

Notes and gleanings

Objektyp: **Group**

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

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

Heft 673

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

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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. Pedolín, proprietor and head of the children's 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 especial 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 6,660 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 délégation 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 délégation 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 délégation 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