

Home news

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1936)**

Heft 775

PDF erstellt am: **24.07.2024**

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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. 15—No. 775

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 19, 1936.

PRICE 3d.

BETTAGSBOTSCHAFT 1936.

Liebe Landsleute! Liebe Mitchristen!

Morgen Abend läuten die Glocken unserer Heimat den Eidgenössischen Dank-Buss- und Betttag ein. Sie fordern unser Schweizervolk auf, Gott den schuldigen Dienst zu erweisen, Ihm zu danken, sich vor Ihm zu beugen, in Ihm je und je seine Zuflucht zu erkennen und Ihn als seinen einzigen Retter aus aller Not anzuerkennen.

Gott hat einen Anspruch auf uns. Er mahnt: "Mein Volk, denke doch daran, wie der Herr euch alles Gute getan hat." Wenn wir denkend überlegen, wie Gott unserem Volk in seiner langen, oft gefährlichen Wanderung durch die Geschichte mit Liebe und Gnadenweisungen begegnet ist, dann müssen wir danken.

Denken und danken gehören zusammen. Aber ebenso denken und Busse tun. Busse tun heisst ja den Sinn ändern und sich aufrichtig gestehen, dass die verworrene Wirtschaft und das oft abwegige innenpolitische Leben ihren Grund haben in unseren verwirrten Gemütern und daher, dass wir uns nicht mehr von Gottes Geist leiten lassen und deswegen auf Irwege geraten sind. Unserem Volksleben und seiner Wirtschaft mangelt die Gottverbundenheit. "Wir hoffen, es sollte Friede werden, aber es kommt nichts Gutes, wir hoffen, wir sollten heil werden, aber siehe, so ist mehr Schaden da." Als Schweizer sollten wir bedenken, dass wir auf allen Lebensgebieten nur dann bestehen und Fortschritte machen können, wenn wir unseren Christenberuf erfüllen. — Gott hat uns berufen zu wahrer Freiheit, Gotteskindschaft und Volksgemeinschaft, nicht aber zu öder Ziellosgigkeit und den sich einander ablösenden Verlegenheiten, in die wir durch unser selbstherrliches und selbstgerechtes Wesen geraten sind. Er hat uns berufen zu einer neuen, lebendigen Gemeinschaft, deren Glieder trotz ihrer verschiedenen Begabungen, Ansichten und Mittel den beharrlichen Willen zur Einigkeit haben sollten, indem sie sich einander erbauen durch Dienst und Opfer.

Und endlich gehören denken und beten zusammen. Schwer lastet alle Verwirrung der Welt und in den Völkern auch auf uns. Angst hält nicht nur die Schwachen und Armen — die schon lange haben leiden müssen — in ihrem Bann, sondern sie erfasst auch die Starken, Grossen und sich sicher Wählenden. Möchten wir alle von Gott die Zuversicht erbitten und den Trost, ohne die wir in dieser friedlosen Welt nicht leben und ausharren können. Und wenn in diesem Toben und Wüten der Völker wir bisweilen das Gefühl haben, als ob Gott fern sei, so dürfen wir dennoch als Christenmenschen Ihm unser eigenes Leben und die Zukunft unserer lieben Heimat getrost überlassen, denn Er ist doch allezeit gegenwärtig als Hort und Wehr, als allmächtig Waltender und Rettender. Gott will auch in unserem hehren Heimatland durch uns, wenn wir Ihm gehorchen, Seine Herrschaft aufrichten.

London, den 18. September 1936

Die Kirchenpflege der Schweizer-Kirche.

Unsere lieben Landsleute sind herzlich eingeladen, an den Gottesdiensten und Feiern des Heiligen Abendmahls teilzunehmen, die in unserer Kirche zu St. Anne und St. Agnes, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2 am 20. September stattfinden werden.



HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

THE JUBILEE OF THE JUNGFRAU RAILWAY.

The 40th anniversary of the date on which the construction of the Jungfrau Railway was begun is to be celebrated this year. The construction was carried out at several different periods, owing to the serious difficulties encountered when working at such great altitudes. The whole line up to the Jungfrauoch (3,457 m.) was completed in 1912.

KING EDWARD VIII IN ZÜRICH.

King Edward arrived on Monday afternoon at the Central Station in Zurich from Vienna, although he travelled incognito a large crowd assembled in the vicinity of the station.

MANDEMENT DU JEUNE FEDERAL.

Londres, le 18 septembre, 1936.

Chers compatriotes,

Dans notre patrie, demain soir, les cloches sonneront à l'occasion du jeune fédéral, invitant le peuple suisse à rendre à Dieu le culte qui lui est dû, à s'humilier devant Lui et à reconnaître en Lui son unique Sauveur.

Dien a des droits sur nous: "Mon peuple, rappelle-toi tout le bien que le Seigneur t'a fait," dit l'Écriture. La manière dont Dieu a témoigné son amour et sa grâce à notre peuple ne peut qu'emplir nos cœurs de reconnaissance.

Si d'une part la réflexion appelle la reconnaissance, d'autre part elle invite à l'humiliation. — S'humilier, c'est reconnaître loyalement ses fautes et donner à ses pensées une direction nouvelle. — Ainsi, nous sommes contraints d'avouer que le marasme économique provient en partie et du désordre qui règne dans les esprits et du fait que nous refusons de nous laisser conduire par Dieu. Ce qui manque à notre vie publique, c'est une direction divine. "Nous espérons la paix, dit le prophète Jérémie, et il n'arrive rien d'heureux; un temps de guérison, et voici la terreur." En tant que Suisses, nous devrions savoir que nous ne pourrions faire de progrès que dans la fidélité à notre vocation de chrétiens. Dieu nous invite à renoncer à ces ambitions personnelles qui sont la cause de nos ennuis, et à former un peuple libre de frères, décidés à vivre en bonne intelligence en dépit de toutes leurs différences.

La réflexion nous pousse aussi à la prière. Nous subissons le contre-coup du bouleversement universel. L'angoisse n'étreint pas seulement les faibles et les pauvres qui souffrent déjà depuis longtemps, mais aussi ceux qui se croyaient à l'abri. Puissions-nous trouver en Dieu l'assurance et les consolations sans lesquelles nous ne saurions ni vivre ni tenir dans ce monde trouble. Si l'exaspération et le déshainement des peuples venaient à nous faire perdre le sentiment de la proximité de Dieu rappelons — nous que notre privilège de chrétiens est précisément de pouvoir confier à Dieu notre destinée et l'avenir de notre patrie. Nous trouveront en lui une retraite, un appui, et un Sauveur. Dieu établira aussi son règne sur notre chère patrie en faisant appel à nous, si nous sommes prêts à lui obéir.

Le Consistoire de l'Eglise Suisse.

Tous nos concitoyens sont très cordialement invités à prendre part aux services du matin et du soir, tous deux suivis de Sainte Cène, qui seront célébrés dimanche 20 courant à Endell Street.

On descending from his train he was greeted by M. Charles Goodwin, British General Consul in Zurich, his Majesty seemed to be interested in the station building, the electrical head wires seemed to especially attract his attention.

Soon after his arrival the King left in a special car for Dübendorf, during the passing through the town, he was enthusiastically greeted by the population.

At Dübendorf the King, who was received by Lieutenant-colonel Bethge, Director of the Airport and Major Fielden, he paid a short visit to the Hangars, and soon afterwards he left for London.

SWISS MILITARY MISSION TO GERMANY.

Army-Corps Commander Prisi, and Colonel König, will attend the German Army manoeuvres, which will take place shortly.

SWISS POLICE ROUND-UP OF REDS.

An official communiqué issued in Berne states that a number of dangerous Communists who have been hiding in Switzerland have been placed under arrest.

Most of them possessed false passports, and voluminous correspondence, which revealed that they were working in close collaboration with the Spanish Reds, was seized at their headquarters in Zurich.

Three leading Austrian Bolsheviks are stated to have fallen in the hands of the police.

The round-up, which was first undertaken under the new Swiss defence laws, created a panic among the extremists.

BASLE, THE PORT ON THE RHINE.

During the first six months of 1936 the traffic in the ports of Basle has attained one million tons, which figure is the same as that for the preceding year.

BASLE STATION RE-NAMING.

Of the two main railway stations at Basle, the Swiss Federal is on the left bank of the Rhine and the German on the right bank. The German station was formerly known as the Badischer Bahnhof, and subsequently designated Basel Reichsbahnhof; this name has now been changed officially to Basel D.R.B. (Basel Deutsche Reichsbahn).

HELP FOR SWISS IN SPAIN.

The Federal Council has voted a supplementary credit of 100,000 frs. in order to help the Swiss in Spain.

EUROPE'S MOST RAPID ELEVATOR.

The elevator which was built on the Bürgenstock, near the Lake of Lucerne, in 1905 has just been rebuilt and enlarged. The new elevator, which can take passengers up 160m. in 62 seconds, is the highest and the most rapid in Europe.

TELEPHONES IN SWITZERLAND.

To every hundred inhabitants there are 9.25 telephones in use to-day. According to the most recent statistics, Switzerland now outstrips Norway and takes sixth place, after the United States of America, Canada, Australia, Denmark and Sweden. In Zurich, the Swiss town with the largest population, there are 21.39 telephones to every hundred inhabitants. Zurich therefore comes twelfth on the list of the principal towns in the World, being surpassed only by some towns in America and, in Europe, by Stockholm. Towns such as New York, Paris and Berlin have proportionately fewer telephones.

SWISS GENERAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS.

The Federal Council has appointed lieutenant-colonel Roger Masson in Lausanne and Major Gustav Däniker in Zurich to the posts of chief of sections of the General Staff. —

Lieutenant-colonel Masson was born in 1894 at Veytau (Vaud), he joined the Federal Instruction Corps in 1921. He served principally with the *mitrailleurs*, and also was a member for some time of the General Staff. Lieutenant-colonel Masson is well-known as editor of the "Revue Militaire Suisse," from 1929-1930 he attended courses at the "Ecole Militaire" in Paris.

Major Däniker was born in Zurich 40 years ago, and holds the degree of a doctor of law; he joined the Federal Instruction Corps in 1924. At present he is General Staff officer of the Mountain Infantry Brigade 15.

Major Däniker is the author of many books on military subjects, and enjoys a great reputation in military circles especially in the 5th Division.

AUSLANDSCHWEIZER TAG IN MONTREUX.

The "Auslandschweizertag" took place at Montreux on the 12th and 13th of September, under the Chairmanship of Professor, Dr. A. Lätt.

M. Motta, Foreign Minister, accompanied by several high government officials was present, as well as the Swiss Ministers in Vienna, Rome, Buenos Aires and numerous Swiss Consuls. The Delegation from Swiss abroad numbered about 80. (A report will appear in one of our next issues).

CAMPS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

For many years there have been camps in Switzerland for students wishing to do useful work in their long vacations.

From these Swiss work camps have developed voluntary work camps for young unemployed.

In a country accustomed to conscription, in which the young men have no direct knowledge of the horrors of war, the yearly period of military service is looked upon very much as a holiday. So camp life is nothing new to these youths, and the rigid discipline of the work camps is all part of the game.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Members of the Committee.

They sign on for not less than eight weeks, and are occupied with work of utility to the community according to where they happen to be. Expenses have to a great extent been met by a national collection.

They make new roads and mountain tracks; they clear and drain the high lying pasture lands; they repair damage after flood, fire, or landslide. Others repair ancient buildings or conduct archaeological diggings.

Whatever is done, care is taken not to compete with the open market of those in ordinary work, and the wages paid are only slightly above what is given to other men out of work. The young men come for the love of it, and return home all the better physically because of the work done and all the better morally because of the discipline.

SCHWEIZERISCHE GENOSSENSCHAFTSBANK.

An agreement has been reached between the Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank (Banque Co-operative Suisse) and its creditors, which will permit the bank to reorganise. Great surprise was caused at the time when the bank announced its inability to pay. It was granted a moratorium for six months which was extended and will be in force until November 20th next.

According to the agreement the bank will be turned into a limited company, its name being changed to Schweizerische Spar- und Kredit-Bank (Banque Suisse d'Epargne et de Crédit). The new bank will take over all assets and liabilities of the old bank. The bank's capital of 18,662,000f. will be written off completely, but the partners are to receive so-called "bons de jouissance B" containing no indication as to their nominal value.

Of the reserves — amounting to 1,875,100f. — 575,100f. is used for depreciation, while the balance of 1,300,000f. will be carried forward.

By these measures losses are completely written off and, moreover, it is possible to put aside an amount of 6,600,000f. for contingencies.

Under the reorganisation, 20 per cent. of all bonds is to be converted into shares, 20 per cent. written off in exchange for "bons de jouissance A" for the same amount, but bearing no interest, and the remaining 60 per cent. exchanged for new 4 per Cent. Bonds.

Deposit and current accounts will be dealt with as follows: 20 per cent. is to be exchanged for shares, 20 per cent. for "bons de jouissance A," as above, and 60 per cent. transferred to a new deposit and current account respectively. Withdrawals from new deposit and current accounts may be made in accordance with a special plan.

Solely "privileged debtors" (savings accounts) will sustain no losses.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Doctor Marcel Grossmann, from 1907-1927 Professor of Geometry at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, has died at the age of 58. Professor Grossmann, who was a personal friend of Professor Einstein, enjoyed an international reputation as a scientist, he was also co-editor of the "Neue Schweizer Zeitung."

The "Sekundarschule" Wädenswil has celebrated last Sunday the 100th Anniversary of its existence. Members of the cantonal government were present, as well as a great number of former pupils, amongst them Dr. Haab, a former Federal-Councillor.

BERNE.

The Fire-Brigade of the town of Berne, has celebrated the 125th anniversary of its existence. On this occasion they have moved into their new barracks at the Victoria-Gotthelfstrasse.

Dr. Alfred Meyer, General-Manager of the "Banque Populaire Suisse" is shortly retiring from his post, he will, however, join the Board of this institution. Dr. Hadorn, at present General Secretary has been nominated General-Manager, he will take up his new position at the beginning of next year.

M. Christian Gerber, a former editor of the "Berner Tagblatt" has died in Berne at the age of 79.

M. G. Kurz, keeper of the archives of the canton of Berne, and a noted historian, has resigned his post on having reached the age limit.

The cantonal government has decided to dismiss Dr. Zetzschke, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Berne and a German subject, owing to Nazi Propaganda. For the same reason, Dr. Michaelis, Professor of Theology at the Bernese University, has received six months notice.

BASLE.

At the age of 69, died in Basle, M. Fritz Stähelin-Bernoulli, a partner of the firm of Stähelin-Bernoulli. M. Stähelin was connected

for many years with the "Basler Kunstverein" of which he was President.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The schools of the town of Schaffhausen have been closed down for three weeks owing to an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

The death occurred at the "Hofgut Waidli," near Liestal, of M. Eduard Heims-Walser, at the age of 86. He deceased was for 21 years a teacher at the "Bezirksschule" in Waldenburg. In 1894 he entered the cantonal government of which he was a member until 1897. In the same year he was appointed Director of the "Strafanstalt," which post he held with great distinction until 1922.

VALAIS.

A motor-car, coming from the Great St. Bernard, left the road, near the village Liddes, falling down about 250 m. The two passengers, M. Gabriel Troillet, advocate, son of the President of the Tribunal in Martigny, and M. Robert Jost, watchmaker, both from Martigny, were killed. The driver of the car, M. Rouiller was seriously injured.

GRISONS.

The death is reported from Sils-Maria, of M. Karl Karinger, for many years Manager of the Hotel Alpenrose and Savoy Hotel at St. Moritz. M. Karinger was also connected for some years with the City Hotel in Basle.

Dr. Johann Hitz-Walser, State Prosecutor of the canton of Grisons, has died in Chur at the age of 51. Dr. Hitz, held the post of Grand Judge (Grossrichter) of the 4th Division.

AARGAU.

Mme. Marie Anna Ursprung-Riser, from Ueken, near Frick has celebrated on September 13th her 100th birthday anniversary.

TICINO.

M. G. Pattani, a member of the Grand Council of the canton Ticino, and secretary of the Federal Insurance Tribunal has died at Biasca at the age of 45.

NEW TRAIN FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE CONTINENT VIA DOVER - DUNKERQUE.

We are informed that a new Ferry Service between Dover and Dunkerque will shortly be introduced, which will no doubt be of interest especially to the Swiss commercial community in this country.

We are told that considerable works have been completed at both Dover and Dunkerque so that now, loading and unloading can be done at all states of the tide.

Three sister ships have been built, namely the T.S.S. "Twickenham Ferry," "Shepperton Ferry" and "Hampton Ferry." The vessels are 360 ft. long and 63 ft. wide, having an average speed of 15 knots, and capable of carrying 500 passengers.

Trans-shipment of freight eliminated.

Each vessel will be capable of taking a complete train of 40 loaded goods wagons, which will not only have the advantage of saving the time now occupied in loading and discharging cargo boats, but will ensure the goods being conveyed in much better condition owing to the fact that they will not require to be handled en route.

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Garages for motor-cars.

On the upper decks of the vessels there is the usual accommodation, dining saloon, smoking room, etc., for passengers and also an enclosed motor garage to accommodate 25 cars — the arrangements at each terminal being such that motorists will be able to drive their cars by means of an inclined road direct into the garage on the upper deck. This arrangement saves the craning of cars as at present.

PERSONAL.

The many friends of M. A. Tall of the Swiss Federal Railways, will sympathise with him in his bereavement, Mr. Tall's father having died at Schuls at the age of 64.

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ANNUAL BANQUET and BALL

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at the

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Piccadilly Circus, W.1

In the chair: M. C. R. PARAVICINI, Swiss Minister.

RECEPTION	DINNER	DANCING
at 6.15 p.m.	at 6.45 p.m.	9.30 p.m. till midnight

TICKETS at 14/- can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6663). City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596).