

The Bassanesi affair

Autor(en): **O.B.**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1930)**

Heft 473

PDF erstellt am: **11.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696110>

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being distorted—we shall not permit any further humiliation. We Ticinesi do not want to become the chamber-maids of a tyrannical régime, even if, by chance, there should happen to be some invertebrates who are willing to do so.

“Already on other occasions we have been used to express our opinions without wrapping them in tissue paper, we have clearly and frankly expressed our disgust at the tactics followed by the Federal Council towards the Fascist Government as a procedure which brings our national dignity into disrepute and tramples our sentiments underfoot. Now, more than ever, we feel the need of manning our entrenchments, before it is too late. We await, however, the result of the trial with quiet nerves and full of hope that Swiss democracy will be spared the shame of further humiliations.”

Although the outspokenness, of which the above is a sample, is more typical of the radical and socialist press, is a sample, even the responsible clerical-conservative papers, like the “Popolo e Libertà” are unanimous in regretting the exaggeration brought about by the Federal Council and are not above criticising their ex-Council.

O.B.

WINTER TRAIN SERVICES.

ENGLAND—BERNESE OBERLAND—VALAIS.

During the Winter Season 1930/31, i.e., during the months of December and January a Twice Weekly Sleeping Car Service will be instituted between Calais—Laon—Belfort—Delle—Berne—Lötschberg—Brigue—Zermatt and back to Boulogne.

Calais dep. every Tuesday and Friday as from 19th Dec. till 30th Jan., and on Dec. 20th, 22nd, 24th and 27th.

Brigue dep. every Wednesday and Saturday as from 20th Dec. till 31st Jan. and on Dec. 21st, 23rd, 25th and 28th.

The times are:—

London	dep. 16.00	Zermatt	dep. 12.30	16.15*
Calais-Mar.		Stalden	dep. 13.54	17.44*
Boulogne-Mar.	dep. 20.15	Brigue	arr. 14.30	18.20*
Belfort	dep. 6.01	Brigue	dep. 19.52	
Delle	dep. 7.46	Kandersteg	dep. 20.42	
Berne	arr. 10.32	Frutigen		
Spiez	arr. 11.30	(Adelboden)	dep. 21.04	
Reichenbach (Kiental)	arr. 12.10	Reichenbach (Kiental)		
Frutigen		Spiez	dep. 21.55	
(Adelboden)	arr. 12.15	Berne	dep. 22.49	
Kandersteg	arr. 12.37	Delle	dep. 1.12	
Brigue	arr. 13.20	Belfort	arr. 1.23	
Brigue	dep. 13.40	Calais-Mar.		
Stalden	arr. 14.40	Boulogne-Mar.	arr. 11.11	
Zermatt	arr. 16.00	London	arr. 15.30	

*From January 1st until January 31st.

On the section Calais-Spiez and Brigue-Boulogne this sleeping-car will go by the scheduled trains. On the section Spiez-Brigue a special fast train will run on the days of arrival of this sleeping-car, thus making up the connection with the Brigue-Zermatt line. The same train will take the ordinary 1st and 2nd class carriage Calais-Kandersteg-Boulogne as far as and from Brigue, so that apart from the sleeping-car there will be available for the journey to and from Zermatt a 1st and 2nd class through carriage going to and from Brigue.

WINTER SPORTS TICKETS ON THE SWISS RAILWAYS.

Again this winter most of the Swiss transport companies will issue sports tickets from November 15th till March 30th. The single fare also being valid for the return journey. These tickets are issued to any applicant and they entitle the holder to the journey out on Saturdays and Sundays and to the return journey on Sundays and Mondays by noon (12 o'clock). A prospectus is now being prepared giving all the winter sports stations to which sports tickets are issued and telling the reader about the issue of these tickets on the Christmas and New Years festival days. It will be sent free of charge to places abroad by the commercial department of the Swiss Federal Railways or the Swiss National Tourist Office at Zurich.

(Details of other special Winter Services will be published in next week's issue of the “Swiss Observer.”)

Sens Pratique.

L'électricien vient de terminer la pose de ses fils; le contact est établi. Il n'y a plus qu'à unir. Mais diable! où est le pôle positif, où le négatif?

“Hé Charley.”

L'apprenti accourt.

“Mets ton doigt là!... Bon... Tu ne sens rien?”

“Rien fait Charley.”

“Alors ça va, mais surtout, ne touche pas l'autre, fil! Tu serais foudroyé!”

“Est-ce vrai, qu'hier soir, vous avez traité ce gentleman de vieil idiot?” demanda d'un air indigné le commissaire d'une petite ville d'Angleterre, au prévenu arrêté pour tapage nocturne.

“Je ne me rappelle pas, monsieur, mais plus je le regarde, plus cela me semble possible,” répondit poliment le prévenu.

Doings in Our Colony.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY. ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

“Wo man singt da lass dich fröhlich nieder, Böse Menschen haben keine Lieder.”

These were almost the last parting words my father, who was himself an enthusiastic singer, gave me on my way, more than twenty years ago, when leaving the paternal home, to seek fortune in foreign lands.

The truth of these words has never before struck me so vividly as last Friday at the splendid gathering of the Swiss Choral Society, which took place at the First Avenue Hotel. Looking around I could see nothing but happy, smiling faces; forgotten were worries and troubles, everyone came there to pass a few care-free hours and to pay tribute to a Society which has on so many occasions gladdened our hearts with their beautiful songs, and has thus kept in us an evergreen memory of our beloved homeland.

It must have been very gratifying to the energetic President and his hard-working committee to see such a numerous array of guests and friends, as well over 200 people sat down to a most sumptuous dinner. I feel almost tempted to give the full contents of the menu, but space and a kindly feeling towards those who were not able to be present, prevents me from doing so; all I will say is, that it was a “princely” feast and I do not think that even this week's Lord Mayor's Banquet could have beaten it. But can we wonder, when we hear that our good friend, Mr. A. Indermaur, as Chef de Cuisine, was in command, and well did he deserve the praise bestowed on him.

The company present included, apart from the members and many friends of the Society and their ladies, Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Chargé d'Affaires, representing our Minister, who, owing to absence from this country, was prevented from being amongst us, and representatives of all Societies and Clubs of the Colony, namely:

City Swiss Club: Mr. & Mrs. Chapuis; Swiss Mercantile Society: Mr. & Mrs. Paschoud; Société de Secours Mutuels: Mr. F. Forrer; Union Ticinese: Mr. Braga and Mr. Lucca; Nonvèle Société Helvétique: Mr. J. Hansemann; Swiss Rifle Association: Mr. H. Sem; *Swiss Observer*: Mr. & Mrs. A. Stauffer; Union Helvética: Mr. Sermier and Mr. E. Kunzler; Swiss Club (Schweizerbund): Mr. J. Christen and Mr. H. Humbel; Swiss Orchestral Society: Mr. & Mrs. Pellet; Swiss Gymnastic Society: Mr. A. Grammer; Société Culinaires: Mr. & Mrs. Juriens; as well as the Rev. C. T. and Mrs. Hahn, Doctor Egli, Mr. E. A. Seymour and Mr. Siegel of the West London Male Choir.

Having had the privilege to take part as a guest, I cannot help but to allude to the great generosity with which the S.C.S. treated its special “invités,” even to champagne, liqueurs, cigarettes and cigars, nothing was forgotten, and the ladies who adorned this festival were presented, by the charming little daughter of the President, with pretty embroidered handkerchiefs, behind which they could hide their blushes for having received such a thoughtful special attention.

The tables were beautifully arranged with lovely flowers and adorned with artistic menu cards, which contained, apart from the menu, a list of toasts.

The speeches were of a passable length and were preceded by the customary toasts for the King and our homeland, proposed by Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg.

Mr. F. Conrad, President of the S.C.S., addressed the company in the following words:

On behalf of the Swiss Choral Society I extend to you a most hearty welcome to tonight's Function.

Owing to his being in Switzerland we are deprived of the pleasure of having the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paravicini amongst us.

But we are very glad indeed to welcome Monsieur de Sonnenberg and I want to express my sincere thanks to Monsieur de Sonnenberg for the spontaneous way he has accepted our invitation to be present to-night.

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