

La politique

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

LOUIS DAPPLES +

Dr. Louis Dapples, President of the Board of the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Holding Company Ltd., a Director of the "Crédit Suisse," the "Schweiz. Rückversicherungsgesellschaft," the "Bank für Elektr. Unternehmen," the "Schweiz. Argentinischen Hypothekbank" and many other Swiss and Foreign Companies has died at Genoa on his return journey from a business trip to the United States.

M. Louis Dapples was born at Genoa in 1867, the son of an old "Vaudois" family, who had settled in Genoa in the 19th Century and who enjoyed a wide reputation in the Finance world of Italy. After having studied at the University of Zurich, he entered the Banking firm of his father in Genoa, later on he took up a position with the "Crédit Lyonnais" in London, where he advanced rapidly to the post of Sub-Manager.

Fifteen years later he occupied the post as a financial expert, at the Head Office of the "Banca Commerciale Italiana" in Milan, and later with the "Banque Française et Italienne pour l'Amerique du Sud," in which services he spent many years in Brazil and the Argentine.

In 1922 at the age of 55, he was offered the position as reorganiser of the large Nestlé concern, which at that time was at the Zenith of their expansion, and to this work he gave every ounce of his energy and his vast experience. The Federal Council sent him in 1933 to the World Economic Conference in London as a member of the Swiss Delegation, and soon afterwards the University of Lausanne honoured him by conferring on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Dapples, who was an honorary citizen of Vevey and Apples, was one of the most distinguished sons of our country and the great services he has rendered to the Confederation and to Swiss Industry will always be held in grateful memory.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss National Day (1st of August) was celebrated throughout Switzerland with great enthusiasm.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, addressed a large audience at Giornico, on the occasion of the inauguration of the monument "Sassi grossi," in remembrance of the battle of Giornico. Federal Councillor Etter made a patriotic speech during the celebrations on the "Rüti," and Federal Councillor Dr. Meyer spoke at Uster.

PRICE OF PETROL RAISED IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Government have refused to lower Customs duties on petrol, and the price was raised two centimes to 45c. a litre (about 1s. 10d. a gallon). Customs duties represent 54 per cent. of the price of petrol.

This decision is likely to have a bad influence on motor traffic, and to militate against foreign motorists coming to Switzerland. The increase in price is being received with the greatest displeasure in Switzerland. Some very strong protests have been published in the Press, and it is very probable that a strike of motorists will be decided on by the Automobile Association, the Touring Club, and other tourist associations.

JUNIOR SUMMER SCHOOL AT GENEVA

Three hundred boys and girls from the upper forms of public and secondary schools throughout Great Britain have left London for Geneva. They will spend ten days at the junior summer school organised by the League of Nations Union. The warden of the school will be the head master of Rugby.

At Geneva the boys and girls will listen to first-hand accounts of League activities from members of the Secretariat and other experts engaged upon the problems of peace and war, international health, transport, economics, native labour, and other matters of international co-operation.

A FOREST THEATRE IN SWITZERLAND.

Amid the thick fir tree forests of the Jorat hills, ten miles or so north-east of Lausanne, stands the village of Mezières, which has become an important theatrical centre. Almost every year Swiss plays are produced there in a coarse wooden playhouse built a quarter of a century ago by the Canton Vaud author M. René Morax, his brother the well-known painter, and the composer Gustave Doret. Except for a few principals, all the actors are local amateurs.

This year a new play was produced there, the *Servante d'Evolène*, by M. René Morax and M. Gustave Doret. It is taken from a legend of the Vallée d' Hérens, in Canton Valais, and is a fine example of Swiss folklore. The son of a rich farmer is in love with a young servant, but the father opposes the marriage as she wants his son to wed a rich girl. But Death, under the features of an old woman, comes and claims the young man as her prey. Prayers and entreaties fail to move Death's inflexibility, until, in the end, she accepts a substitute for the young man. The servant volunteers to take her lover's place; Death accepts, but will only take her later, when she thinks the right moment has come. Time passes, the rich girl dies, and the young man marries the servant whose devotion has vanquished his father's opposition. The marriage ceremony takes place, and while everybody is rejoicing, Death arrives: the bride falls dead, but a Saint appears, brings her back to life, and the happy couple are united for ever. This very simple and moving legend is a pretext for local dances performed by groups of girls and boys clad in their picturesque Evolène costumes. The dialogue is brisk and poetical, and it is enriched by music in harmony with the native simplicity of the story. The success of *La servante d'Evolène* has been so great that it will be produced in Paris from July 27 to 29 at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Hofmann, a former head of the Employment Dept. of the "Société Suisse des Commercants" in Zurich, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

King Carol of Rumania has arrived at the Hotel "Baur au Lac" in Zurich, where he intends to stay *incognito* for a few days.

BERNE.

Vice-Federal Chancellor, Dr. Oscar Leimgruber, has celebrated his 25th Service Jubilee.

Dr. P. Vieli, Councillor of Legation, and a very capable member of the "Eidg. Volkswirtschafts Dept.," is leaving his post to enter the General Management of the "Crédit Suisse." His departure from Berne is greatly deplored.

On the occasion of the 70th birthday anniversary of Dr. A. Wander (reported in our last issue), every employee of the Dr. A. Wander A.G. in Berne and Neuenegg, received an amount of 100 frs., in addition every member of the staff was granted a day off.

GLARUS.

In Linthal died at the age of 69, M. Bernhard Stüssi, since 1927 a member of the cantonal government. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Landrat."

BASLE.

Professor, Dr. Mangold, Administrator of the "Schweiz. Wirtschaftsarchiv" since 1910, is retiring from his post, which he held with great distinction, on attaining the age limit. (65).

APPENZEL I. RH.

At the age of 71 died in Schwendi, M. Joh. Baptist Rusch, known throughout the canton of Appenzel, as "Der Steuble." The deceased carried for 30 years the provisions for the Meteorological station on the "Santis." On his retirement he was granted a pension by the Federal authorities.

AARGAU.

The death has occurred at Aarau of M. Gottfried Grossen, Manager of the Municipal Electric Power station, the deceased rendered for over 30 years great services to the Municipality of Aarau.

TICINO.

A collection which was undertaken by the newspaper "Tat" organ of National Councillor Duttweiler, for the community of Palagnedra, which, through no fault of their own got into financial difficulties, brought in the creditable amount of 12,000 frs. This "beau geste" enabled the community of Palagnedra to wipe out all their debts.

VAUD.

Dr. h. c. Ernest Chuard, from 1919-1928 a member of the Federal Government, and President of the Swiss Confederation in 1924 has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Lausanne.

The late Mlle. Margerite Gallay of Le Sentier has left an amount of 100,000 frs. to different charitable institutions.

M. William Grenier, a former Professor at the Engineering school at Lausanne has died. The deceased was from 1895-1935 administrator and President of the "Ateliers de constructions mécaniques" in Vevey.

GENEVA.

A Geneva Boy Scout named Rols Glatt, aged 14, has made the ascent of the Matterhorn. Zermatt guides believe he is the youngest boy to do so.

OBWALDEN.

Last Sunday died in Lungern, at the age of 62, M. Johann Imfeld-Berchtold, since 1934 a member of the cantonal government.

LA POLITIQUE.

La réforme de la constitution fédérale.

La Nouvelle Société Helvétique a adressé dernièrement une lettre du plus haut intérêt au Conseil fédéral. Par la clarté des idées qu'il exprime, par son ton mesuré et direct, par l'opportunité des mesures qu'il recommande, ce document émanant d'un des plus importants groupements patriotiques de notre pays mérite la plus large diffusion et l'approbation complète des citoyens qu'inquiète l'avenir de la Suisse.

C'est du problème de la réforme de la Constitution fédérale que la Nouvelle Société Helvétique entretient notre directoire. Depuis 1914, dit-elle en substance, le cours des événements a placé l'Etat suisse en face de difficultés qui ne pouvaient être surmontées par les moyens réguliers inscrits dans la Constitution de 1848 et de 1874. Il en est résulté un ensemble de dispositions législatives extraordinaires dont le caractère de nécessité ne saurait être discuté, mais qui risquent, aujourd'hui, à la fois de se maintenir définitivement et de se développer encore.

Il y a là un grave danger: la Suisse ne peut prospérer que sur la base d'une nette définition des compétences de la Confédération et des cantons, comme de l'Etat et des citoyens. Tel n'est plus le cas aujourd'hui. D'autre part, on ne saurait évidemment revenir à la situation d'avant-guerre: à des hommes et des temps nouveaux, il convient d'adapter la Constitution qui est leur loi fondamentale.

Il ne peut être question, en effet, de parer aux profonds changements survenus ces dernières décennies par de simples procédés de fortune. Les nombreuses violations qu'on a dû faire subir à la Constitution commandent l'établissement d'un droit nouveau et strict, remplaçant les dispositions législatives devenues désuètes. Cette opinion est partagée par des personnalités appartenant aux sphères les plus diverses et à toutes les parties du pays.

Mais comment s'y prendre? La Nouvelle Société Helvétique propose qu'on se mette au travail dans trois directions différentes. D'abord on devrait s'inspirer de l'institution récente de la commission d'experts économiques, créer, pour d'autres domaines constitutionnels qui ont particulièrement besoin de rajustement, des organismes semblables, bref amorcer des révisions partielles. D'autre part, il conviendrait de revenir sans délai au libre jeu des initiatives populaires, en réduisant à l'extrême les cas ex-

ceptionnels où une décision serait soustraite à la sanction des électeurs. Notre peuple possède une maturité politique qui l'autorise à prendre position à l'égard même de questions pratiques; lui dénier ce droit, c'est le décourager. Enfin, il importerait d'examiner soigneusement le décalage qui s'est insensiblement produit dans les compétences gouvernementales, et d'y remédier dans la mesure du possible.

Ces considérations amènent la Nouvelle Société Helvétique à préconiser la nomination d'une commission d'experts du monde de la science, de l'économie, de la politique, dont la tâche consisterait à poser les différents problèmes, à les limiter, à trouver le plan convenable sur lequel pourrait être édifié, plus tard, le projet de constitution nouvelle. Car il va de soi qu'il est trop tôt pour s'attaquer directement à celui-ci; commençons par débayer le terrain. Si nous ne le faisons, pas, les améliorations partielles que nous réaliserions seraient isolées, ne s'intégreraient pas dans l'édifice constitutionnel et compromettraient même son équilibre.

Et la Nouvelle Société Helvétique conclut, après avoir remarqué qu'une telle besogne, forcément de longue haleine, exigerait la collaboration raisonnée de tous, par ces paroles dignes d'éloge: "Au centre de cette entreprise, il faut placer l'idée que le maintien absolu de normes constitutionnelles est à soi seul déjà la condition sine qua non de l'existence de notre pays." On ne saurait qu'y souscrire et souhaiter de voir nos hautes autorités à Berne renoncer au régime de facilité dont elles vivent. Notre maison se lézarde: appelons les architectes pendant qu'il en est temps encore.

J. M.
(Tribune de Genève).

CHAMPION DRIVERS IN THE SWISS GRAND-PRIX

The importance of the event of the Fourth Swiss Grand-prix for automobiles, which the Swiss Automobile Club has fixed to take place on August 22 on the Bremgarten round track at Berne, is daily becoming more patent. The two main firms among German constructors, whose names have in the past headed the winning lists, viz. Mercedes-Benz and Auto-Union, have just sent in the names of their champions. They are sending to Berne their best racing teams, seeing that a very sharp contest will ensue in consequence of the shortening of total distance and those firms being in closest rivalry.

Mercedes-Benz have of course appointed their famous Rudolf Caracciola as leader, together with Manfred von Brauchitsch and Hermann Lang; the latter figuring already in the international list of victors. Further drivers for the Mercedes firm are the Swiss Christian Kautz and perhaps also the prominent Englishman Richard Seaman, who, in three consecutive years has won the Prix de Berne. (1934, 35 and 36.)

Auto-Union have so far named four drivers, who will have as their leader the winner of the Swiss Grand-prix of last year, Bernd Rosemeyer. The other competitors on behalf of the Auto-Union are Hans Stueck, Kurt Hasse and H. P. Müller.

Maserati cars will no doubt start as well. Negotiations with several Italian and French firms are yet being conducted by the race manager, Director W. Ed. Huber.

Alfa Romeo, a firm on whose account contradicting reports are circulating, will hardly fail to make an appearance.

TECHNISCHE CHRONIK UND INDUSTRIELLE NEUHEITEN.

Die Umschlagsanlagen des Kohlenhafens von Born am Julianakanal in Holland gestatten jährlich 2 Millionen Tonnen Kohlen umzuschlagen und zu lagern. Dabei finden 2 Waggonskipper Verwendung, deren elektrische Ausrüstung durch die Firma Brown, Boveri & Cie. A.G., Baden (Schweiz) geliefert worden ist. Das Betriebsergebnis für den ersten, im Jahre 1934 gelieferten Kipper war derart günstig, dass die holländischen Eisenbahnen im Jahre 1935 eine zweite Einrichtung bestellten. Diese zweite Verladeeinrichtung besitzt eine Tragkraft von 45 Tonnen. Die Ladeleistung beträgt 160—190 Waggons täglich bei einer Betriebszeit von 16 Stunden. Für das Hub- und Kippwerk sind zwei Motoren von je 155 kW. eingebaut. Das Kranfahrwerk wird durch einen Motor von 80 kW., das Portalfahrwerk durch einen solchen von 125 kW. angetrieben.

Die Flugzeuge der China Clipper Pan-American Airways, einer grossen amerikanischen Luftfahrtgesellschaft, die soeben den ersten Flug über den Pazifischen Ozean U.S.A.—China durchgeführt hat, sind ausschliesslich mit schweizerischen Chronometern der Firma Longines ausgerüstet. Die Zwischenlandungsplätze in Hawaii und Guan verwenden ebenfalls ausschliesslich Chronometer dieser Marke.

Die Firma Gebr. Sulzer A.G., Winterthur (Schweiz) hat im Jahre 1910 der Cereceria

Argentina Quilmes A.G. in Buenos-Aires einen doppelten Ammoniakkompressor mit einer Kälteleistung von 1.200.000 frig/h geliefert. Der Kompressor ist direkt mit einer ventilgesteuerten Sulzer-Dampfmaschine für 3-fache Expansion gekuppelt. Bis vor kurzer Zeit arbeitete der Kompressor nach dem sog. feuchten System. Letztes Jahr hat die Brauerei der Firma Sulzer den Auftrag gegeben, ihn für den Gang mit überhitzten Ammoniak-Dampf umzubauen. Es ist gelungen, damit die Leistung gegenüber vorher um 25% zu steigern.

Die beiden amerikanischen Flieger Dick Merrill und Jack Lambie, die kürzlich den Atlantik überflogen, haben sich dabei ausliesslich der Chronometer aus der Fabrik Longines bedient.

Die Western New South Wales Electric Power Pty. Ltd. hat für ihr Elektrizitätswerk in Broken Hill den siebenten Sulzermotor bestellt, da sie mit den sechs schon gekauften ausgezeichneten Erfahrungen gemacht hat. Dieser neueste Sulzermotor entwickelt mit 6 Zylindern von 650 mm innerem Durchmesser und bei einer Tourenzahl von 160 in der Minute 3.200 PS.

AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG, BERNE, SEPT. 4/5, 1937

We are pleased to bring to your notice again that the *Auslandschweizertag* will be held in Berne on Saturday the 4th and Sunday 5th of September 1937.

The meeting of the Delegates from abroad will occupy Saturday afternoon, when the reports from the various Colonies will be received by the Committee and intimately discussed later. The meeting on Sunday in the great hall of the Bundespalais on the other hand, will treat the question of the Swiss Abroad in a more fundamental way and we shall then have the opportunity of obtaining first hand information from the Chiefs of the Departments (Federal), in whose hands the emigration and similar matters lie.

There can be no doubt that a large number of Swiss from the U.K. will be in Switzerland on holiday at the time and a very special invitation is issued to them to be present at the *Auslandschweizertag*. A numerous attendance will be the best proof that we Swiss Abroad are eager to retain our cohesion with Switzerland, and that we shall be prepared to do our personal best to help improve our condition and to assist the Federal Authorities in this desire on this very special day of direct contact with them. The Government know quite well that the opinion of the Swiss Abroad is free from political bias and "Kantönliche" and therefore well worth considering.

We urge the necessity of every U.K. Swiss visiting Switzerland during the period being present at the *Auslandschweizertag*—His day. Please make arrangements well in advance with the Auslandschweizer Secretariat, 40, Bundesgasse, Berne, for your accommodation for Saturday night.

N. S. H. London Group.
A. F. S.

1ST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION AT MYLLET ARMS

The Swiss Evening at the Myllet Arms, Perivale, can be summed up, very succinctly and truthfully as an unqualified success.

Notwithstanding the call to the open of every August Bank Holiday, the response was more than gratifying people being turned away owing to lack of accommodation.

Members of the Swiss Colony and their English Friends did justice to a first class dinner. Mr. De Brummer briefly recalled the meaning of August 1st. —Toasts to the Royal Family and Switzerland were heartily drunk.

Little "Armailli" berets were distributed amongst the audience, tables were decorated with red and white carnations, and Swiss Wines flowed generously.

Messrs. von Bergen and Gandon, as Armailli, gave number after number from their never ending repertoire to which those present were not slow to show their appreciation. Not to be outdone, the Myllet Band played some Swiss medleys and Ländler music worthy of the best Kapelle, the whole contributing to a real Swiss atmosphere.

After the Polonaise led by Mr. and Mrs. Widmer, everyone sat down to the traditional "Soupe à l'oignon," bringing thus to a happy end a soirée that will be remembered by all present and which will lay the foundations for many other celebrations of a similar character.

On departing the guests were loud in expressing to Mr. Widmer, the Proprietor, and Mr. Rhyn, the Restaurant Manager, their appreciation of a truly wonderful evening.

The Restaurant and Kitchen Staff are Particularly to be congratulated for their efficiency and courtesies.

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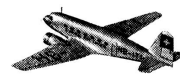
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