

Home news

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The Swiss Observer

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PRICE 3d.

Where are you going next Saturday ? to the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill, of course !

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Swiss Sports.

We particularly wish to draw the attention of our readers and their friends to the Swiss Sports Meeting which will take place next Saturday.

The Committee of the Swiss Sports has spared neither time nor money to make this event a great success, and we hope that many of our compatriots and their friends will make the journey to Herne Hill.

We feel sure that they will not be disappointed, it will be an afternoon well spent. Therefore make up your mind now, and do not fail those who have given their time and money freely, that you and your friends should have an enjoyable afternoon. Don't say "I may come along," say "I will be there," and we are certain you won't regret it.



HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

RAILWAY UP THE MATTERHORN.

The Matterhorn, conquered 71 years ago by the faith, courage, and tenacity of man, is now gradually surrendering to the machine. Whymper would be surprised, perhaps disagreeably, at the slow but fatal submission of the superb mountain which in his day appeared to defy every earthly power.

Until only a few years ago the guides used to tell us that the road which rises from Châtillon ended at Valtournanche, and that from there the route could only be taken to Breuil either on foot or on the back of a mule. Since 1934 it has been possible to go from Valtournanche to Breuil by motor-car over a fine road, and Breuil itself has become a village with several fine hotels and a large subterranean garage. The Italians have changed the name of Breuil to Cervinia, and Cervinia will soon become a commune.

But tourists at Cervinia next season will find a novelty of much greater interest than the new road. In a fortnight there will be opened the first stretch of a rope railway, which in time will be continued as far as Zermatt and make the Matterhorn ascent a matter of a few hours, without nailed boots, without guides, and without ropes.

It was no easy task to transport from Châtillon to Cervinia (Breuil) the two steel ropes, which are each 2,600 yards long and weigh altogether 68 tons. They have now been placed in position, and the work is almost finished. The first section goes from the hollow of Cervinia to the Maison plain, with a rise of about 1,700ft. The stations at the two extremities are ready. The first span will be 1,300 yards long; altogether two kilometres will be covered in less than seven minutes and the cages will be able to carry 37 persons.

The second section (which it is estimated will be ready by next summer) will go as far as the Theodule Pass and end near the Altogether six kilometres (3½ miles) of aerial journey on the longest and highest rope-railway in the world will be covered. The third stretch will reach to Zermatt, in Swiss territory.

Meanwhile this first section will be of singular interest for the noble panorama which the way will offer to tourists, who will have a sight at close range of the Matterhorn in its majestic lines and fantastic lights, and for the 10 magnificent skiing runs on the Maison Plain, six of them downhill.

CHARGE AGAINST NAZI AGENT.

It was officially announced that an agent of the German secret police, the Gestapo, has been arrested in Zurich on a charge of conspiring against the safety of the Swiss Confederation.

The Social Democratic newspaper, the "Volksrecht," states that the accused man is alleged to have spied upon German anti-Nazi refugees in Switzerland.

RECOGNISING RUSSIA.

The Federal Council is expected to reconsider the question of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the Soviet Union this month.

There have been complaints recently from Swiss merchants that they have been passed over when the Soviet Government was placing contracts abroad, because of the lack of official relations between Berne and Moscow.

It is expected that the Swiss authorities will shortly remedy this state of affairs.

Switzerland and Holland are the only two European countries which so far have not recognised Russia.

SWISS MILK WITH.

How do the Swiss do it? Not only did they compel Germany to hand back Dr. Jakob, the anti-Nazi, kidnapped on German soil, but now they have sent the Nazi spy, Dr. Wesemann to quod for 3 years. Could France or Italy have done that? I doubt it. Could Britain? The Germans would have laughed in our faces. We have not even protested against Wesemann being employed by the German Embassy here to spy on German refugees in London.

It is easy to understand why no Power wants to antagonise Switzerland. There must be an international sanctuary somewhere and Switzerland is temperamentally and geographically cut out for the part. An impregnable oasis of hotel keepers in the middle of an ocean of quarrelsome and mutually suspicious nations! A spiritual home for all the Ashendens in Europe! On top of that there is a sturdy independence about the Swiss that makes it more profitable to let them have their way than to quarrel with them.

(Morning Post).

VIOLENT THUNDERSTORMS IN SWITZERLAND.

A violent thunderstorm swept over Central Switzerland last Sunday, causing much damage, particularly in the Cantons Lucerne and Berne. Hail fell for over half an hour and in some places a depth of 3in. of hailstones had not melted by next morning. Rail and road communications were interrupted for several hours by floods, some bridges were swept away, and the fruit trees now in blossom were much damaged. No casualties are so far reported, but the material loss is great.

ENTRY OF GERMAN REDS INTO SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss police have arrested at Kreuzlingen, near Lake Constance, five persons who are alleged to have facilitated the entry of German Communists into Switzerland by supplying them with the cards which are issued to Germans temporarily working in this country.

FIVE-THOUSAND MILES ON HORSEBACK.

Three Swiss cavalrymen have returned to Berne after a 5,000-mile ride on horseback through eight countries of Europe. They have been away seven months.

SIR ARNOLD THEILER HONOURED.

Sir Arnold Theiler, our famous countryman, has had the title of *doctor honoris causa* bestowed on him, by the University of Utrecht on the occasion of its 300th Anniversary. Sir Arnold is a *doctor honoris causa* of 7 Universities. He hails from the canton of Lucerne.

SWISS IN ABYSSINIA.

The Swiss Foreign Office has thanked the French and German Governments for the protection which they have extended to Swiss citizens during the troubles which have lately arisen.

BOY KING'S NEW WATCH.

A wonderful wrist-watch has been presented to young King Farouk, Egypt's new ruler.

It was the gift of the Swiss colony in Cairo.

Said to be the most exquisite specimen of its kind in the world, the watch requires winding only once a month.

It shows the date, the position of the sun and moon, the altitude, the temperature, and, of course, most accurately, the time.

The watch was made by a Swiss who lived for a considerable time in Egypt, and the task took him nearly five years.

SWISS CLUB BUCAREST CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY.

The Swiss Club in Bucarest has celebrated its 75th Anniversary (1861-1936). A Banquet was held at which 300 Swiss were present. M. René de Weck, Swiss Minister, made a patriotic speech.

LOCAL.

LUCERNE.

In spite of the present international situation, the Société Hippique de Lucerne has decided to organise the twenty-second International Horse Show and Jumping Competition, which will take place in Lucerne from July 4th to 12th. The programme will consist of thirteen national and international competitions, and the last day for entries is June 19th. Six nations have already announced that they will send military teams. The United States Army Equestrian Team has also decided to compete on its way to Berlin. The Lucerne Horse Show is under the patronage of the Chief of the Swiss Military Department, M. Minger, while Colonel Favre is to be in charge of the jury.

BERNE.

M. Wehrli, a well-known notary in Berne, has committed suicide, previous to his arrest for having embezzled an amount of 40,000 frs.

FRIBOURG.

The death has occurred in Freiburg of M. Joseph Birbaum, late Sub-Manager of the States Bank of the canton of Fribourg, at the age of 58.

SOLOTHURN.

The death is reported of M. Cesar Schild-Krebs, from Grenchen, at the age of 58; the deceased was a well-known personality in Swiss industrial circles, and he was one of the Founders of the "Ebauches S.A." in Neuchâtel. From 1912-1918 M. Schild was a member of the "Kantonsrat."

GENEVA.

M. Otto Stampfli (Liberal) has been elected a member of the cantonal government; he received 16,132 votes, his opponent, M. Alban Müller (Conservative) polled 8,114 votes.

VAUD.

Doctor Victor Demole, from Basle, has been appointed Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Lausanne.

M. Alphonse Dubuis, a former member of the cantonal government (1912-1930), and of the National Council (1902-1912) has died in Lausanne at the age of 70.

VALAIS.

M. Charles Haegler, editor of the "Nouvelles Valaisannes," has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais.

THURGAU.

The accounts for 1935 of the canton of Thurgau close with a deficit of 360,729 frs.

BASLE-COUNTY.

Dr. Jakob Wagner, from Basle and Laufeltingen, has been appointed head of the Police Force of the canton of Basle-County.

SCHWYZ.

The firm of P. Rüttimann and Cie., Furniture manufacturers in Sielben and Lachen, has made a donation of 40,000 frs. to the Pension Fund of their employees in remembrance of the late M. Peter Rüttimann, senior partner.

TICINO.

Herr Hans Streuli, a member of the Zurich Aero Club, flying a single-motored Swiss aeroplane in which were two passengers, crashed during a fog in the Val Colla, near Lugano, after a successful flight over the Alps on their way to Tunis. Herr Streuli and his passengers, Herren Brüniger and Cavelti, were killed.

The death is reported from Lugano of Dr. Angelo Bertola, President of the Court in Mendrisio. Dr. Bertola was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, where he played an important part.

**SWITZERLAND.
A RECOVERY IN EXPORTS.**

Swiss foreign trade returns for the first quarter of 1936, though showing a smaller total than in the corresponding period of 1935, are better than was forecast. During the first quarter this year imports totalled 268,501,649 francs, compared with 293,162,507 francs last year, a drop which was partly due to import quotas and partly to reduced purchases of raw materials and manufactured products. Exports totalled 192,406,925 francs, compared with 200,045,951 francs in 1935. But while exports in January and February, 1936, were 7,003,610 francs and 2,953,957 francs respectively lower than during the corresponding months of 1935, in March they were 2,316,816 francs higher. The watchmaking industry is continuing slowly but steadily to improve, and its exports are now greater than in 1935. There has also been a small improvement in the machine industry. The import surplus, which was 93,116,553 in the first quarter of 1935, was this year only 76,094,721 francs.

Trade with Great Britain was satisfactory. Imports from Great Britain at 17,474,705 francs were 1,364,735 francs less than in the first quarter of 1935; and exports were 19,773,969 francs, or 3,007,450 francs more than in 1935. Trade with the principal countries was as follows (in Millions of francs) during the first quarter of each year:—

	Imports from		Exports to	
	1935	1936	1935	1936
Germany	74.4	70.3	48.8	40.6
France	50.0	43.3	26.3	26.0
Great Britain	18.7	17.3	16.6	19.7
Italy	22.3	13.0	21.2	14.1
U.S.A.	15.7	15.1	10.6	11.2

Great Britain has thus secured — both in imports and exports — the third place, formerly held by Italy, whose imports and exports have been reduced by about 42 and 33 per cent. respectively owing to the applications of sanctions.

Banking has been more active as a result of renewed activity in the Swiss Bourses and of a new influx of foreign capital — mostly French — into the banks. Since January last the average value of twelve Federal Government securities has risen by nearly 2 per cent., while that of ninety industrial, transport and banking securities has risen by about 7 per cent.

The number of unemployed, which was 124,000 in January, fell to 119,700 in February and to 98,362 in March, and there was a further drop in April, another sign that economic conditions are improving.

RE-ARMAMENT IN THE RHINELAND.

The reoccupation by Germany of the Rhine demilitarised zone is causing much concern in Switzerland. On the one hand, it suggests that the value of treaties — and the neutrality and existence of Switzerland are based on treaties — is very small; on the other hand, the presence of German troops on the Swiss frontier and the building of fortifications constitute a direct menace to Switzerland. It is for that reason that the Federal Government has decided to hasten the completion of the re-armament scheme adopted last year, which involves an expenditure of 85 million francs, mainly devoted to the re-equipment of the artillery, the development of aviation and the erection of fortifications along the northern frontier. One part of the programme has already been completed, but the fortifications will not be terminated before the end of the year. But, in present circumstances, the programme is regarded as insufficient, and the Government is now contemplating a complete reorganisation and modernisation of national defence involving an expenditure of 235 million francs.

The Government intends to spend a further 25 million francs on fortifications, while the remaining 110 million francs are to be expended on armaments. As the Swiss Constitution does not allow the creation of permanent army units, a new organisation will be created to man the fortifications at once in case of danger. At the same time, light units armed with light artillery and machine guns will be formed for the defence of the frontier. Anti-aircraft and anti-gas defence are to be developed.

The 235 million francs needed for this purpose are to be obtained by means of a State loan of 2½ per cent. Some 176 millions francs out of the 235 million francs are to be spent in Switzerland and will benefit home industries and help in

combating unemployment. The Swiss trade unions and many sections of the Socialist Party are supporting the scheme, as they have now pronounced themselves in favour of stronger defences; although last year they opposed the Bill for the reorganisation of the Army and re-armament. They will propose that the loan be increased up to 500 million francs. The remaining 265 million francs would then be devoted to public works. It is accordingly certain that in its next session Parliament will adopt the Government's proposal, though the sacrifice will be heavy for a country whose population hardly exceeds 4,000,000.

Economist.

HELDEN DER NACHT.

Am 30. April sind Flugkapitän ERNST GERBER und Bordfunker ARTHUR MUELLER in Ausübung ihres Berufes an Bord ihres Flugzeuges vom Tode ereit worden. Ueber den Verlauf des Unglücksfluges herrscht in Fachkreisen keine Unklarheit mehr. Der in Aussicht stehende Expertenbericht wird die bereits gemachten Feststellungen bestätigen. Zwei Männer fielen in der Erfüllung ihrer Pflicht, nebeneinander der Hauptmann der Fliegertruppe und Flugkapitän und der Gefreite und Bordfunker. Sie starben als Pioniere und Soldaten im friedlichen, doch so harten Kampf um die Erfüllung einer Menschheitsidee, um die Erreichung eines befohlenen Zieles. Sie, die Hunderttausende von Kilometern im Luftverkehr heil zurückgelegt hatten, fielen einem Postflug zum Opfer.

Der Laie kann sich nur ein unvollständiges Bild der Aufgabe des Postfliegers machen. Und doch ist Postflug so verschieden vom Verkehrsflug, fast wie Krieg und Frieden, wie friedlicher Zivilberuf und Soldatenarbeit. Aufgabe des Verkehrsfluges mit Passagieren ist es, diese unter Vermeidung jeder Gefahr heil an den Bestimmungsort zu bringen. Der Postflieger dagegen steht unter einem klaren Zweckbefehl. Bei Tag und in der Nacht, bei gutem und schlechtem Wetter hat er nur eine Aufgabe: Seinen Flug programmgemäss durchzuführen und unter dem Einsatz seiner selbst den ihm übertragenen Auftrag auszuführen, ohne Rücksicht auf Gefahr, ohne Rücksicht auf die lauenden Tücken der Nacht und des Wetters. Und gerade der Flugkapitän ERNST GERBER hat den Unterschied dieser beiden Aufgaben wohl gekannt. Trug er die Verantwortung für Passagiere, deren er Tausende stets sicher und verlässlich nach den Flughäfen des Auslandes und nach dem Heimatflughafen zurückführte, so galt seine Sorge nur ihnen. Dann war er der sorgsam wägende Kapitän, der über die Seinen wachte. Im Postflug aber erwachte der Soldat. Er wusste wohl: Postflug ist keine friedliche Übung irgendwo an einem sonnigen Tag. Postflug ist die schwere Nachtpatrouille in die Feindeslinien, die vollen Einsatz und freudige Opferung verlangt.

Dieses schwerste Opfer haben die beiden Kameraden gebracht. ERNST GERBER, der Offizier, und ARTHUR MUELLER, der Gefreite, beide ein Bild treuester Pflichterfüllung in jedem Preis, selbst um den höchsten. Sie wussten beide: Ihr schwerer Beruf verlangte es. Trotz widerlichstem Wetter gab es kein: Wir können nicht! Die Meldung lautet auftragsgemäss: "Wir versuchen in Basel zu landen!" Aber hinter diesen einfachen Worten steht der feste Wille, steht die hohe Pflichtauffassung und Bereitschaft. Die Macht des Schicksals ist

stärker gewesen. Sie verhinderte die gute Radioverbindung; übermässige Dämmereffekte am Peiler erschweren die Ortsbestimmung. So ging das Verhängnis seinen Lauf. Aus dem Grau der dämmrigen Nacht griff die unerbittliche Hand des Todes nach den beiden Soldaten, nach den beiden Helden der Nacht. Sie starben. Aber sie starben als Beispiel, als Mahnung nicht nur für die Kameraden, sondern für unsere zerrissene Zeit: Dass nur ganzer Einsatz, dass nur freudiges Opfer, dass nur Selbstlosigkeit zum Ziele führt, das wir in helleren Tagen erhoffen.

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A NEW SWISS VENTURE.



A tobacconist shop is, of course, nothing new, nor is a hairdressing saloon, but what is new, is that M. Peter Brun, who is well-known in the Swiss Colony, has acquired the proprietorship of an old established tobacconist business, (Fraser & Co., 50, Southampton Row, W.C.1.) Being of an enterprising nature, M. Brun has combined with the above mentioned business, an up-to-date Hairdressing Saloon, which has been fitted up with the most modern impliments, as

can be seen from the above picture. One distinctive feature of this modern and well equipped saloon, are the three dressing rooms, in which clients at a small fee, who wish to attend any evening function, can change without first having to go home. We can warmly recommend this new venture to our readers, and we have not the slightest doubt, that they will be thoroughly satisfied.