

# Observations of an outsider

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Nahrung. Von da bis zu ungesunden Gärungsprozessen, zu den Massenpsychosen und den sozialen Umwälzungen sind nur noch ein paar Schritte.

Sie sind hierher gekommen, meine Herren, um diese tragische Lage miteinander zu prüfen und um nach Möglichkeit rasche und wirksame Abhilfe zu schaffen. Allerdings ist der eigentliche Gegenstand Ihrer Beratungen die Lösung des Problems der aus dem Weltkriege herstammenden Reparationen und politischen Schulden; aber dieses Problem kann unmöglich von andern, noch umfassenderen Problemen losgelöst werden. Alles hängt zusammen. Selbst jenes grosse, überseeische Land, das sich nicht hierher begeben zu können glaubte, dürfte — ich hoffe es — nicht lange abseits von Ihren Verhandlungen bleiben können. Die Anwesenheit mehrerer Regierungschefs und Mitglieder in Lausanne legt deutlich genug Zeugnis ab für die ausserordentliche Bedeutung, die Sie Ihren Verhandlungen beimessen.

Während Sie hier versammelt sind, tagt eine andere Konferenz in Genf. Zwei Schweizerstädte, an demselben See gelegen, scheinen für einige Zeit gewissermassen zu zwei Brennpunkten des internationalen Lebens geworden zu sein.

Der Erfolg der Konferenz für die Herabsetzung und Beschränkung der Rüstungen hängt im sehr grossen Masse davon ab, welches Ergebnis die Reparationskonferenz zeitigen wird. Ohne eine billige Regelung der Reparationen und politischen Schulden würde das gegenseitige Vertrauen nicht wieder erstehen und ohne dieses Vertrauen würde man vergeblich an die Aufgabe herantreten, die Rüstungen so weit herabzusetzen, dass der Friede endgültig gesichert bleibt.

Auch ohne diese uns alle verbindende Solidarität, die eines der Merkmale unserer heutigen Zeit ist, hätten die in Genf vertretenen Staaten schon allein um des Werkes willen, zu dem sie sich zusammengetan haben, ganz offensichtlich ein unmittelbares Interesse daran, dass die Lausanner Konferenz nicht zu Ende gehe, ohne eine befriedigende Einigung zwischen allen beteiligten Regierungen erzielt zu haben. Ein Misserfolg hätte die unglücklichsten Folgen nicht nur für Ihre Länder, sondern auch für alle andern.

Ich habe die Überzeugung, dass ich nicht fehlgehe, wenn ich erkläre, dass Sie, meine Herren, das Schicksal des Friedens und damit dasjenige der Zivilisation in Händen haben. Ich weiss wohl, wie verwickelt und schwierig Ihre Aufgabe ist, aber ich weiss auch, dass sie Ihre Einsicht und Ihren guten Willen nicht übersteigt.

In meiner Eigenschaft als Bundespräsident, im Namen des Bundesrates, der waadländischen Regierung, der Stadt Lausanne und des gesamten Schweizervolkes und, für einmal, auch als Wortführer aller Staaten, die unter Ihnen nicht vertreten sind, gebe ich den sehlichstesten Wünschen für das Gelingen Ihrer Bemühungen Ausdruck und empfehle ich Sie, gemäss unserer alt ehrwürdigen eidgenössischen Grussformel, in Gottes Machtschutz."

**NEWS FROM THE COLONY.**

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LIMITED.**

The Ordinary Monthly Meeting was held at Swiss House on June 15th. A supper was served at 8 p.m., to which the successful competitors at the Swiss Sports were invited. The Chairman, Mr. W. Lehmann, President of the Society, in opening the proceedings read a letter from Mr. P. Brun, President of the Swiss Club, Birmingham, contemplating a rally of all Swiss residing in the United Kingdom, chiefly London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, etc. The venue will be the Zoological Gardens, Whipsnade, on July 3rd. A lengthy discussion on the subject ensued and it was decided that the Swiss Mercantile Society should take the lead and arrange for such amenities as would be fitting for the occasion.

Mr. E. Hardmeier, Chairman of the Education Committee, announced that the College had arranged a special excursion train to Port Sunlight to visit the works of Messrs. Lever Brothers. The fare for the journey of some 200 miles was reduced to about one third of the ordinary fare. Mr. Hardmeier urged the members present to make use of this singular opportunity and to bring their friends. The excursion will take place on Tuesday, June 28th.

Mr. Hardmeier then reported that the Education Committee at its last meeting elected as Vice-Chairman of the said Committee, Mr. W. Meier. The attendance at the College has now reached the figure of 260, a very good number in view of the present economic conditions. It was learnt with satisfaction that our Headquarters, through the intermediary of its General Secretary, National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, were successful in obtaining an increase from Frs. 50,000 to Frs. 70,000 for burserships granted to young Swiss going abroad for the purpose of studying foreign languages and markets (Aus-

landstipendien).

Mr. J. Pfandler, Manager of the Employment Department, read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Dr. A. Latt, former Secretary of the N.S.H., London Group, Secretary of the International Society for Commercial Education, informing us that a delegation of some 20 heads of Swiss Commercial Institutes and leaders of Swiss Commerce and Industry, was coming to London to attend an economic course at the London School of Economics and at Oxford as well as the International Congress on Commercial Education. It was decided that the Swiss Mercantile Society should entertain this contingent in a fitting manner one evening on a date to be fixed on.

A motion that, as in previous years, no monthly meetings be held during the months of July and August was duly adopted. The meeting authorised the General Purposes Committee to carry on the work during the recess and to grant the necessary credit for the aforementioned function, subject to the Council's confirmation.

The President then welcomed the athletes, who, for the third time in succession, won the Georges Dimier Challenge Cup at the Swiss Sports Meeting on May 28th at Herne Hill, thus making it the property of the Society. They further secured the Challenge Cups for the 1 mile Relay Race as well as the Veterans' Race, and the Veterans' Walking Handicap. Mr. W. Burren, as Delegate on the Swiss Sports Committee and trainer of the team, thanked on behalf of the competitors and made a full report of the Sports Meeting. The "loving cup" was then passed round, filled with the "esprit de Neuchâtel" and the meeting was concluded with some merry songs, Mr. F. von Bergen acting as soloist, accompanied on the piano by Mr. R. Chappuis.

WB.

**"OBERHOLZER MEMORIAL" FUND.**

On Saturday, June 4th, at 3.15 p.m., a large number of Gymnasts from the various British Gymnastic Institutions, and a few representatives of the Swiss Colony in London, assembled at the Great Northern Cemetery, New Southgate, N.11, to witness the unveiling of the "OBERHOLZER MEMORIAL," beneath which lay the remains of one of the most famous of gymnasts, teachers and instructors of physical culture, the late Mr. Rudolf Oberholzer, who departed this life early last year. Thanks to the many collaborators a really magnificent gravestone was erected, bearing the inscription:

Erected to the memory of  
**RUDOLF & MARIE OBERHOLZER**

by  
Colleagues, Pupils and Friends.

April 1931.

"To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

which, in a very touching ceremony, the Rev. A. J. Gillson, M.A., Vicar of St. Michaels, New Southgate, dedicated to the memory of our compatriot. Pure white and red lilies placed in the large granite vase at the foot of the grave represented our departed friend's national colours. The large attendance especially on the part of the various British Institutions, was a striking proof of the popularity and great esteem our fellow countryman enjoyed during the past 15 years amongst his English Friends particularly as instructor of the Northampton Polytechnic Institute.

The results of this Fund thus proved a most gratifying reward for the untiring efforts of the Organizing Committee, the various collectors and the very many contributors to this cause.

Anyone wishing to view the above memorial, please note the Number of the Grave: No. 497, Row A. E.A.N.

**CONCERT NEWS.**

The winds from the four points of the compass blow all the arts of the world to London. On Wednesday night, at the Rudolf Steiner Hall, a wind — not "la bise" — blew us the Swiss dancer from Geneva, Marcelle Valerie, who seemed still to be tossed upon its gusts, so light was she as she put Schubert's famous "Waltz" and his "Autumn Dances" to the physical rhythm of the dance. But it was an older wind which had blown Gustave Ferrari into our midst. He has been all over the world with that greatest of French *disenues*, Yvette Guilbert, and supplemented her art with his own. He gave his own incomparable interpretation of the song story of the naughty monk who enters, who sups, who embraces...

Madame Valerie then gave us an ingenious and witty interpretation of dances by Poulenc; her Punctinello dress was in itself an inspiration. And to say that the dance "lived" after the perhaps finer art of song, is praise indeed, proof of its vitality and vividness.

In the second half of the programme, M. Gustave Ferrari showed us an even finer turn of the early classic humour of France, particularly

in, *L'Heureux Vagabond*, *Vive Henri IV* which showed that there is sadness as well as humour in this art.

After this consummate art of the *comédie française*, it was left to Marcelle Valerie to lead us, as it said "up the garden" to simpler things such as Johann Strauss's waltz "Roses of the South," which she danced with a sweet and appealing grace.

**OBSERVATIONS OF AN OUTSIDER.**

Last week a copy of the "Swiss Observer" came into my possession, and I did a strange thing. I read it.

Perhaps my meaning will be clearer if I explain that my father is Welsh, my mother Irish, and that I was born in England. Further that I have never been to Switzerland, and that I know no Switzers — or should it be Switzerlandmen?

What, then, was I doing reading the "Swiss Observer"?

Answers to this problem may be submitted to the Editor, whose decision will be final. No prizes are offered.

Very well, then, I hear you ask, and what did you think of it? Oddly enough, that is just what I was going to tell you.

I will begin by saying that though it most certainly does observe — of that there can be no doubt whatever — it scarcely seems to me to observe the right thing.

To explain, I picture to myself the Swiss Colony in Great Britain as a necessarily unhappy group of exiles dwelling perforce in a strange country and in the midst of a stranger people. I visualise them as home sick for the sound of the Edelweiss and longing to smell once more the perfume of the Yodel. Here, I said to myself, is a band of unfortunates whose lives need brightening. Their hearts may be heavy, but their lips can be made to smile. And surely, I thought, it is to the pages of the "Swiss Observer" that these poor people will turn when they feel the need of that light-hearted laughter which so eases the burdens of all unhappy lives.

And yet what do I find?

Prominent on the front page of the number I have before me I read the following:—

75,000 francs have been stolen from a lady in Zurich. No clues have been found.

There has been a serious motor accident in Berne — also an attempted robbery with violence. A Bookkeeper has been arrested in Aarau for embezzlement.

An explosion in a garage at Vaud has caused one death and much damage.

And, finally, three other deaths are reported, two from natural causes and one from a fall from a balcony.

I shook my head sadly. Are there no cheerful happenings in the whole of Switzerland, I asked myself. Does nobody ever get married, and are there no births, for instance? Or is it that these people, too, like us miserable English, "take their pleasures sadly"?

Turning these questions over in my mind I sat down and wondered what I could do to bring joy and gladness into the lives of these grief-stricken colonists.

Alas! I am still wondering.

Vaughan Owen.

**PERSONAL.**

We are pleased to inform our readers that Dr. Rüfenacht, 2nd Secretary of Legation in London, has been promoted by the Federal Council to 1st Secretary of Legation. Dr. Rüfenacht is a son of Minister Rüfenacht, who is shortly retiring from his post in Berlin. We take this opportunity to extend to Dr. Rüfenacht our heartiest congratulations.

\* \* \*

We wish to express to M. Oscar Schneider, Secrétaire de chancellerie, at the Swiss Legation, our sympathy, his father, M. Joseph Alb. Schneider, having died at Gossau (St. Gallen) at the age of 72.

\* \* \*

D. C. G. Gattiker, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gattiker, of Boreham Wood, Elstree, in the Natural Science tripos at Cambridge University, graduated with first class honours, and also was awarded a bachelor's scholarship by his College. Our heartiest congratulations.

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