

Home news

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The Swiss Observer

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JEUNE FEDERAL 1832-1932.

Chers Compatriotes,

Depuis quelque temps, nos contemporains ont pris l'habitude de fêter les centenaires de toute sorte de célébrités plus ou moins inconnues ou d'événements plus ou moins oubliés.

Notre peuple suisse saura-t-il se souvenir d'une date de son histoire qui, au point de vue moral et spirituel, a certainement eu une importance sur son développement? Nous voulons parler de l'institution nationale qu'a été le JEUNE FEDERAL, seul lien, ou à peu près, qui ait uni en un seul élan tous les croyants des deux confessions durant un siècle.

Un jeune national n'est pas l'apanage de notre pays. D'autres en ont, l'Allemagne, la Suède. Tels de nos cantons en ont possédé un, ainsi Berne et les Grisons, ou le possèdent encore, comme Genève, dont le "Jeune Genevois" date de 1572. Notre Jeune Fédéral a été institué par la Haute Diète Helvétique, par un décret du 1er Août 1832: désormais, le troisième Dimanche de Septembre serait consacré, année après année, d'un bout à l'autre de notre patrie à un jeune collectif, à ce "Dank, Buss und Bettag," ainsi que l'appellent nos Confédérés d'un nom bien plus approprié.

Que doit-il donc signifier, ce Jeune? Qu'est-il devenu dans notre Suisse? Un nom qui ne signifie plus rien? Une forme vide qui ne contient plus aucune substance?

Déjà le prophète de jadis dénonçait avec indignation les jeunes hypocrites auxquels se livraient ses concitoyens. Ce qu'il réclamait d'eux au nom de l'Eternel, il le proclamait ainsi:

"Voici le jeune auquel je prends plaisir:
Détache les chaînes de la méchanceté,
Dénoue les liens de la servitude,
Renvoie libres les opprimés.
Et que l'or rompe toute espèce de joug;
Partage ton pain avec celui qui a faim,
Et fais entrer dans ta maison les malheureux sans asile;
Si tu vois un homme nu, couvre-le,
Et ne te détourne pas de ton semblable."
Es. 58/6-7.

Le Christ lui-même, héritier des prophètes, n'a pas rejeté le jeune mais il voulait que ce fût un acte intérieur d'humiliation et de sincérité, se passant au plus profond du cœur, et non point un vain affichage.

Si donc notre JEUNE FEDERAL n'est qu'une simple tradition à laquelle on se conforme par habitude ou pour se faire bien voir, malheur à nous!—Mais si nous voulons en faire, à nouveau l'acte personnel et collectif de contrition, de consécration et de foi qu'il doit être, heureux serons-nous, heureux sera notre peuple!

N'est-il pas vrai, en effet, qu'un peuple qui croit en Dieu, est heureux? Nos pères qui ne craignaient pas d'invoquer Dieu, il y a cent ans et de décréter un jeune public, étaient moins tourmentés que nous. Ils croyaient que la vie humaine a un sens et que Dieu la dirige; ils se sentaient dans Sa main. Ils n'étaient pas les esclaves de ce qui passe, comme on l'est aujourd'hui: L'homme qui n'a pas d'autre Dieu que l'or ou la jouissance matérielle, n'est qu'un malheureux, incapable de s'élever au-dessus de la terre qui l'engloutira. Mais celui qui croit en Dieu, en un Dieu de justice et d'amour, de miséricorde et de pardon, au Dieu de Jésus Christ, notre Père qui est aux cieux, celui-là possède des ailes qui lui permettent de se libérer de la peur, de l'angoisse, de la mort elle-même, car il sait que Dieu règne, le Dieu qui est vie et qui nous a donné la vie éternelle en Jésus Christ. Ah, si notre peuple pouvait retrouver sa foi de jadis!

Que si d'autres, hélas, n'y songent point assez, sachons, nous tout au moins, nous Suisses de Londres, faire du Jeune centenaire de cette année, l'acte d'humiliation, de courage et de confiance en Celui qui fait vivre, qui pardonne et qui sauve. C'est à cela que vous convie solennellement votre église, en ce jour anniversaire.

EGLISE SUISSE DE LONDRES.
(langue française).

P.S.—Les cultes du Jeune auront lieu à 11h. et 7h. à 79, Endell Street, W.C.2. Ils seront suivis l'un et l'autre d'un service de Sainte-Cène auquel chacun est convié.

EIDGENOESSISCHER DANK- BUSS- und BETTAG. 1832 - 1932.

Liebe Miteidgenossen!

Es ist seit einiger Zeit Sitte, Jahrhundertfeiern zu veranstalten, an denen man das Andenken bekannter Ereignisse und Persönlichkeiten lebendig erhält oder Tatsachen und Gestalten der Geschichte, die kaum noch erwähnt werden, wachruft.

Wird sich unser Schweizervolk eines historischen Datums erinnern, das in sittlicher und geistlicher Hinsicht einen Einfluss auf seine Entwicklung gehabt hat? Wir meinen den Eidgenössischen Dank-Buss-und Bettag, der zur nationalen Institution geworden, beinahe das einzige Band ist, das alle Gläubigen der beiden Confessionen während eines Jahrhunderts miteinander verbunden hat.

Solch ein nationaler Bettag ist nicht ausschliesslich unser Eigentum. Andere Länder kennen ihn ebenso gut wie wir; so z. B. Deutschland und Schweden. Genf begeht seit 1582 seinen Jeune Genevois. Unser Eidgenössischer Bettag wurde auf Beschluss der Eidgenössischen Tagsatzung vom 1. August 1832 auf den dritten Sonntag im September festgesetzt. Als Dank-Buss-und Bettag sollte er von nun an über das ganze Land hin feierlich begangen werden.

Was bedeutet aber dieser Bettag? Was ist aus ihm in unserer Heimat geworden? Ist es nur mehr ein Name ohne Bedeutung, eine Form ohne Inhalt?

Schon der Prophet Jesaja geisselte erbarungslos die rein äusserliche Art der Fasten, die seine Mitbürger beobachteten. Im Auftrag GOTTES verlangt er von ihnen ein Neues:

"Das ist aber ein Fasten, das ich erwähle. Lass los, welche du mit Unrecht gebunden hast; lass ledig, welche du beschwerest; gib frei, welche du drängst; reiss weg allerlei Last. Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot und die, so im Elend sind, führe ins Haus; so du einen nackt siehst, so kleide ihn und entziehe dich nicht deinem Nächsten!"

CHRISTUS selbst hat das Fasten nicht verworfen; doch wollte ER, das es eine innerliche Handlung der Demütigung, und erster Wahrfügigkeit sein sollte, das man nicht zur Schau trage.

Weshalb, wenn unser Eidgenössischer Bettag nichts weiter als eine Ueberlieferung ist, der man aus Gewohnheit nachhängt! Aber, wohl uns, wenn die Einzelnen und wir alle gemeinsam vor GOTT Busse tun, Ihm uns weihen und ein Leben des Glaubens leben!

Ist es nicht so, dass ein gottesgläubiges Volk glücklich ist? Unsere Väter, die sich nicht scheuten GOTT anzurufen und vor 100 Jahren einen nationalen Dank-Buss-und Bettag zu beschliessen, sie waren sorgenfreier als wir. Sie glaubten, dass menschliches Leben einen Sinn habe und GOTT es leite; sie wussten sich in Seiner Hand geborgen. Sklaven der Geschehnisse waren sie nicht; heute sind wir's aber. — Der Mensch, der keinen andern Gott kennt als das Gold und sich den materiellen Genüssen hingibt, ist unglücklich und unfähig sich über die Erde und ihre Sorgen zu erheben, die ihm verschlingen werden. Doch wer an GOTT glaubt, an den GOTT der Gerechtigkeit und Liebe, der Barmherzigkeit und Vergebung, an GOTT, den Vater JESU CHRISTI, an unseren himmlischen Vater, der ist befreit von aller Furcht und Angst, ja selbst von dem Grauen vor dem Tode, weil er weiss, dass der lebendige GOTT uns in JESUS CHRISTUS das ewige Leben gegeben hat. Wenn doch unser Volk diesen Glauben wiederfinden könnte!

Und ob andere nicht alles dessen eingedenk wären, so wollen doch wir Schweizer in London, an diesjährigen Bettag, uns vor GOTT demütigen, mit Ihm zuversichtlich und vertrauensvoll vorangehen und IHM uns anbefehlen, der Leben spendet, vergibt und errettet.—

Wir laden daher, Euch lieben Landsleute, herzlich zu unseren gemeinsamen Bettagsgottesdiensten ein und hoffen dass Ihr euch zahlreich einfinden werdet.

Die Kirchenpflege der Schweizerkirche.

P.S.—Die Gottesdienste am Bettag finden um 11 Uhr morgens und 7 Uhr abends statt; daran anschliessend die Feier des Heiligen Abendmahls.—

Die Collecte wird zugunsten der Schweizerischen Hilfsgesellschaft erhoben.



HOME NEWS



(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

600th CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE CANTON OF LUCERNE.

The 600th Anniversary of the entry of the canton of Lucerne into the Swiss Confederation was celebrated on the 10th of this month with great pomp, and amidst scenes of intense enthusiasm. The Swiss Federal Railways alone carried over 55,000 passengers to Lucerne on that day, and thousands arrived by motor-cars, char-a-bancs, horse carts, steam and sailing boats, and various other conveyances. Not for many years, has the town of Lucerne seen such tremendous crowds and traffic.

The weather behaved in a most commendable manner, and the gaily and richly beflagged streets were the delight of the eyes of the thousands of sightseers. The mountains in their overwhelming beauty and grandeur made a worthy background to the stage on which this great festival of remembrance was to be enacted. Far away across the silvery lake, the peaceful sounds of bells could be heard, and the landscape in its majestic beauty created an indescribable impression on the beholder.—

At the Quai side a densely packed crowd awaited the arrival of the contingents of the cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, which were due to arrive in three large barges. In the front line of the excited spectators one could notice the dapper figure of the President of the Swiss Confederation, M. G. Motta, who was accompanied by his colleagues MM. Schulthess and Musy, Federal Councillors, the members of the government of the canton of Lucerne *in globo*, and representatives of all the other cantonal governments. On disembarking, the brethren of the "Ur Kantone," dressed in their historical costumes, received a tremendous ovation, all the church bells were ringing and in the distance the sounds of guns could be heard.

On the Kapellplatz, were 600 years ago the oath of fidelity to the Confederation was taken, the re-acting of this historical event took place, and when the town clerk of Lucerne, all dressed in red, after having read out the "Bundesbrief" in a clear voice, summoned the faithful to take the oath, thousands of heads were uncovered and thousands of hands went up, to testify their unswerving allegiance to their homeland, whilst through the wide opened portals, of the town's oldest church, the sound of the "Schweizerpsalm's" could be heard.

From the Kapellplatz the congregation moved to the square in front of the Hofkirche, where a male choir of 200 singers opened the proceedings by singing, "Trittst im Morgenrot daher." State Councillor Sigrist, head of the government of the canton of Lucerne, then officially welcomed the guests of honour and participants in a patriotic allocution, which was followed by an oration by M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, who conveyed to the inhabitants of the town and canton of Lucerne the greetings of the Swiss Government and the Swiss people. This fine address, by the chief magistrate of the Confederation, created a deep impression, and was followed by religious services in all the catholic and protestant churches of the town.

A big luncheon, to which 320 guests were bidden, took place at the Hotel Union, where the following speakers addressed this imposing gathering: Colonel H. Pfyffer von Altishofen, Dr. Abt, President of the National Council, Dr. Egli, President of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, National Councillor Dr. Zimmerli, mayor of the town of Lucerne. The latter announced amongst great applause, that the town, in commemoration of this historical event, has resolved to create a fund for combating tuberculosis, and would give a donation of 100,000 Fr. for this purpose. M. Motta also spoke, this time in the melodious language of his own canton.

An important procession was then formed, depicting the various phases in the history of the town and canton of Lucerne, which was witnessed by large crowds, who on various occasions burst out into loud applause, whenever groups, representing important happenings passed by; the

passing of the ancient guilds, with their century old banners, especially evoked great interest.

In the evening a great firework display took place, and the promenades along the lake were illuminated with thousands of coloured lamps.

SWITZERLAND AND STRESA CONFERENCE.

Director Stucki of the political economy Dept., addressed the Stresa Conference, acquainting the delegates in a very able exposé of the Swiss point of view. Prof. Bachmann, Governor of the Swiss National Bank, has been nominated President of the financial commission.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The Canton of Zurich, provides a compulsory domestic training continuation school for girls of 15 and upwards who must attend for two winter courses (240 hours in all). Secondary school pupils and apprentices must attend for 180 hours at the close of their respective periods. Employers must allow their young workers four hours' holiday per week to attend the courses without loss of salary. This law came into force in May last. It is expected that the Canton of Basle will enact a similar regulation next year.

On the return flight from an Air Display in Berne, an aeroplane piloted by M. Karl Kerschbaum (Lachen), carrying as passenger M. E. von Kaenel (Zurich) crashed in the neighbourhood of Gehren, both the pilot and the passenger were killed instantly.

The directors of the "Bank für Elektrische Unternehmungen" have declared a dividend of 8 per cent for the year 1931/32. (Last dividend 10 per cent.)

Burglars entered the vicarage in Neuwiesenhof and got away with 1,400 frs., belonging to the "Jünglingsvereinskasse."

The International Congress of Mathematicians was opened at Zurich on Monday. Federal Councillor Dr. Meyer conveyed to the delegates the greetings of the Swiss Government, and the Swiss people in a remarkable speech. Various papers by eminent mathematicians will be read.

BERNE.

The members of the Swiss Bankers Association met in Berne last Monday. The Bankers were addressed by their President, M. R. La Roche (Basle).

The cantonal government has decreed, that owing to the crisis, no permits for holding lotteries will be granted.

FRIBOURG.

Dr. Othmar Perler from Wünnewil has been appointed Professor of Theology at the University of Fribourg.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Mme. Theurillat, an inhabitant of La Chaux-de-Fonds, who is over 100 years old, received her Air-Baptism on the occasion of an Air Meeting which took place at La Chaux-de-Fonds on the 3rd and 4th of this month.

LAUSANNE.

From Lausanne comes the news that Dr. Dind, late States Councillor and rector of the University of Lausanne, has died at the age of 77. Dr. Dind was born in 1855 at St. Clerges, he studied medicine at the Universities of Berne, Tübingen and Vienna; he was at one time a member of the Grand Council over which he presided, and from 1918-1933 he was a member of Parliament.

Dr. Dulliet, Professor at the University of Lausanne has died at the age of 63. Dr. Dulliet was a well-known surgeon.

VALAIS.

The police was successful in laying hands on the murderer of Miss Irene Eibershoff, an American girl, whose body was found in a lonely spot between the villages of St. Nicholas and St. Alden.

A man, Heinrich Walther, 20 years old, domiciled in Siders was arrested and has since confessed. Walther is a native of Grächen in the district of Visp.

VALAIS.

The little village of Blitzingen, situated near Brigue, on the Furka slope of a valley leading to the Rhone glacier, was almost entirely destroyed by fire. All the houses, the barns filled with this year's harvest, the schoolhouse, hotel, and post office, all built of wood, were rapidly consumed by the flames.

Only the church, which is of stone, remains intact. Owing to the intense heat and the lack of proper extinguishers in the village, the inhabitants could only attempt to quench the flames with buckets of water from the pump. By the time help came from the surrounding villages the disaster was complete.

The people being without shelter, the authorities are sending tents to provide habitations so long as the present fine weather lasts.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

STOCKER SEPP'S ERSTE UNTERWALDNER BAUERNKAPPELE, ZURICH, at the UNION HELVETIA CLUB.

Barely two hours after they landed at Croydon, having flown over, this famous Kapelle appeared at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.L., and their entry into the big Hall was hailed with great applause by a numerous gathering, which had assembled in order to spend a few hours, listening to old familiar tunes.

Having received an invitation to be present at the "Schweizer" as well as the "Ländler" Abend, I decided to attend the former, thinking that same might prove to be less strenuous, and hearing since the reports of some of my friends, who were present on the second night, I consider that I have chosen wisely.

On my arrival at the Union Helvetia Club, I was conducted by the charming President of the U.H., M. Sermier, to a large table which was ornamented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers; I remonstrated at once, it looked to me a much too conspicuous position, and reminded me somehow of a familiar saying, that "Dr Muni muss a Meie ha;" but my remonstrations were of no avail, I had to sit at this table, which was the only one thus decorated, and I felt highly flattered and honoured. (Swank! Ed.)

The Hall, and especially the stage was artistically decorated with trees;—someone would have it, that they were Xmas trees, needless to say that could have only been a Bernese,—plants and Swiss flags. About 9 o'clock the famous musicians made their entry, all dressed up, but knowing where to go, and before one had time to comment on the smart appearance, — especially their richly embroidered blouses, which were the envy of all the ladies, — a lively tune in perfect rhythm made all and sundry look up and take notice. Those were the melodies of our country, tunes which one used to hear many years ago, when rambling through villages and hamlets in our homeland. Well do I remember these rustic tunes, having been once decorated, on the occasion of attending a villagers ball and sing-song, with a most beautiful black eye, which consistently kept me company for three weeks, for paying too much attention to some of the local beauties present.

The temptation, to invite one of the numerous beautiful ladies who adorned this gathering, to have a *swing round*, could not be withstood for long, and when Stocker Sepp played one of those alluring Swiss valse, which by the way, equalled a speed of about 20 miles an hour, I cast my eye on a smiling Appenzellerin, who valseed with me for all it was worth, from corner to corner. There was no pardon given, the musicians had made their mind up to show us, what dancing is really meant to be; and I only regret, that those of my friends, who are seeking relief from their rheumatic troubles by taking, turkish, mud and other baths, were not present, a dose of Stocker Sepp's elixir would have done them a world of good.

In order to get some local colour, blouses, scarves and a kind of nightcap (Zipfelmütze) could be hired, and in a fit of rashness I decided to transform myself into a typical country lad, much to the surprise, or was it amusement?, of some of my friends, and the astonishment, putting it mildly, of my good lady; I was rather proud of this transformation, as I was now really and truly a Swiss, and never before did my faithful life companion behold her spouse in such a homely get up. Somebody, it was a lady of course, said, that I now looked really a "Bur", and that it was a pity that she did not have her camera handy. I have since turned over in my mind, whether this was meant as a compliment.

Now I want to rectify a former statement, I wrote in one of the articles announcing this event, that the "Kapelle" would also yoddl, this was wrong, how could musicians, and musicians they are, lower themselves to such an extent, but yoddling we had all the same, little groups were formed here and there, and jolly well they did it, but suddenly my eagle eye spotted Mr. Gattiker from Birmingham, whom I had the pleasure to hear in that town, on the occasion of my last visit to the Swiss Club, and I am glad to say that he yielded to my entreaties to entertain the company with some of his famous yoddles. The applause which greeted him, was proof enough, how everybody enjoyed this unexpected number in the programme.

A Potpourri of well-known Swiss melodies then was played, and everybody heartily joined in, and I had the surprise of my life, when I heard my colleague and collaborator Mr. Boehringer, singing lustily, but much to my shame I must confess, that I am not quite sure, whether he is the owner of a tenor or baritone voice, but I would advise my friends of the Choral Society to get in touch with him forthwith.— Many years ago a french friend of mine, summed up my compatriots as being of a rather rude disposition, I then remonstrated with him, but after last Monday I am not quite so sure, whether after all, my

friend was not right, because one of my neighbours, a rather critical reader of the Swiss Observer would have it, that Mr. B. was trying to blow his tonsils out, which would be a cheaper way to get rid of them, then by relying on the surgical skill of one of our famous Swiss surgeons. Honi soit qui mal y pense.

Midnight had long gone, but there was no relaxing, still the band played with the same commendable energy, still the couples valseed and *hopped* as they have never *hopped* before. In a moment of respite Stocker Sepp, the sympathetic leader of the band, presented to Mr. Indermaur, a beautiful silver cup, as a memento of their London visit; this delicate attention on the part of the "Kapelle" was greeted with great enthusiasm, and Mr. Indermaur in accepting this splendid present, on behalf of the Club thanked the musicians in a little speech, which clearly showed how very pleased he was to accept this lovely cup. He also extended a hearty welcome to the many visitors, singling out, M. P. Hilliker, from the Legation, M. G. Marchand, Vice-President of the City Swiss Club, Messrs. Boehringer, Senn and Stauffer. Earlier in the evening, M. Sermier, President of the Union Helvetia, London Section, had introduced the Kapelle, in a very nice speech, and here again, somebody was rude, and it was again a lady, she whispered to me, that it was a speech devoid of comas. Why, o why must we always live up to our reputation?

On writing this report I hear that the "Ländler" Abend was a still greater success, over 200 people being present, and that Mr. Juriens made things, as usual, — hum.

The Union Helvetia Club must be heartily congratulated on their undertaking, which was not without risks of a financial nature, but it clearly proved, that in spite of hard times, our countrymen will patronise an entertainment which is well conducted, efficiently arranged and properly advertised in the S.O. I am told that about 400 visitors were present during the two evenings, a really splendid record.

ST.

"STOKER SEPP" BAUERNKAPPELE at the HELVETIA CLUB

COME AND HEAR ALL THEIR RECORDS
at the SWISS GRAMOPHONE SALON (NEWMAN'S)
2, LOWER PORCHESTER STREET, EDGWARE ROAD,
3 mins. from Marble Arch.
Appro Parcels can be sent to country addresses.

SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.

The New Season has already commenced. Active Members every Wednesday evening at 8.30 p.m., Juniors at 7 p.m., and Ladies every Friday at 8.30 p.m., all at 1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury W. 1. at the Union Helvetia Club. The Society is in want of *new blood* and newcomers as well as beginners will receive every attention and training under expert instructorship. All young Swiss or sons and daughters of Swiss parents born in England are welcome to join. Gymnastic training once a week keeps the doctor away and ensures good health and enjoyment.

The Lists for the VETERANS SECTION will be ready by the end of this week and all gentlemen, wishing to enrol, should not fail to put their names and addresses down as soon as possible. A meeting will be called in a fortnight's time to discuss all details. Here is an opportunity for everybody who no longer can join the active members team, or who is on the wrong side of forty, to indulge in some healthy exercises calculated to keep him in good health on the same lines, as many thousands carry on in Switzerland with such beneficial results.

Students of the Swiss Mercantils Society's Day School are heartily invited to join free of charge during their stay in London as a compliment to our sister societies at home.

Gymnastics in the Winter and athletics in the summer for all, as well as good comradeship!

E.S.B.

PERSONAL.

We had the pleasure to be present at the birthday party of M. J. C. Rathgeb, of "Wolverton" Finchley, Church End, N., which took place on Thursday last. M. Rathgeb attained his 87th year, and we conveyed to him the congratulations of our readers.

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