency to do what was expected of it.

Many English were present, but most of them seemed unaccustomed to this form of continental rejoicing, and a long "confab" was held among one or two families as to whether it would be decorous to throw confetti on Whitsun Day. "Just a few," said Father. But it was not long before they became infected with the general abandon, and Mother was soon an unrecognisable mass of coloured spots tied up in a bundle by "serpentin" ribbons.

("English Herald Abroad," Montreux.)

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Das Bärndütsch-Fest am Samstag und Sonntag gestaltete sich zu einer grossartigen buntfarbigen Veranstaltung, die unzählige Menschenmassen anlockte.

Eine Reitergruppe und die Metallharmonie an der Spitze eröffneten am Samstag kurz nach 2 Uhr den Zug. Gruppe um Gruppe marschierte auf, jede mit frohem Stolz die Schönheit ihrer Tracht oder eine schmutzige Probe ihrer traditionellen Tätigkeit vorweisend. Zuerst das Oberland mit den Töchtern aus Meiringen, den Burschen und Meitschen aus Grindelwald und den Sennen aus Saanen, alles farbig sehr wirksame Gruppen; die Guggisberger schickten ein Fähnlein Reizege aus der Grasburger Herrschaft voran und folgten dann mit einer ganzen Spinnstube, mit Rossen und sogar mit einem richtigen Schafschäfer, der lebhaft jubelt wurde. Eine anmutige Kindergruppe aus Bern mit Blumenschmuck schloss sich den Fahnen-delegationen der Berner Turnerschaften und der im Vollwuchs aufmarschierenden Studentenschaft an. Stramm und jugendfrisch folgten die Thuner Armbrustschützen. Dann das Emmemental mit einem frohbegrüßten Hochzeitszug und der währschaftlichen Käseerei in der Vefreude; ihm schloss sich der Frauenchor Worb an. Das Seeland kam mit drei Gruppen: Ins mit Anker, der das Erdbeerimarelli abkonterfeite, mit einem Wagen voll Flachsbau und einer Spinnerinnenschar samt deren Schutzheiligen, der guten Königin Berta; Twann mit einer originellen und detaillierten Darstellung des Weinbaues vom Rebenschössling bis zum Lagerfass; endlich Ligerz mit dem Fischereigerwerbe, humoristisch und viel beklatscht. Das Schmocklerli mit seinen Gesellen vom Heimatschutztheater bildete die farbige Nachhut des Zuges.

Das Treiben und Leben auf der Plattform am Samstag und Sonntag anlässlich der verschiedenartigen Veranstaltungen war ugelungen. Das unaufdringliche Sammeln hatte jedenfalls guten klingenden Erfolg, dank dem erfreulichen Zusammenwirken von Stadt und Land.

Die Roheinnahmen aus Festzug, Eintrittsgeldern, Verkauf bei den Ständen, Tanzgeldern und Budenbetrieb betragen rund 57,000 Franken. Der Wirtschaftsbetrieb ist dabei nicht eingerechnet und dürfte noch eine hübsche Summe ergeben.

("Oberländisches Volksblatt," Interlaken.)

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Exotische Fische.—Wie dem "Olt. Tagbl." geschrieben wird, hat ein eifriger Sportfischer in Aarburg einen seltenen Fang gemacht. Zu seinem nicht geringen Erstaunen fand er im eingezogenen Netz ein eigenartig Fischlein, das durch sein schillerndes Blau, mit roten Tupfen vermergt, auffiel. Es handelt sich um den sogenannten Sonnenfisch (Eupomotus aurens). Sein Reich sind die Gewässer von Amerika. Er ist ein kleiner Percide, der vor Jahren nach Europa gebracht wurde, um als Zierfisch gehalten zu werden. Dass diese Fischart auch in unsern Gewässern gedeiht, dürfte allgemein interessieren.

("Neue Aargauer Zeitung.")

HERE AND THERE.

By J. H. Cortesey.

The "silly season" is approaching. There is no news yet of the Sea Serpent, the weather having been too unfavourable to encourage his leaving the depths of ocean and take his annual trip to the seaside resorts. That tired, lazy feeling which creates the desire to look on and do nothing, and which is one of the season's telling symptoms, seems to have reached its culmination. It may not be mainly due to general overwork—our benevolent legislation having seen to that—but it appears to be strongly prevalent all the same. The only subjects a reader can appreciate at such a period are those that—unlike the abstruse ones—demand no effort of mind whatever, and these you cannot get exactly as and when you want them.

Governmental affairs, for instance, on the whole offer dry and indigestible reading matter. However, "here and there" an incident may arise to brighten the political horizon. The serious *Times* to-day provides a "dessert" which is served up by its correspondent at Baghdad and might form the theme of a "desert" brigand's story.

It appears that the desert sheikhs have accepted a lump sum of money to restrain their tribes from raiding the service of motor omnibuses now working between Baghdad and Aleppo.

"Hold ups" may thus be prevented for the comfort of prospective passengers, "and," says the *Times*, "the morality of the arrangement is perhaps less conspicuous than its humour. The prosaic West would probably call it compounding a felony by anticipation, and, having regard to the fact that a motor omnibus company, like other corporations, has neither a soul to be saved nor a body to be kicked, would mulct it in fines. Not so the romantic, philosophic, fatalist East. There the permanent facts of life, including the ancient and respectable profession of desert raiding, are recognized, and allowance is made for the cost thereof in reckoning the overhead charges of the service. But what if even one sheikh should prove unable to restrain his tribe? It is a five days' journey between Baghdad and Aleppo, a long line of communication to protect. It seems desirable to add a fidelity guarantee policy to cover all the sheikhs and their retainers. We may smile at this characteristically Oriental bargain, but our enjoyment is not without a touch of regret, even of jealousy. The spirit of romance is not dead, even among the myriads who travel in safety every day by motor-omnibus between the Bank and Hammersmith. There are some who, like the hero of Lord Dunsany's play, 'If,' would be ready for the adventure of the gorgeous East, if only it would come their way."

There may not, however, be so much difference, except the colouring, in the ways between the East and the West as things appear at first sight. For one thing, we have read of clever forgers being paid for their *not* practising their art. And, if we look a little further, we may find that the same thing is done under other names and circumstances.

In a way we, too, are fatalists!

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Our moods are as variable as the sky in this changeful climate. A sense of elation possesses us, and we are fain to caper like children. Again, a feeling of tender sadness steals over our spirits like a grey cloud. This may be followed by a mood of mutiny against—everything.