

Home news

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The Swiss Observer

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POUR LE JEUNE FEDERAL DE 1934.

Aujourd'hui, si vous entendez sa voix n'endurcissez pas votre cœur. "Psaume 95, v. 7.

Cette vieille parole d'un croyant, qui nous vient du fond des siècles est bien le mot d'ordre qu'il faut à notre peuple, au jour où il s'apprête à célébrer son jeune national.

Le malheur des peuples comme celui des individus, c'est de cesser d'écouter la voix de Dieu et de s'endurcir le cœur. On se laisse prendre par le présent, par les préoccupations matérielles; les intérêts immédiats voient tout l'horizon. On oublie que la justice seule élève les nations et que l'homme ne vit pas de pain seulement. On oublie Celui qui seul peut donner à l'âme ce dont elle a besoin au plus profond d'elle-même.

Et l'on s'étonnerait de la vague de passion, d'égoïsme, de haine, qui passe sur notre pauvre monde? Mais l'apôtre le disait bien: ce que l'homme sème, il le récoltera. On a semé pour le siècle présent seul, en oubliant l'éternité, et on en récolte la vanité et l'impuissance. Les individus ne se comprennent plus, les divisions s'exacerbent, les peuples se soupçonnent et se détestent.

Aujourd'hui, écoutez Sa voix! Aujourd'hui, cessez d'endurcir votre cœur? — voilà l'appel qui nous est adressé, à nous citoyens suisses, en ce jour de prière et de repentance nationales. Comprenez que c'est nous mêmes qui avons à faire sur nous-mêmes un retour personnel et individuel, que nous devons redescendre aux sources profondes, qui seules font vivre l'homme à Dieu, l'Auteur et le garant de l'ordre moral! Il ne s'agit pas là de moralité vague et superficielle, mais d'un effort que nous avons à faire chacun pour soi pour revenir à la vérité et la sincérité absolue avec nous mêmes et avec les autres, à la pureté parfaite des intentions et des sentiments, au désintéressement complet, en ce qui concerne notre personne, à cet amour sublime que le Christ a vécu dans sa plénitude, jusqu'à la mort!

Voilà l'appel de la Voix divine qui nous est adressé aujourd'hui, contre lequel nous cesserons d'endurcir nos cœurs.

A chacun de le prendre au sérieux, sans attendre de voir ce que le voisin fera. C'est ainsi seulement que notre Jeune national deviendra réellement efficace.

Que Dieu bénisse notre patrie et notre peuple!

Le Consistoire et le Pasteur de
L'Eglise Suisse de Londres.
(langue française).

P.S.—Les cultes du Jeunes seront célébrés à:
19 Endell Street, le Dimanche 16 septembre
à 11 H. du matin et 6 H.30 du soir et seront
suivis de la Ste.-Cène.

Chacun est prié d'y voir une invitation
personnelle à lui adressée!

EIDGENOESSISCHER DANK- BUSS- und BETTAG 1934.

"Heute, so ihr Seine Stimme höret, so verstocket euer Herz nicht!" Psalm, 95, 7 u. 8.

Aus einem entlegenen Jahrhundert kommt dieses alte Wort eines Gläubigen auf uns. Es ist ein Mahnruf an unser Volk, besonders in dieser Zeit, wo es sich anschiekt seinen Eidgenössischen Betttag zu feiern.

Das Unglück der Völker wie der Einzelnen rührt daher, dass sie nicht mehr auf die Stimme Gottes hören, sondern ihr ihre Herzen verschliessen. Die Gegenwart und die Sorgen um zeitliches Gut halten uns gefangen und verschleiern uns den Horizont. Zu oft vergessen wir, dass Gerechtigkeit die Völker erhöht und der Mensch nicht vom Brot allein lebt. Wir vergessen Desjenigen, Der allein einer Seele das zu geben vermag, nach was sie tiefst verlangt und sich sehnt. — Welch Wunder deshalb, wenn die Wellen der Leidenschaft, des Egoismus und des Hasses über unsere Welt dahinfliegen? Der Apostel sagt zu Recht: "Was der Mensch säet, das wird er ernten." Wir haben zu oft nur für den Augenblick gesät und der Ewigkeit vergessen. Deswegen ernten wir die Eitelkeit und Ohnmacht. Die Menschen verstehen sich nicht mehr; die Trennungsstriche werden schärfer gezogen; die Völker verdächtigen und hassen sich gegenseitig.

"Heute, höret Seine Stimme!" Höret heute auf, euer Herzen zu verhärtet! Das ist der Ruf, der am Eidgenössischen Busstag an jeden Schweizerbürger ergeht. Lasst uns verstehen, dass wir persönliche Einkehr halten müssen. Wir müssen zu dem Quell hinabsteigen, aus dem allein der Mensch unvergängliche Lebenskräfte schöpft. Lasst uns hingehen zu GOTT, dem Urheber und Erhalter aller wahren sittlichen Weltordnung! Es handelt sich nicht um eine allgemeine, verwaschene und oberflächliche Moral, sondern um die persönliche Anstrengung eines jeden Einzelnen, damit er den Weg zur Wahrhaftigkeit und Ehrlichkeit gegen sich selbst und andere wieder finde; den Weg zur vollkommenen Reinheit der Absichten und Gefühle und zur völligen Uneigennützigkeit; den Weg zur edelsten Liebe, die CHRISTUS uns so völlig bis zu Seinem Tod vorgelebt hat.

Diesem göttlichen Mahnruf, der heute an uns alle ergeht, dürfen wir uns nicht mehr versagen. Ein Jeder soll ihn für seine eigene Person ernst nehmen, ohne lange darauf zu warten, was sein Mitmensch tun wird. So allein kann der Eidgenössische Dank-Buss und Betttag in unserem Volk wirksam werden.

GOTT segne unser Land und unser Schweizervolk!

Die Kirchenpflege und der Pfarrer der
Schweizerkirche, London.
(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

Am Eidgenössischen Betttag werden die Gottesdienste in unserer Kirche zu St. Anne und St. Agnes' 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2, um 11 Uhr morgens u. 7 Uhr abends stattfinden mit nachfolgenden Feiern des Heiligen Abendmahls. — Ein jeder unserer Landsleute ist dazu herzlich eingeladen.

from Einsiedeln, as well as several hundred motor cars, were held up on the mountain roads near the town.

The towns of Weggis and Vitznau, on the lake of the four Cantons (Lucerne) are flooded to a depth of 3ft.

SWISS "CHEQUERS."

The Swiss Confederation has just come into a notable bequest under the will of the late J. E. von Wattenwyl, a wealthy citizen of Berne, who has left for the use of the Government the mansion known as the "Frischinghaus," together with the magnificent art collection which it contains.

The mansion is to be used for entertainment purposes. Hitherto owing to lack of a suitable place, local Government entertainments have had to take place in hotels.

It has yet to be decided whether the mansion will be used as the official residence of the President of the Swiss Confederation.

U.S.-SWISS TRADE.

The American Embassy in Berne has proposed to the Swiss Government the ratification of a Customs regulation agreement, in order to facilitate commercial relations between Switzerland and the United States.

The purpose of such an agreement is said to be the development of the exports of the two countries on a fixed basis. The Swiss Government is preparing a proposal for the forthcoming conference with the representatives of the United States.

A SWISS EXPEDITION.

Headed by Professor Alfred Metraux, of Switzerland, a new expedition is seeking to succeed where many of all nationalities have failed — in solving the mystery of Easter Island.

Far out in the Pacific, 2,000 miles off the coast of South America, lies the three-peaked volcanic island which has baffled the world's archaeologists and engineers.

Vast stone monuments, huge statues, giant colonnades — some 37 feet tall — cover the island. The thirty-six miles of coast are ringed with platforms of gigantic squared blocks on which the strange figures were set up. Some of these platforms are as much as 500 feet long and the stones weigh as much as 20 tons.

The style of the carving and the use of stone is utterly unlike anything found in any other Pacific Island.

Who were these workers of bygone centuries? For what purpose did they create these avenues, towers and statues? What machines and engines did they use?

If the professor can answer these problems, he will have solved one of the world's most fascinating mysteries.

SETTLEMENTS BANK.

The steady improvement in the position of the Bank for International Settlements is again marked in the return for August which indicates a big increase in business. The balance-sheet totals have gone up from Sw. Frs.653.4 million to Sw. Frs.673.3 million showing that the June depression has been definitely passed.

The improvement is due to a substantial increase of the rediscountable bills and acceptances which stand now at Sw. Frs.146.5 million, against Sw. Frs.149 million in the July statement. Sight Funds show an improvement of Sw. Frs.2 million.

The increase in the cash from Sw. Frs. 5 million to Sw. Frs.13 million is rather surprising.

The gold reserve stands now at Swiss Frs.13.8 millions after a decrease of nearly Swiss Frs.1 million. The time fund interests have improved from Swiss Frs.38 millions to Swiss Frs.44.4 millions. The rising tendency of the sundry bills and investments is marked with an increase of these items from Swiss Frs.227.5 millions to Swiss Frs.233.6 millions.

The liabilities show a marked increase of the short-term and long-term deposits of the Central Banks for their own account from Swiss Frs.148 millions to Swiss Frs.168 millions, thus showing that the bank is being used more and more for central banking transactions.

VISIT AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

Dr. Buresch, Austrian Federal Minister has paid a visit to Federal Councillor Meyer, head of the Finance Dept., in order to discuss financial matters between the two countries.

SWISS BANKERS' MEETING.

The Swiss Bankers Association held their Annual General Meeting at Montreux on Saturday last. M. Golay, General Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, read a paper on "Problems of Swiss Banking," which was greatly applauded by the audience.

M. Meyer, Swiss Finance Minister, vigorously defended Switzerland's link with the gold standard.

"In a country like ours," he said, "which has attained its well-being through economy, and whose savings bank deposits amount to 6,000,000,000 Swiss francs, the maintenance of our currency basis is essential to our economic activity."

M. Meyer also expressed a hope that closer economic ties would be created between the countries forming the gold bloc.



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

FEDERAL.

SEVERE STORMS IN SWITZERLAND.

A train was derailed, tourists have been held up on mountain roads, and several towns isolated in a great storm in northern Switzerland.

The train, which was proceeding from Lucerne to Arth-Goldau, was unable to pull up in time to avoid obstructions thrown on to the line by a landslide.

The town of Schwyz is isolated and all roads leading into it have been wrecked by the storm.

Many tourists were unable to return to their homes, and a party of 200 excursionists coming

FEDERAL GYMNASIIC FESTIVAL 1936.

The Federal Gymnastic Festival in 1936 will take place at Winterthur on July 17-20th.

ALPINE CLIMBERS CONFERENCE.

Representatives of Alpine clubs from all over Europe have been meeting at Pontresina for a climbing conference.

A number of high climbs were carried out by parties of expert climbers, including a number of women.

Amongst the peaks climbed were the Piz Bernina (13,304 feet, monarch of the Bernina range), the Piz Palu (one of the most-often-filmed mountains, 12,835 feet high), also the ill-fated Piz Roseg, where four Eton masters fell to their death last year.

At the general meeting matters of interest to all mountaineers were discussed, such as the danger of avalanches and protective measures; weather prognostications and warnings; rescue parties; the protection of Alpine huts and refuges from vandalism; the limitation of mountain railways, which are considered a desecration by many climbers.

A touching ceremony took place in the little graveyard of Santa Maria, where a memorial service was held for fallen climbers. In one quiet corner lie side by side the four Eton masters who died on the Roseg.

Mountain flowers and edelweiss deck their grave, and four plain wooden crosses bearing their initials are as yet the only monument erected to their memory.

LOCAL.**BERNE.**

The well-known wood-carver Andreas Anderegg-Gurtner has died at Meiringen at the age of 72.

* * *

Dr. Hans Fehr, Professor at the University of Berne has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

BASLE.

Three Alpinists of a party of five from Basle were killed when they fell 1,000 feet on to the Rhone Glacier on Sunday last.

The men, all members of the Swiss Alpine Club, were trying to climb the Galenstock (11,805 feet). Two of them were killed immediately; the third died later. Their names are: L. Diem, housekeeper, married and father of one daughter, R. Vögeli, "Schulabwart," married and father of two daughters, H. Lehmann-Burkholter, Merchant. The other two climbers were injured, one seriously; their names are Eberhardt and Gürtler. The Alpinists were found by a search party who brought the bodies of the dead men to Gletsch. The injured men had to remain on the Rhone Glacier all night. Bad weather made rescue work difficult.

GENEVA.

A motor accident occurred on the main road between Lausanne and Geneva, about 24 miles from Geneva. For some reason, most probably faintness on the part of the driver, a car coming from Lausanne left the road at a high speed and crashed over a wall, overturning into a field. Two of the occupants of the car, including the driver, were killed on the spot.

Unfortunately, two passers-by were killed by the motor in its mad career across the path. Three other occupants of the car were injured, one seriously. (The latter has since died).

* * *

The scheme elaborated for the liquidation of the Banque d'Escompte de Genève has fallen through, owing to the refusal of the Socialist Council of the Canton of Geneva to supply the funds required for the repayment of small depositors. It was the refusal of this same Council to assist in the proposed action of support that was responsible for the failure of the bank.

SOLOTHURN.

Dr. Hugo Dietschi, States Councillor, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary; in 1902 he was elected "Stadtammann" of Olten, and for the last 30 years, Dr. Dietschi was the spiritual leader of the town of Olten. In 1900 he was elected member of the "Kantonsrat," over which he presided in 1905, he retired from this body last year after a term of 33 years. Dr. Dietschi entered Parliament in 1922 as successor to Casimir von Arx, and he is one of our most esteemed politicians.

GRISONS.

M. Wilhelm Plattner, a former member of the cantonal government, has died at Chur at the age of 67. M. Plattner was for many years a member of the Grand Council over which he presided in 1915. He held a seat in the cantonal government from 1918-1926.

The death is reported from Davos, of Dr. P. A. Pedolini, proprietor and head of the children clinic in Davos, at the age of 65.

VAUD.

The "Defilee" of the 1st Division took place last week at Echallens, over 60,000 people witnessed the marching by. Federal Councillor Minger and Army Corps Commander Guisan took the Salute.

NOTES and GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Switzerland and the League of Nations:

I had intended to write at some length on the present-day conflict of opinion among our Swiss at home anent the question of *Russia's* entry into the League of Nations.

As I shall be enjoying the company of a very great Swiss friend of mine during the next few days and have a chance of getting some information as to what is actually being said among the people in Switzerland, I think it better to defer expressing my opinion. It may well be that some of my ideas may have to be modified considerably in the light of really first class information. — A rather pertinent view, expressed by at least one very able writer in the English Press is that Switzerland having been one of the first countries to clamour for and to obtain special treatment and exemption from some clearly defined articles of the Covenant, whereby Switzerland's perpetual Neutrality was not jeopardised, it ill behoves it now to refuse to contemplate another Country being given some benefit of the doubt or some especial treatment.

I think the poor World, as we know it today requires a gigantic Cloud-Piercer, which would dissolve the clouds hanging over it and would let it enjoy a glimpse of the blue sky, where serene goodwill might be found.

A propos of the above, I read in the News Chronicle of August 30th, the following

1½ Mile High Sky Piercer:

A gigantic tower, more than six times as high as the Eiffel Tower, is one of the projected attractions of the 1937 International Exhibition in Paris.

The project has been evolved by M. Henri Lossier, Divisional President of the International Bridges and Scaffolding Association.

According to his plan, the tower, in shape, like a super-minaret, would be 6,666 feet high (the height of the Eiffel Tower is 1,000 feet), consist of 666 storeys, measure at its base a surface of 700 square feet, and at the summit 133 square feet.

Plane Platforms.

There would be three projecting platforms at respectively 2,000ft., 4,300ft. and 6,000ft. from the ground. The whole structure would be in reinforced concrete.

M. Lossier, who envisages the tower as a permanency, contends that the enormous cost of its construction would be amply repaid by the services it would render.

He claims that such a tower would be a valuable contribution to the aerial defence of Paris. Aeroplane sheds on the tower platforms are proposed so that in the case of a sudden air attack on Paris planes would take off from the platforms as soon as the raiders were signalled.

Time would thus be saved which is now lost by rising from the ground.

To Rival Alps.

For meteorological and astrological observations, the super-tower would provide a valuable basis of experiment and study. Best of all, says M. Lossier, it would provide in the midst of a city a centre for high altitude treatment of the many diseases that now necessitate journeys for treatment to Davos and other Alpine stations.

The site proposed for the tower is Issy les Moulineaux, originally used as the first aerodrome for Paris.

(The Empire State Building in New York, a skyscraper 1,248ft. high, is claimed to be the tallest building in the world.)

Those who frequent Cinemas regularly get so used to the pictures thrown on the screen that their critical faculties nowadays concentrate on the story, the photography and the singing, as well as the setting of the various acts. They do not realise that so far, the eye does not see the pictures on the screen as the human eye witnesses every ordinary sight. They do not realise, I think, that the pictures on the screen reproduce the images in full relief. This lack of relief has worried one of our compatriots and has made him invent a remedy. The "Morning Post" 4th Sept. states:

Cinema Images in Relief:

A Swiss inventor claims to have discovered a new process which may revolutionise the modern film-goer's conception of the cinema.

His object, in his researches, has been to reproduce the images reflected on the film screen in full relief, but instead of trying to alter the film itself he has concentrated on the spectator.

His idea is that each member of the audience should wear a special pair of spectacles, provided by the management of the cinema. These spectacles would not contain lenses but a special arrangement of mirrors on the principle of the stereoscope, which would give to the figures reflected on the screen the solidity of natural objects.

Not only would this method enable members of the audience in all parts of the house to have a good view, claims the inventor, but it would also enable shortsighted film-goers to see as well as their more fortunate companions. The inventor has been invited to London. I understand, to demonstrate his new invention to cinema managers.

In connection with some paragraphs of mine in an earlier issue, in which I asked when the Churches would really disassociate themselves from any and every form of militaristic life, I have received a longish letter from one of our Readers who believes that the salvation "from all the woes of this world is not to be found in a covenant among nations, but repentance before GOD and acceptance of His covenant in Christ." I very much appreciate the spirit in which that letter was written, but I doubt equally much whether this attitude in itself will lead us much forward. After all we have to confess that Humanity, of which the Christian Nations, so-called (!) — form a part only, is at loggerheads with Destiny on purely economic grounds. Religion can and should help to assuage the bitterness brought about by economic problems, or rather by the clumsy manner in which Statesmanship of modern times — so-called (!) grapples with their solution. But in the end human beings have to be fed first before they, en masse, become susceptible to the teachings of the finer ethics. I am all for starting by educating the young along clear lines of international brotherhood, destroying in their bosom the silly and dangerous national spirit — see previous issues of the S.O. for my definition of "patriotism" — and making them realise as soon as their minds can that the human family hangs together just like any family and that if one member suffers, the suffering will be passed on to others, inevitably and surely.

But I would thank my Reader for writing me that letter, because one always gets a new point of view and that in itself is refreshing and needful.

LA REPONSE NEGATIVE DE LA SUISSE.

Le Conseil fédéral a donc accepté à l'unanimité la proposition à lui présentée par sa déléguation pour les affaires extérieures de voter contre l'admission de l'U. R. S. S. dans la Société des Nations.

Cette décision qui, relevons-le en passant, n'empêchera sans doute point les Soviets d'être reçus membres de l'aropage genevois, et peut-être même d'y siéger à la table du Conseil, n'en aura pas moins une grande répercussion non seulement en Suisse, où elle était somme toute attendue, mais aussi à l'étranger où elle ne laissera pas de susciter les commentaires les plus divers.

Le Conseil fédéral a, c'est certain, pesé le pour et le contre de la résolution à laquelle il s'est arrêté, et qu'il chargera vraisemblablement son premier délégué à l'Assemblée, M. Motta, de motiver publiquement. Car il importe, à notre avis, que les gouvernements et les peuples étrangers soient exactement et officiellement renseignés sur les mobiles qui ont poussé le gouvernement fédéral à adopter, dans cette question, une attitude qui, aux yeux des gens insuffisamment orientés, peut sembler paradoxale, puisque aussi bien la déléguation suisse à la S. D. N. s'est toujours prononcée, en principe, en faveur de l'universalité de l'organisme wilsonien.

Ces mobiles que notre correspondant de Berne expose d'autre part, le peuple suisse, avec son robuste bon sens, les résume en ce seul mot: méfiance. Il craint que la déléguation permanente que l'U. R. S. S. installera à Genève ne soit en même temps une officine de propagande bolchéviste et marxiste; que, pour reprendre une image de la *Nouvelle Gazette de Zurich*, la Russie soviétique à Genève ne soit "le cheval de Troie" recelant la ruine et la mort pour la Suisse. Il se souvient des jours douloureux de novembre 1918 et du rôle joué à l'époque par la trop fameuse mission russe inspiratrice du Soviet d'Olten, et qu'expulsa justement le Conseil fédéral.

Mais, dira-t-on, la Suisse n'étant pas en mesure, à elle seule d'empêcher l'admission de la Russie, à quoi son geste pourra-t-il bien servir? Ne risque-t-il pas de lui être, par la suite, plus habile qu'elle se contentât tout bonnement de s'abstenir?

A quoi nous rétorquerons que si, pour des raisons qu'il ne nous appartient pas d'apprécier — charbonnier étant maître chez soi — mais qui