

Home news

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1934)**

Heft 666

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 13—No. 666

LONDON, JULY 28, 1934.

PRICE 3d.

ZUR BUNDESFEIER.

1. August! Bundesfeier. Diese Worte tönen an unser Ohr wie ein Weckruf. Ein Aufruf zum Sichsammeln, zur Dankbarkeit, zu heilsamen Entschlüssen. Wenn wir alle Einklehr bei uns selber hielten, um unser Wirken zu Nutz und Frommen des Vaterlandes zu prüfen, wie viele hätten wohl Grund, davon befriedigt zu sein? Gewiss lieben wir unser Land, bleiben wir ihm bis in den tiefsten Grund unseres Wesens verbunden, glauben wir uns zu den Opfern bereit, die es verlangen darf. Sind unsere Gefühle aber mehr als blosses Worte? — Und wie viel Anlass zum Danken haben wir doch! Diese Schweiz, die wir feiern, ist sie nicht trotz den Gefahren und all dem Elend dieser Zeit ihren Kindern immer eine saufte und liebevolle Mutter? Merken wir auf, öffnen wir die Augen, sehen wir zu, was um uns herum vorgeht. Ueberall materielle und moralische Wirnisse; überall tieferes Leid; anderswo richtet die Arbeitslosigkeit wahre Verheerungen an, fehlt oft das tägliche Brot, ist der Friede gewaltsam gestört, die Freiheit niedergeschmettert. Im Vergleich dazu bleibt unser kleiner Erdenwinkel gesegnet. Immer noch beschützt und behütet uns die Vorsehung in ihrer Langmut.

Lasst uns dieses grossen Vorrechtes würdig werden. Lassen wir die Volksgemeinschaft sich wohl entfalten. Verwirklichen wir die Solidarität, die aus uns ein einzig Volk von Brüdern macht. Denken wir an die Unglücklichen, die Schwachen, die Ausgestossenen. Verharren wir nicht in selbstsüchtigem Genuss, kosten wir vielmehr das Glück, uns nützlich zu erweisen. Möge sich an diesem Feiertage unsere Hilfe besonders dem Bundesfeierkomitee zuwenden; unterstützen wir es in seinem unermüdlichen Wirken. Dieses Jahr lässt es seine Fürsorge unserer weiblichen Jugend angedeihen, die durch die Krise des Vorrechtes der Arbeit beraubt ist. Es will ihre Anpassung an die neuen Verhältnisse erleichtern, sie der dienenden Arbeit, zu Hause, am heimischen Herd, zuführen. Fürwahr, eine schöne und erspriessliche Aufgabe. Familie, Heimat: zwei Flammen, zwei Leuchten, zwei bleibende Werte.

Schweizerzervolk, du wirst sie dir zu erhalten wissen. Sei hochherzig und gib. Das ist die würdigste Weise, unser altes, schönes Vaterland zu ehren.

Pilet-Golaz,
Bundespräsident.



HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

SWISS DELEGATES TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Swiss Delegation to the next Meeting of the League of Nations will consist of the following members: Federal Councillor Motta, Professor Rappard and Minister Stucki. The following gentlemen have been elected by the Federal Council as substitutes: States Councillor Schöpfer, Camille Gorgé from the Political Dept. and National Councillor A. Oeri. M. Ph. Zutter from the Political Dept. will act as secretary to the Delegation.

NEW SWISS MINISTER TO JAPAN.

The Swiss Government has appointed Monsieur Walter Thurnheer, at present General Consul at Montreal to the post of Swiss Minister at Tokio, in succession to Monsieur Traversini who has vacated his post. The new Minister hails from Berneck. (St. Gall).

MORE PRESENTS FOR THE TIR FEDERAL.

The Polish Minister in Berne has presented a gold brocaded wall carpet to the organisation committee in Fribourg as a personal present of the President of Poland. The diplomatic representatives of Italy and Austria have also made presentations.

SWISS CLAIM TO WAR DAMAGES.

The Secretary-General of the League has been notified that the Swiss Federal Council has decided to bring before the Council of the League a dispute which has arisen between the Swiss Government on the one hand and Germany, the British Empire, France, and Italy on the other on the subject of compensation for damages suffered by Swiss citizens on the territories of these Powers during the Great War. The matter

has been put on the agenda of the next session of the Council.

SWISS RAILWAY REFORM.

It has now been decided to take energetic measures for the reorganization and financial reconstruction of the Swiss Federal Railways. A Bill and an emergency decree have been submitted for the approval of the Board of Administration of the Railways, and it is hoped that these will be ready for consideration by Parliament in the autumn. Meanwhile, by virtue of the emergency decree the Federal Council will be empowered to order any simplification it may consider necessary in the organization of the railway administration, as also to authorize the railways to transport both persons and goods by means of motor vehicles and to fill vacancies in their services by persons taken from outside the ranks of Government officials.

SWISS BAN ON GERMAN NEWSPAPERS.

The Swiss Government have decided to prolong indefinitely the ban on three German newspapers, the *Völkischer Beobachter*, the *Börsen-Zeitung*, and the *Angriff*, as a reprisal for the German ban on the three leading Swiss newspapers, the *National Zeitung*, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and the *Bund*.

THE BASLE TRADING COMPANY.

In the House of Lords recently Viscount Templetown again drew attention to the claim of the Basle Trading Co. against the Government of India, and suggested that two impartial persons should be asked to advise on it. The suggestion was rejected on the ground that the Secretary of State and the Indian Government consider that the offer made to the company was a fair one — in other words, that their own judgment in a case against them should be conclusive. In the precisely similar matter of the war-time confiscation of this Swiss company's properties on the Gold Coast the Colonial Secretary took a different course. He sought advice, and finding that a wrong had been done remedied it by restoring the properties and paying compensation to the amount of £250,000.

The confiscation of the properties in India was equally contrary to the principles of international law, and the settlement that has been proposed is on terms which the Swiss claimants rightly regard as inadequate and inequitable. Being doubtless anxious to believe that the Indian Government would not persist in its refusal to do justice the Swiss Government has not hitherto intervened. Presumably, however, it will now make representations on behalf of its aggrieved nationals, and in that event it will be found impossible to justify the conduct of the Indian Government.

EINSIEDELN MILLENNARY CELEBRATION.

The Pope has appointed Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan, as Papal Legate for the forthcoming Millenary Festivities at the Benedictine monastery at Maria Einsiedeln. The Papal Brief appointing Cardinal Schuster, himself a Benedictine of Swiss origin, pays a high tribute to the splendid work accomplished by the monks of Einsiedeln, throughout the centuries, *ad majorem Dei gloriam* and as faithful custodians of the famous shrine of "Our Lady in the dark forest."

WORLD CONGRESS ON ALCOHOLISM.

The Federal Council has appointed M. C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister in London, and Dr. Oettli, in Lausanne to be the Swiss Delegates at the 20th World Congress on Alcoholism which will take place in London shortly.

SWISS EMIGRATION.

During 1933, a total of 1167 against 1301 in 1932, Swiss left Switzerland to settle down in overseas countries. Amongst these emigrants 352 went to Africa, 334 to America, 210 to Asia, 140 to South America. The canton of Zurich produced the biggest contingent (221), then follows the canton of Geneva with 186; the cantons of Vaud 150; Basle 139 and Berne 120. During the last few years the emigration of Swiss citizens has continuously declined, whilst the immigration has substantially increased.

TIR FEDERAL.

The costs for erecting the shooting accommodation in Fribourg for the Tir Fédéral amount to over half a million francs. Over 40,000 marksmen are expected to visit Fribourg during the three weeks. Altogether 1665 clubs, with a membership of over 40,000 are booked to shoot, this figure will be increased by about 10%, through marksmen who do not belong to a shooting association.

SAAR PLEBISCITE.

Dr. Luescher (Switzerland) has been appointed controller of the electoral office of Saurlois, which is one of those established throughout the Saar to organise the distribution of electoral cards and supervise the plebiscite of January 13th, 1935.

NAZI BOAT IN SWISS WATER.

The Swiss Government may send a protest to the German Government in connection with the Swiss seizure of a German motor-boat carrying explosives for Nazi terrorist activities in Austria in Swiss territorial waters in Lake Constance recently. Three members of the Nazi Austrian legion from Lindau, Bavaria, were arrested on her.

M. Baumann, the Minister of Justice, gave full details of the seizure of this boat to the Cabinet at a meeting. He confirmed that the boat had been seized with explosives in it and that it belonged to a Storm Troop leader. He also said that this boat had made several journeys across Lake Constance, infringing Swiss territory and probably carrying contraband, and that this had drawn the suspicions of the police.

THE "EIDGENÖSSISCHE SCHÜTZENFAHNE" AT FRIBOURG.

The "Eidgenössische Schützenfahne" arrived at Fribourg on Saturday last from Bellinzona. The Government of the Canton of Fribourg was present in *globo*, as well as a large number of spectators.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

From Berne comes the news of the death of M. Ulrich Amstutz at the age of 55; he was a well-known Sports reporter and also a gifted fiction writer.

LUCERNE.

The 4% Loan of 8 million francs of the canton of Lucerne has been heavily over subscribed.

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The Spar and Leihkasse Entlebuch has had an official receiver appointed, as far as can be ascertained at present, the deposits are secured.

ZUG.

A "Yodling" competition will take place at Zug on August 5th, altogether 18 Yodelklubs are expected to compete.

BASLE.

Dr. K. Joël, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Basle has died at the age of 70. Professor Joël was the author of a great number works on philosophical subjects and enjoyed an international reputation.

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Dr. Emile Howald, chief teacher of commercial subjects at the Swiss Mercantile school in Basle has died at the age of 33.

APPENZEL A-RH.

Dr. H. K. Sonderegger, the candidate of the "Freiwirtschaftsbundes" was elected member of the States Council (Ständerat) with 4,828 votes, his opponent Dr. Altherr (Liberal) received 4193 votes. The new member of Parliament is a member of the "Kantonsrat" and comes from Heiden.

GENEVA.

During a heavy storm which broke out over the town of Geneva, an overhead tram wire was struck by lightning. The flash travelled down to a tram full of passengers, which for an appreciable time was enveloped in spurting blue flame, while from within could be heard the shrieks of the passengers, who had an extraordinary escape from being burned alive.

NIDWALDEN.

M. Franz Joseph Frank, priest at Emmetten has celebrated his golden jubilee of priesthood, he was ordained by the Bishops of Chur 50 years ago.

TICINO.

Violent thunderstorms accompanied by torrential rains and hail of almost unprecedented intensity raged throughout the canton of Ticino during the last week-end causing enormous damage to crops. The losses to the vine and the tobacco plantations in the valleys have been especially severe. The hailstones, which in places were swept by high winds into drifts three feet deep, have, it is feared, brought ruin to many of the poorer cultivators.

Lugano and other of the lakeside towns were subjected to heavy floods and much damage was done. Postal communications with the mountain hamlets were cut.