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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### COLONEL H. ROOST +.

The news of the death, at the age of 64, of Colonel Heinrich Roost, did not come as a surprise. For some time, the health of the chief of General Staff of the Swiss Army, gave cause for anxiety, and on several occasions he had to be temporarily relieved from his responsible post. The burden of work, which had fallen on his shoulders, especially during the last few months, aggravated his already undermined constitution. Colonel Roost was anxious to complete his work of re-organisation of the Swiss Army before retiring from his post.

Unfortunately he was not spared to see the results of his incessant labours, — to put our army on a completely new footing. —

Colonel Roost assumed his post at a critical time: when Colonel Sonderegger, owing to differences with the then chief of the Military Dept., Federal Councillor Scheurer, resigned as chief of the General Staff, the choice as his successor fell on Colonel Roost, who was, at the time, "Waffenchef" of the Infantry and commander of the 3rd Division.

Army-Corps Commander Roost originated from a soldier's family, his father was a member of the Federal Instruction Corps and so were two of his uncles. He was born in 1872 at Beringen (Ct. Schaffhausen); in 1893, he received his commission as a lieutenant of Infantry, entering at the same time into the Instruction Corps. On attaining the rank of captain, he was transferred to the General Staff, and later on was entrusted with the command of the battalion 98, having been promoted to the rank of major. In 1913, he received the command of the "Mitrailleurbteilung" 2, and on having been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he re-entered the General Staff. At the out-break of the war he was chief of staff of the 3rd Army-Corps (Army-Corps Commander Will) this post he held until 1916. During this time he was for a short while in command of the "Thurgauer" regiment 25. In 1917 he was appointed chief of staff of the 6th division under Colonel Bridler, a post which he held until the end of the war. In the succeeding year he was promoted to the rank of colonel, and for two years he was in charge of the "Aargauer" Infantry Brigade 12, after which he succeeded Colonel Peter Isler, as chief of arms (Waffenchef) of the Infantry. In 1922 he was made commander of the 3rd division, retaining at the same time his post as chief of arms of the Infantry.

The following year (1923) he succeeded Colonel Sonderegger as chief of the General Staff. Colonel Roost has, for nearly 40 years, rendered eminent services to our country, and his name will always be remembered as one of the builders of our modern army.

The Swiss Government was represented at the funeral service, by Federal Councillors Obrecht (representing M. Minger, chief of the Federal Military Dept.), Baumann and Etter. A large number of officers followed the hearse on foot, amongst them: Army-Corps Commanders, Bridler, Guisan, Prisi, Miescher and Wille; Division Commanders: Combe, de Diesbach, Borel, Bircher, von Mural, Lardelli, Tissot, Marcuard, Hilfiker and Labhart, as well as all the Military Attachés accredited to the Confederation, and a large number of representatives of cantonal governments.

#### THE REFORMATION IN GENEVA.

The celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Reformation in Geneva was begun on Saturday last, when a service was held in St. Peter's

Cathedral, where Calvin and Knox preached. An appeal was read from the Consistory of the Geneva Protestant Church urging all Christian Churches to unite to obtain in every country absolute freedom to preach the Gospel and teach it to the young. After the service representatives of foreign Churches addressed the congregation, congratulated the Geneva Church on its quarter-century, and paid tribute to Calvin and other Reformers. The Rev. J. S. Whale spoke for the English Protestant Churches, Principal J. H. Miller for the Scottish, and the Rev. Clayton Williams for the American.

10,000 young men and girls marched in procession through the city to the Reformation Monument. An open-air service was held, attended by more than 18,000 persons, who solemnly renewed the pledge, taken four centuries ago, to remain faithful to the Reformed religion and to their country.

#### SWISS FLEET COMING.

Switzerland may not have a navy, or any admirals, but she has vessels capable of sailing the high seas — two of them.

One, the Bernina, is coming to London to collect a cargo of sugar for Switzerland. And there will be celebrations when she returns to Basle.

Both are motor vessels each with a gross registered tonnage of 320.

They have been designed to travel up the river as far as Basle and yet be capable of sea voyages.

The vessels will thus reduce expenses and loss of time caused by cargo for Basle having had to be transhipped at Rotterdam into specially-adapted Rhine barges.

Last year the turnover at Basle exceeded two million tons of goods.

As Switzerland has no international ocean rights for the flying of her own flag, it is stated, the two vessels will avail themselves of the courtesy of the Dutch flag when at sea.

#### SWITZERLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION.

In the Swiss Parliament a motion asking the Government to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union was defeated by 96 votes to 72. M. Motta, Foreign Minister, opposed the motion on behalf of the Government principally on the ground that diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union would facilitate Communist propaganda in Switzerland.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

The unemployment figures for the month of May show a reduction of 9,366, but the figure is still 14,000 in excess of the return published at the same period twelve months ago.

#### NO DEVALUATION FOR SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Government and the National Bank of Switzerland are firm in their determination to maintain the Swiss franc at its present value," declared M. Meyer, the Finance Minister, during the course of a debate on the State finances for 1935.

M. Meyer characterised all rumours about the possibility of devaluation of the Swiss franc as unfounded.

#### SWISS SILENCE WEEK.

The Silence Week which has just ended in Geneva, Berne, and several smaller Swiss towns has had good results. Motor-cars, motor-cycles, cycles, and trams have been running with the minimum of horn-blowing or bell-ringing and with great caution, so that the number of street accidents dropped by 45 per cent., and there were very few serious mishaps. A further experiment will be made later on, when it will be decided whether the sounding of motor-horns or tram bells shall be prohibited in the towns.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Jacques Taravella, a member of the Managing Staff of Jelmoni, S.A. in Zurich, has celebrated his 30th service anniversary with the firm.

M. Jean Frey, senior-chief of the "Buch und Kunstdruckerei, Jean Frey, A.G." in Zurich, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary, completing at the same time 60 years of work as a disciple of "Gutenberg."

#### ST. GALLEN.

The late M. Emile Wever, from Flawil, has left an amount of 30,000frs. to various charitable institutions in the canton of St. Gall.

### BERNE.

Dr. Sa..., a high official at the munition works in Thun, has committed suicide. It is reported that he was recently suspended from his position, and that an action against him was pending for having tried to sell one of his inventions to a foreign power.

### LUCERNE.

The criminal Tribunal of the canton of Lucerne, has condemned the former Manager Gehrig, of the Sparkasse Willisau to 18 months imprisonment for embezzlement, the two accused Kreyenbühl and Tanner were acquitted.

The death is reported from Vitznau, of M. Josef Fellmann, Manager of the Vitznau-Rigi Railway at the age of 54. M. Fellmann was, previous to his appointment (1925) "Kantons-Ingenieur."

### BASLE.

Dr. Fritz Lieb, until recently, Professor of Theology at the University of Bonn, has been nominated Professor of Theology at the University of Basle. Professor Lieb had to leave Germany for similar reasons as Professor Barth.

Dr. Ludwis Freivogel, a well-known pedagogue in Basle, has died at the age of 77.

### TICINO.

The accounts for 1935 of the canton Ticino close with a deficit of 2,745,742 frs.

### THURGAU.

The death has occurred in Mannenbach of M. Eduard Fehr, President of the District Court Steckborn, at the age of 57. The deceased was since 1908 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau. From 1920-1921 M. Fehr was a member of the National Council.

### VAUD.

M. Henri Jacquot, from Trey, near Payerne, will succeed M. J. E. Mermod in the National Council. M. Mermod has been nominated prefect of the District Orbe, and in consequence had to relinquish his seat in Parliament.

Three persons were killed in a motor accident at the "Bernerstrasse" in Lausanne.

### AARGAU.

M. Otto Walter-Obrecht, founder of the "Kammindustrie" in Mümliswil, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

### GENEVA.

M. William Rappard has been elected rector of the University of Geneva.

### FOOTBALL.

14th June, 1936.

#### MITROPA CUP: EXIT SWITZERLAND.

Grasshoppers	.....1	Austria (Vienna)	.....1
Lausanne-Sports	.....2	Zidenice (Brünn)	.....1
Phoebus (Budapest)	9	Young Fellows	.....2
Torino	.....7	Bern	.....1

The first "adventure" of Switzerland in the Mitropa Cup competition has come to an inglorious end; not a single team survived the preliminary round. Grasshoppers alone show a tolerable result for the two matches played, losing by 2:4 goals. The figures for the others are: Lausanne-Sports 2:6; Young Fellows 2:9; Bern 2:11 or a grand total of 8 goals for and 30 against. One commentator justly remarks: "Whether such debacles further the interests of Swiss Football we leave to those who forced Switzerland's participation in this international competition by all the means at their disposal."

M.G.

#### FOOTBALL SEASON 1935-1936.

Swiss Cup Winners: F.C. Young Fellows (Zurich) Runners-up: F.C. Servette (Geneva).

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Swiss Champions: F.C. Lausanne-Sports. Runners-up: F.C. Young Fellows (Zurich). Relegated to First League: F.C. Aarau and Locarno.

#### FIRST LEAGUE.

Champions: F.C. Luzern. Runners-up: F.C. Grenchen. Promoted to National League: F.C. Luzern. Relegated to League II: Schaffhausen-Sparta; Seebach; Carouge; Racing-Lausanne. Promoted from League II: Bellinzona; Old Boys (Basel); Concordia-Yverdon.

FIRST LEAGUE TABLES.  
Group "West."

	P	W	D	L	for	agst	Pts.	Goals
Grenchen	22	16	3	3	74	26	35	
Solothurn	22	14	4	4	63	35	32	
Vevey	22	13	3	6	69	52	29	
Montreux	22	13	3	6	55	42	29	
Cantalonal	22	13	1	9	69	41	27	
Fribourg	22	10	1	11	37	37	21	
Monthey	22	9	2	11	44	60	20	
Urania	22	7	4	11	36	52	18	
Olten	22	6	5	11	54	46	17	
Pruntrut	22	6	4	12	47	57	16	
Racing	22	5	3	14	33	72	13	
Carouge	22	3	1	18	20	72	7	
Group "East."								
Luzern	22	10	9	3	45	27	29	
Juventus	22	11	5	6	51	44	27	
Brühl	22	9	6	7	41	33	24	
Chiasso	22	9	5	8	51	45	23	
Oerlikon	22	10	3	9	51	52	23	
Krenzingen	22	9	4	9	42	50	22	
Winterthur	22	8	5	9	33	33	21	
Blue Stars	22	8	5	9	36	44	21	
Zurich	22	8	3	11	35	45	19	
Concordia	22	8	3	11	33	50	19	
Schaffhausen	22	5	8	9	38	35	18	
Seebach	22	5	8	9	35	33	18	

Thus ended another season of Swiss Football. Let's ring down the curtain, Mr. Editor, Yours, M.G.

## POUR LES SEJOURS D'ETE DES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER.

### Le Château de Rhaezüns.

C'est à proximité de la ligne de chemin de fer qui conduit en Engadine, à mi-chemin, à peu près entre Coire et Thusis, que se dresse la château de Rhaezüns, non loin du village du même nom. Une contrée légèrement vallonnée et couverte de belles forêts s'étend tout autour, encadrée de montagnes d'un accès facile, qui ne gênent en rien la magnifique échappée en amont et en aval du cours du Rhin.

Le Château de Rhaezüns, telle une puissante forteresse, campe son imposante silhouette au sommet d'un rocher escarpé. Des empereurs et des rois en furent tour à tour les maîtres; les péripéties de sa destinée touchent aux grands événements de l'histoire mondiale. Tombé pour finir dans l'abandon, ce précieux vestige des temps passés menaçait ruine, lorsque la Commission des Suisses à l'étranger de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique s'en émut, et fonda, en 1926, une Société Coopérative d'Utilité publique qui en fit l'acquisition, aux fins de lui ménager un avenir meilleur: il fut destiné à devenir, pour les Suisses à l'étranger un home accueillant et confortable où ils puissent venir passer leurs vacances, à bon compte. Après une restauration des plus soignées, le château fut à même d'ouvrir ses portes au début de l'été 1929, et, sous l'expertise direction de l'Association "Volksdienst," il devint très vite le séjour de prédilection de bon nombre de Suisses à l'étranger.

Le château, disons-nous, est situé à quelques minutes de la station de chemin de fer de Rhaezüns, sur une hauteur qui domine le Rhin antérieur. L'on jouit, de ses fenêtres, d'une vue admirable sur les prés verdoyants, les forêts sombres, les rochers et les montagnes couvertes de neige.

Le Domschleg dont Rhaezüns fait partie, jouit d'un climat doux et agréable; c'est un centre idéal d'excursions variées.

Cette région des Grisons est la plus riche en pittoresques châteaux-forts; une demi-journée de promenade suffit pour les atteindre et en visiter les curiosités. Les chemins de fer rhétiques conduisent en 20 minutes à Thusis; plus loin, la vallée du Rhin postérieur se resserre pour former les célèbres gorges de la Viamala. En se dirigeant dans la direction opposée, on parvient, par des routes creusées dans le roc, aux gorges de la Rabiosa et du Rhin antérieur, près d'Ilanz et de Reichenau. Pour les alpinistes, le Drei-bündenstein, le Staechelhorn, les hauteurs du Heinzenberg, le Pix Beverin, etc... sont des buts pleins d'attraits. Autant de matins, autant, pour les hôtes de Rhaezüns, d'excursions nouvelles. A moins qu'ils ne préfèrent les promenades aux alentours immédiats du Château.

En entendant parler de château, et de château, féodal, certains de nos compatriotes ne manqueront pas d'évoquer de sombres murailles, des mansardes froides, des corridors où l'on trébuché.

Qu'ils se rassurent!

Le château de Rhaezüns, restauré complètement, est devenu un home des plus agréables, sans qu'il y ait eut besoin pour cela, de toucher à son caractère primitif. De larges baies s'ouvrent de toute part, sur la campagne paisible, les forêts, les alpages, les rochers et les glaciers étincelants.

Le soir on trouvera, auprès d'une immense poêle de catelles une bonne bibliothèque, un gramophone et un excellent appareil de T. S. F.

La grande salle des Chevaliers ainsi que la grande salle de réunions du rez-de-chaussée sont si vastes que même durant les jours de pluie vous ne pourriez vous y sentir à l'étroit.

Il se dégage d'ailleurs, de ces puissantes murailles aux profondes assises, une affirmation de force, de tenacité, de persévérance, qui vous prédisposent étrangement au calme et à la réflexion. De ces pierres, de ce lieu consacré par l'histoire, émanent une tonique leçon de confiance, de courage et de vaillance.

A Rhaezüns dans ce passé qui reprend vie tant il a été bien conservé, nos meilleures traditions helvétiques trouvent le terrain et l'atmosphère qui leur conviennent le mieux.

La camaraderie, la simplicité, y sont si naturelles, que les hôtes du Château pratiquent ces vertus difficiles, sans même paraître s'en douter.

Il est vrai que tout a été mis en œuvre par les dirigeantes de l'Association Suisse "Volksdienst" et ceux de la Société coopérative d'utilité publique de la "Maison de vacances des Suisses à l'étranger de Rhaezüns" pour que chacun se sente à l'aise dans ce site privilégié et puisse y passer d'heureux jours de détente et de paix.

L'accueil, nous pouvons vous en parler en connaissance de cause, y est aussi amical que dévoué. La nourriture est excellente, substantielle, variée. L'alcool est prohibé, mais l'eau de source de Rhaezüns est une merveille. On sait que dans le voisinage immédiat du château jaillissent des eaux connues depuis des siècles pour leur vertu curative. Riches en acide carbonique, elles sont particulièrement recommandées contre les affections des reins et combattent victorieusement les rhumatismes ainsi que le manque d'appétit.

Les hôtes du château ne seront pas lents à s'apercevoir des effets bienfaisants d'une cure faite sur place, dans des conditions aussi agréables que peu dispendieuses.

Mais surtout comment chanter assez les louanges du paysage magnifique, de ce coin des Grisons?

Le Rhin au pied des falaises du château, noué et dénoué les nœuds de son cours capricieux. Le parc est aussi vaste que verdoyant et tranquille. Les alentours offrent de multiples promenades et la plus courte excursion est pleine de charmantes surprises dans ce pays extraordinaire où les terres cultivées alternent avec les forêts séculaires, où les eaux et le roc sont toujours en lutte.

D'autre part, si le chemin de fer vous conduit en peu de minutes à Thusis, Hanz, Reichenau, on posera à volonté jusqu'à Disentis, Davos et la Haute-Engadine. Un service rapide et sûr de cars alpins vous mènera aussi à travers l'Obchaltstein et jusqu'aux cols les plus fameux de nos Alpes.

Reste la question pécuniaire. Le prix de pension est fixé à 5 fr. par jour. Des arrangements sont prévus pour les familles.

Le château est ouvert du 15 Juin au 15 Septembre.

Les chemins de fer fédéraux et les chemins de fer rhétiques accordent aux personnes qui viennent à Rhaezüns pour 10 jours au moins, le retour gratuit jusqu'à la frontière. Le trajet doit se faire, dans ce cas, par le chemin le plus court, et le retour doit s'effectuer par la même voie que l'aller. Les formulaires nécessaires à l'obtention du billet spécial qui peuvent être demandés à la direction de la Maison de Vacances, avant le départ pour Rhaezüns, doivent être estampillés à la station frontière, à l'entrée en Suisse.

Nous rappelons également que le château de Rhaezüns est ouvert à tous les Suisses de l'étranger, sans distinction aucune.

### SWISS SALVATION ARMY BAND IN LONDON.

Thirty-seven instrumentalists of the famous Swiss Salvation Army band, from Basle, accompanied by a female quartet in picturesque alpine costumes, visited Clapton last week and gave a very enjoyable entertainment to an audience numbering about 1,500 at the Congress Hall. They were in charge of Brigadier Treite (Editor in Chief of the Swiss Command) and Bandmaster P. Schiffmann.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, presided, and amongst others on the

platform were the Mayor and Mayoress of Tottenham (Alderman A. E. Jay, J.P., and Mrs. Jay), Brigadier Hoggard (Divisional Commander), Colonel Goldsmith, Major Durman, Lieut-Colonel and Mrs. Sladen, Commissioner Mrs. Whatmore, Major and Mrs. Heath, and many other prominent Salvationists.

"Basle greets you" was the title of a charming item by the combined party, in which sisters, speaking in their native tongue (translated by Brigadier Treite into English), gave a spectacular survey of Basle, with its chief features including the Army band started by Sergeant Buchmüller, who, although 81 years of age, is still a competent E flat bass player in the band.

Amongst the items played by the band were several beautiful Swiss melodies, in which dairymaids and cowbells played a large part; and songs, in which yodelling was introduced, were loudly applauded.

### F.C.Z.-ROWING CLUB, ZURICH

We are pleased to note that our compatriots who will fly our flag at the forthcoming Regatta in Henley, are actively engaged in tuning themselves up to concert pitch.

On June 6/7th they competed at Mannheim where they found stiff opposition from German Olympic candidates. Although the results were somewhat disappointing, the opportunity of a serious contest against first class opponents must have proved of advantage.

On June 13/14th an international meeting was held on the Rotsee, near Lucerne.

Ruffi, worthy winner of the Diamond Sculls at Henley, rowed once again against the other Henley finalist, Zavrel of Czechoslovakia who who managed to turn the tables on this occasion, winning by 6.4 secs. As the two will in all probably meet again at Henley, Zavrel may yet come to regret having taken his revenge too soon. Anyhow, we hope so.

The Eight came in second to Pannonia-Budapest, 4.9 secs. behind. The present F.C.Z.-Eight was formed some months ago and it cannot be denied that they are not yet up to International standard and class.

The Henley Four, who came in for such unstinted praise from all the experts last year, won with cox by 6.4 secs. from Pannonia, with Bienne third, 1 sec. behind. Without cox they beat Cercle de Régates, Bruxelles, by 16 secs. It appears as if the crew for the Stewards Cup are finding their form again at the right time.

In the Pairs, F.C.Z. (Homberger-Betschart) finished second to a Grasshoppers-Seeklub-Luzern combination.

M.G.

### APPOINTMENT FOR BIG LONDON HOTEL.

We are pleased to inform our readers, that our countryman, M. Anton Bon has been appointed resident director of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, in succession to Sir Francis Towle.

M. Anton Bon, of St. Moritz, has for some time been a director of Gordon Hotels, and in addition is a director of Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to M. Bon, wishing him every success in his responsible position.

### UGFREUTS WAETTER.

Es het graggelet die ganzi Nacht  
U gröpperlet uf isem Dach,  
Scho die letzte vierzäh Tag  
Hets grägnet grüss was abamag.  
D'Matte si voll Grass u Meije  
U doch chöi Bure no nid heue.  
D's Vieh cha nid uf de Alpe blybe  
Die Hüfe Schnee tues abetriebe;  
Nie so lang me si bsinne ma  
Het's im Juni so ne Chelti g'ha.  
Wo me hie chunt chlage d'Lüt  
Mi mög nime g'cho, es gangi nüt  
Fröndi chöme nid its Land  
Bi dem schlächte Wätterstand,  
Alles, alles gross u chly  
Wartet uf a Sunneschy.

H.E.

## BANQUE FEDERALE

(Société Anonyme)

Zurich, Bâle, Berne, Genève, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Lausanne, St. Gall, Vevey

Toutes opérations de Banque à des conditions avantageuses