

A letter from the Swiss Minister

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SEE FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

A Letter from the Swiss Minister.

Monsieur le Rédacteur,

Vous voudrez bien me permettre de recourir à l'obligeante entremise de votre organe pour exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance de la belle manifestation dont Madame Paravicini et moi ont été l'objet à l'occasion du dixième anniversaire de mon entrée en fonction.

J'ai peine à trouver ici les mots qui tradiraient avec assez de chaleur nos sentiments émus de gratitude.

Nos remerciements s'adressent tout d'abord à la Colonie Suisse de Londres, dont nous conserverons le parchemin et les magnifiques présents comme de précieux témoignages d'affection. Ils vont ensuite au Comité d'organisation de la fête du 31 mai, à son Président, Monsieur Werner, à son Secrétaire, Monsieur Zimmermann, et, en particulier, au Président du Banquet, Monsieur Schubach.

Et puis, je tiens à dire à toutes nos Sociétés suisses un merci très sincère, pour leur entrain et leur dévouement. Une pensée de gratitude aussi aux Cercles Suisses d'autre villes, aux Suisses en dehors de Londres, aux amis dispersés dans l'Empire qui ont bien voulu nous manifester, d'une façon ou d'une autre, leur attachement.

Dans mes remerciements, je réserve une place spéciale à mon vieil ami le "Swiss Observer"; de même, je n'oublie pas Messieurs les correspondants de nos grands journaux suisses, ainsi que les organes qu'ils représentent.

Les marques de sympathie reçues de ceux qui ont contribué et participé à ce jubilé nous ont été droit au coeur, à ma femme et à moi. Nous gardons un souvenir inoubliable des heures charmantes passées au Restaurant Monico avec nos compatriotes; leurs témoignages constituent un encouragement que nous ne saurions trop vivement apprécier.

Encore une fois, merci à tous!

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Rédacteur, l'expression de mes sentiments les plus distingués.

C. R. PARAVICINI.

LEGATION DE SUISSE,

le 2 Juin 1930.



HOME NEWS

FEDERAL. MILITARY AVIATION.

Though the majority of the speakers in the National Council called in the ideals of Universal Peace and the League of Nations in opposing the credit for war 'planes, a more sober consideration of actualities seems to prevail among the members. In the course of a much applauded speech Federal Councillor Minger stated that, of the required credit of 20 million francs, ten millions would be spent in the country and consequently relieve unemployment to some extent; the proposed expenditure was fully justified for the defence of our neutrality and a necessary complement to our army which was "an instrument of peace." Devoitine for defence and Fokker for observation are the two types of machines on which the experts have agreed. Though the proposal has already been sanctioned by the States Council the socialists tried to bring in an amendment subjecting it to a referendum. In the final voting the credit was passed by 117 against 49.

MILITARY TAX.

National Councillor Pfister (Lib.) presented an enquiry (Postulat) in the National Council, having for its object the revision of the military exemption tax, the perception of which was still based on the antiquated law of June 28th, 1878; he suggested that in the new dispositions due consideration should be given to the wishes expressed by the Swiss residing abroad. Federal Councillor Musy in his reply held out little hope of a revision in that sense.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION FOR "VOLKSKUNST."

The Federal Council is proposing a subsidy of Frs. 1,650,000 and a participation in the

guarantee capital of Frs. 250,000 in favour of the above exhibition, which is to take place in Berne in 1934.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

National Councillor Robert Wirz has died at Winterthur aged 59 years. He had been a member of the National Council since 1922; he was a member of the Socialdemocrat Party, President of the Party at Winterthur, Town Councillor and Cantonal Councillor. For over twenty-five years he was a teacher of the Winterthur Secondary School. He has also presided over the Educational Commission of Winterthur and is the compiler of the history book used at the secondary schools.

BERNE.

A week ago a terrific storm damaged the vineyards in the vicinity of the Bieler lake. Particularly between Tüscherz and Twann, the fury of the storm exceeded anything within memory; roads were flooded and cellars are filled with earth and gravel. It is as yet impossible to estimate the extent of the damage done.

St. G.T.

Similar news comes from Comrendlin; streets were impassable, and the railway track was so covered over with gravel that the train service had to be interrupted. Further news of storm damage are reported from the Seeland, where roofs were carried away and trees uprooted.

ZUG.

Drunkness on the driver's part has caused a serious car accident on the road between Cham and Zug. A Zurich car, with five persons who had spent the night drinking, ran into a car containing two Swedish ladies. The driver of the Zurich car had evidently lost control and, going at a grossly exaggerated speed, could not prevent a collision. That the speed must have been an insane one is proved by the fact that the car was hurled through the air for a distance of nine metres. Two of the passengers, Ernst Müller of Wülflingen, in Zurich, and Alfred Christen, butcher, of Zurich, had to be removed to hospital in a very serious condition, suffering from complicated fractures of the skull.

BASLE.

Johann Schaffner, of Ormalingen, celebrated his 106th birthday on June 1st. He is the oldest living Swiss citizen.

N.Z.Z.

A workman at Liestal, Viktor Walliser, has saved two boys from drowning by a rare show of strength and presence of mind. Three boys of about 12 years of age played alongside the obere Frenke. Two of them fell in and were carried away by the strong current. Walliser noticed the first boy, already unconscious, in the water. He immediately jumped in and brought him out; then without losing a moment he started artificial respiration with successful results. By that time the second boy, also unconscious, floated along, and Walliser repeated his action, again with full success. Both of the boys are well and, seeing that they were rescued just before they reached the great fall at the Steinbrücklein, have had a miraculous escape from certain death.

N.Z.Z.

ST. GALL.

A burglar broke into the post office at Sevelen and obtained a sum of 800 Frs. To destroy all clues, he then went into an adjoining room and set fire to a bed. Fortunately the fire did not develop, as the air current was insufficient. So far, no trace has been found of the criminal.

N.Z.Z.

GENEVA.

A touching ceremony took place last week at the Palais de Justice, when all the Judges and numerous members of the Bar assembled in order to bid farewell to the two Judges MM. Henri Le Fort and Alfred Mozer, who are leaving the Bench, having reached the age limit. This informal gathering was addressed by the President of the Geneva Tribunal, M. Rehous, who paid a high tribute to the two departing magistrates.

M. Martin-Achard associated himself, on behalf of the members of the Geneva Bar, with this tribute stating that both the retiring Judges have fulfilled their responsible tasks in a highly commendable manner. M. Le Fort, on his colleague's and his own behalf, thanked the Members of the Bench and Bar in a speech full of emotion appreciating their demonstration of loyalty on the occasion of their retirement.

T.G.

FRIBOURG.

M. Perrier, chief of the Education Dept., and Member of the Cantonal Government, announced his intention to offer, owing to the death of Prof. Büchi, the vacated chair of History at the University to Prof. Gonzague de Reynold, at present Professor at the University in Berne.

TICINO.

Biagio Galli, a stone mason, who was arrested a few days ago by the Italian authorities when crossing the frontier, on suspicion of aiding an Italian citizen to emigrate, was brought before the Magistrate at Como and found not guilty of the charge preferred. As however his papers were not found in order, he will be detained until fresh instructions arrive from Rome.

N.Z.Z.

Diner de la Colonie

EN L'HONNEUR DE MONSIEUR PARAVICINI.

(CONCLUSION.)

Les applaudissements qui ont accueilli l'acte gracieux du Président ont à peine cessé que le 'toastmaster' donne la parole à Monsieur Paravicini; nous avons le plaisir de reproduire ci-après les passages principaux de l'excellent discours, plein de bonne 'humour,' prononcé par notre Ministre :

" There is only one word in the language of men which can be my first word to-night : Thanks!

" My difficulty is, how to say it, how to make you understand how deeply touched I am by your reception, your affection, your magnificent generosity in words and deeds.

" There is only that one word : Thanks, and I must rely upon yourselves to feel how I mean it and what it all means to me at this moment."

Il évoque le souvenir d'une récente visite à sa ville natale pour dire qu'il y a trente ans qu'il vit loin de ses vieux murs, en pays étrangers; en passant quelques jours chaque année dans sa vieille cité, il éprouve une satisfaction infinie en constatant qu'il est toujours de là-bas et non pas un étranger parmi des étrangers. A ce propos, il raconte un incident à la 'Basler Muster-Messe,' alors qu'il faisait un tour de cette exposition le 2 mai dernier à l'occasion de la visite des Ministres et Consuls de Suisse :

" As our party," dit-il, " walked through the wide halls, we stopped in front of a gramophone stand and the giant loud-speaker, as if it had recognised us, started telling the following tale : A Swiss doctor was travelling in a train with a French doctor and an American doctor. They were all going to a Congress of Surgery in Geneva and naturally they were talking shop. The Frenchman said :— ' With us in France surgery works wonders; the other day a man had his leg cut off, replaced by a wooden one, and that man is to-day the most remarkable runner in France.' The American said :— ' That's nothing, an American had his arm cut off, replaced by a wooden one, and he is to-day the most remarkable and the most famous boxer in the United States.' ' But look at us,' said the Swiss, ' what we do in Switzerland! Some years ago a Swiss had his head cut off, replaced by a wooden one and this man is to-day the most remarkable and the most famous Minister in the Swiss diplomatic service.' (hilarité générale.)

Il continue en disant que tandis qu'il écoutait les discours des orateurs précédents, il lui sembla que l'homme à la tête de bois ne pouvait être personne d'autre que lui. (rires). Ce qu'il venait d'entendre dire de lui-même était si magnifique que, plus d'une fois, il avait porté ses mains au front " in the