

Home news

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The Swiss Observer

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MANDEMENT DU JEUNE FEDERAL.

Londres, le 14 Septembre, 1937.

Depuis 28 ans, c'est une voix aujourd'hui éteinte, qui s'adressait à notre Colonie pour lui rappeler la journée du Jeune et nous convier au recueillement, à la repentance et à la prière. Si, comme on nous l'a rappelé, Dieu reprend ses serviteurs, son œuvre cependant continue et l'Eglise Suisse de Londres, encore sous le coup de la douloureuse perte que toute notre Colonie vient de subir et du solennel avertissement de la mort qui, parfois bien avant le soir frappe même les plus vigoureux, par son consistoire, vient rappeler à tous nos compatriotes que des cultes spéciaux seront célébrés Dimanche prochain, 19 courant, à Endell Street en communion avec nos Eglises de la mère-patrie à l'occasion du Jeune Fédéral.

Si notre monde est troublé par les guerres qui sévissent, si les luttes économiques et le nationalisme outrancier jettent le désarroi dans tant de cœurs; si la maladie, les deuils et les épreuves font couler tant de larmes et s'il y a tant d'âmes désemparées et désorientées, ne perdons pas courage et venons humblement puiser à la source du salut et nous rappeler le grand nom de l'Eternel; nous associer dans notre Eglise au pied de la croix de Jésus dans une profonde et sincère pensée d'intercession pour notre pays, nos églises, nos amis et nos familles. Venons ensemble sonder nos voies, reconnaître et confesser nos fautes, nos ténèbres, notre manque de zèle au service du Maître; nous renouveler dans le pardon et les promesses de Dieu afin de reprendre confiance et courage. Ainsi que le disait un distingué chrétien de notre époque: ne nous contentons pas de bénédictions anciennes, faisons halte et à tout prix: venez renouer le lien et rentrer dans la vérité de la vie intérieure par l'effort nécessaire à genoux.

Le Consistoire.

BETTAGSBOTSCHAFT 1937.

London, den 14. September 1937.

Liebe Landsleute!

Während 28 Jahren hat eine Stimme, die heute verstummt ist, sich an unsere Colonie gewendet, um ihr den Eidgenössischen Bettag in Erinnerung zu rufen und sie zu gemeinsamer Andacht, zur Busse und zum Gebet aufzufordern.

Wenn auch GOTT, wie man uns daran erinnert, Seine Diener zu Sich nimmt, so geht Sein Werk doch weiter. Unsere Kirchen stehen noch unter dem Eindruck des schmerzlichen Verlustes, den unsere ganze Colonie erlitten hat, und vernehmen die ernste Mahnung des Todes, der auch die kräftigsten Naturen nicht schont und sie im Vollbesitz ihrer leiblichen und geistigen Fähigkeiten niederstreckt. Die Kirchenpflege erinnert alle Landsleute daran, dass wir am nächsten Sonntag, den 19. September unseren jährlichen Eidgenössischen Dank-Buss- und Bettag zusammen mit den Kirchen in der Heimat feiern.

Wenn auch die Welt durch die mörderischen Kriege in Unruhe geraten ist; wenn die Kämpfe auf wirtschaftlichem Gebiet und ein überspitzter Nationalismus in alle Herzen Verwirrung werfen; wenn Krankheiten, Leid und Prüfungen so viele Thränen fliessen machen, und wenn so vieler Menschen Seelen in Verlegenheit geraten und enturzelt sind, so wollen wir dennoch nicht den Mut verlieren, sondern den Quellen unseres Heils uns nahen und aus ihnen schöpfen.

Lasst uns den grossen Namen des HERRN rühmen. Lasst uns in unserer Kirche zu Füssen des Kreuzes JESU uns zusammenschliessen in tiefen und aufrichtigen Gedanken der Fürbitte für unser Land, unsere Kirchen, unsere Freunde und Familien.

Miteinander wollen wir unser Tun und Treiben vor GOTT prüfen, unsere Fehler erkennen und bekennen, unsere Lauheiten, unseren Mangel an Eifer im Dienst des Meisters; wir wollen aber auch neue Kräfte sammeln auf Grund der göttlichen Verheissungen, um aus ihnen Vertrauen und neuen Mut zu schöpfen. Um alten Segnungen wollen wir uns nicht genügen lassen, sondern auf den Knien vor IHM liegend uns Seiner Wahrheit zuwenden, uns von IHM neues Leben und neue Liebe erbitten.

Die Kirchenpflege.

for the proverbial Bernese. And why a two-thirds majority? So far a simple majority has been the rule of the land and it is difficult to see how quibbling with that basic law of democracy could possibly lead to improvement.

RECRUITING.

This year report for medical examination all those born in the year 1918, in other words the last batch of youths born during the war years. The effect the latter had can be seen from the great reduction in the number of men available for service; taking the figures for the town of Zurich as an instance we find a reduction from 2,536 in 1932 (those born in 1913) to 2,089 in 1937. Similar decreases are shown by all cantons.

The state of fitness in Zurich shows a marked improvement; this year 72.2% were passed as fit, as against 66.2 in 1935 and 56.4 in 1932. 12.22% were put back for one year, 13.67% were taken for auxiliary services and only 1.91% had to be rejected.

The physical tests are again in force after an interruption during the years 1914 to 1931. They now consist of long jump (4½ metres minimum for full marks), 80 metres flat race (maximum 11 seconds), lifting a dumb bell weighing 17 kilos 5 times with right and left arm, and putting the shot (a ball of 5 kilos in weight) left and right handed, minimum 8½ metres. Only 18.7% obtained full marks, a sure sign that physical training is looked upon by the young generation as too much hard work! Übung macht den Meister. It is pitiful to see sturdy fellows who could hit you over the head with a "Morgenstern" to send you a foot deep into the ground, yet quite at a loss what to do in half the exercises put before them. Gymnastic and other sport-clubs have raised the level of efficiency. But, what scope there remains!

THE MANOEUVRES OF THE FIRST DIVISION.

The manoeuvres of the First Division included for the first time a complete regiment of the air force, under the command of Lt.-Col. Primault. Under the new army organisation which will come in force on the 1st January next, Switzerland's air force will consist of three such regiments. Federal Councillor Minger received the foreign delegations from 10 states at Mont Pélerin, near Vevey. Marshal Pétain, the famous, 83 year old French soldier declared in a forceful speech: "A weak, defenceless Switzerland would be a constant danger to the peace of the world. Switzerland in arms, however, is the best guarantee for Peace."

The Third Division will hold its manoeuvres from the 19th to 22nd September. On the 23rd the troops will stage a march past before the chief of the military department, Federal Councillor Minger, on the Beundenfeld near Berne.

NEW 35 MILLION FRANCS CREDIT FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF PUBLIC WORK.

On December 23rd last, parliament put at the disposal of the Federal Council a credit of 30 million francs for measures designed to ameliorate the critical times and the furtherance of programmes for the creation of employment. With the assistance of this credit a grand total of work to the amount of 190 million francs has been rendered possible, among others the new harbours at Basel-Kleinmünchen and Birstfelden. This first credit now being exhausted, the Federal Council is to propose an increase by another 35 million, thereby rendering it possible to continue the useful programme of federal assistance. There remain outstanding no less than 887 petitions for a federal subsidy, representing a working programme of about 100 million francs.

NEW AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS.

President Motta and Vice-President Baumann received the new Ambassador of the United States, Mr. Leland Harrison, who formerly represented his country in Uruguay, Sweden and Roumania.

Later, Cuba's new Ambassador, Señor Antigua y Escobar, presented his credentials. A politician and close friend of the President of the republic of Cuba, this is his first diplomatic appointment.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

At the end of August, due to a seasonal reduction in the building trade activity, the number of unemployed rose by 2,648 against July to 51,892. This compares with 79,821 a year ago, a reduction of 35%. The best improvement for the year show: building trade -9129, engineering and metal industry -5312, watch industry -3572 and textile industry -2090. Of the 51,892 returned as unemployed (or rather as "looking for work") there are 10,350 in labour camps or otherwise engaged on subsidised distress amelioration work.

FEDERAL STAMP RECEIPTS.

During the month of August amounted to 3.2 million francs, bringing the total for the eight months 1937 to 51.5 million or 9 million more than in the same period of 1936.

SWISS-HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

A new agreement between Switzerland and Hungary, regulating the purchase of wheat, has been signed, whereby 25,000 tons Hungarian wheat will be taken over by Switzerland before the end of December. Negotiations concerning another 75,000 tons are proceeding.

At the same time the clearing arrangement between the two states has been prolonged until the end of this year. Discussions concerning other economic questions have been tentatively arranged to take place in October.

FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST.

In the month of August Switzerland imported goods etc., to the value of 134 million francs, 7.6 less than in July, but 46.1 more than in August 1936. Swiss exports fell against July by 7.3 to 104 million which figure compares with 68 million a year ago.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION 1938.

A committee of the States Council has approved the proposal for a federal subsidy of 2.4 million francs for the national, and 2 to 300,000 francs for the agricultural exhibition. A special credit of 240,000 francs is granted for the forestry department and 400,000 francs for propaganda.



HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

A NEW INITIATIVE.

A new initiative, making the fifteenth pending, has been launched, evidently brought forth by the not inconsiderable amount of aversion harboured by a good many Swiss citizens against dictatorial powers granted the Federal Council, whereby a claim of urgency may lead to federal resolutions and decrees, without being first submitted to the two chambers. The demands put forward are embodied in a proposed alteration of article 89 of the Federal Constitution. Thereby all federal laws and decrees must be passed by the two chambers and are subject to referendum. Where the coming in force of general decrees does not brook of delay, a two-thirds majority in each of the two chambers may declare a state of urgency when the right of a referendum shall be waived. Such decrees, however, shall only remain in force for maximum three years. Treaties concluded with foreign states, valid for 15 years or with indefinite validity, shall also be subject to referendum.

The crucial point is that, if some urgent decree is called for — and who can deny that in these hectic days such necessity does at times present itself — then to wait until the national and the state councils have agreed on the measure and, by a two-thirds majority, have declared same urgent, would obviously take up so much time, as to render the "urgent" remedy too late even

INCREASED CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The customs receipts for the first 8 months of 1937 amounted to 170.5 million francs, as against 159.5 million last year. For the month of August there is a small decrease from 20 to 19.4 million francs to be registered.

COST OF LIVING INDEX.

At the end of August the cost of living index stood at 137.0 taking June 1914 at 100, an increase of 5.2% over August 1936. The cost of food at 130.3 shows a decrease of 0.2% as against July, but an increase of 8.4% against a year ago. The figures for clothing 120, rent 175, remain unchanged.

The wholesale trade index for food, industrial and agricultural raw materials reached 110.8 (July 1914 = 100) or 77.4 when taking the average of the years 1926/27 = 100 as basis. Compared with a year ago there is an increase of 18.6% (20.8 = at the end of July) to be noted.

COMPTOIR SUISSE, LAUSANNE.

The 18th Swiss Fair will take place at Lausanne from 11th to 26th September. The various branches of agriculture, trade and industry are housed in 9 halls, arranged in 16 groups. Sport and the touring industry are specially represented. The amusement park provides a novelty with a tower 42 metres in height whence parachute jumping will excite the venturesome. It's quite safe, of course. The official day is the 16th September, when President Motta will attend.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The engineering works Escher Wyss A.G. are increasing wages by 3½% for time and 4% for piece work.

A terrific cloudburst is reported from Zurich, where torrents of rain water caused considerable damage. The Bahnhofplatz was for a time flooded to the depth of one foot.

Alt-Betriebschef (3rd district, Federal Rwy.) Max Otto Wild died at the age of 74 at Zurich. Born at St. Gall, he first served the "Vereinigten Schweizerbahnen" and from 1909 to 1930 as Betriebschef of the Federal Railways in Zurich. He was a great authority in the complicated matter of time-tables. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel.

BERNE.

An aeroplane of the Bernese aviation company, "Alpar," crashed while flying from Bern to Basel. In dense fog the plane hit the top of a tree in the Jura mountains (Passwang) near Waldenburg, at a height of about 3,800 feet. The pilot, Capt. Eberschweiler, one of our best aviators with 14 years experience, and the two passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Streeter, of Oxford, England, lost their lives. The wireless operator, Huggler, lies severely injured in hospital at Liestal. He is expected to recover.

The Spar- and Leihkasse Steffisburg, a savings and loan bank, has terminated the two years' moratorium which was granted in July, 1936, by the Swiss Federal Council.

The bank's difficulties were due to heavy withdrawals caused by harmful rumours. While the moratorium has been in force, the bank has been able to again attain a sound basis.

A dividend of 4 per cent. has been declared in respect of the trading year 1936-37.

The bank's share capital amounts to Sw.Frs. 2,000,000.

LUCERNE.

The Association of Swiss Catholic Students held their annual festival at Lucerne. Bishop Dr. Franz von Streng addressed the meeting and received an enthusiastic welcome. At the Veterans-day, President Motta, himself a Veteran of the association, spoke, apologising for the unavoidable absence of Federal Councillor Etter, also an old member. He stressed the value of loyalty, to the faith, to the country and to their association. Thunderous applause was his reward.

BASEL.

During the three months, June to August, 25,585 motor-cars, including char-a-bancs, with a total of 176,000 passengers entered Switzerland at Basel alone. This number is almost identical with that published by the railways for visitors arriving at Basel by rail. "Swissair" also report a manifold increase of arrivals over last year. All in all a most welcome revival of one of our greatest industries and a great help in the balancing of our unfavourable trade balance.

An extension of the Basel hospital is under consideration. A first proposal providing for an increase in the number of beds from 776 to 1,350, at an estimated cost of 40 million francs, has been cut down to 1,050 beds at about half the outlay afore mentioned.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

In a by-election for the town council the liberal candidate, Fritz Moser, supported by all the bourgeois parties, defeated his socialist opponent H. Gamper, by 2,275 against 1,849 votes.

APPENZELL.

Bishop Aloysius Scheiwiler (St. Gall) consecrated Herisan's new catholic church. Ständerat Walter Ackermann, among others, addressed the congregation.

* * *

Joh. Baptist Dörig, the well-known host of the inn on the Säntis, lost his life by falling into the Schwendibach, having missed his footing in the dark. He was aged 69.

ST. GALL.

So as to equalise the conditions for granting citizenship to foreigners, the cantonal home-office has directed the communes that, as a rule, foreigners should not be admitted for naturalisation unless they have resided in Switzerland for a minimum of 10 years, Asiatics 15 years. Naturalisation must not become a business and sale of rights. Only persons who have adapted themselves to Swiss customs, conditions and way of thinking, and who do not constitute an obviously foreign element, are to be considered worthy applicants.

* * *

The new law and regulations for the conduct of inns, restaurants, etc., embodying a Schnapsverbot before 8 a.m. (?), new licensing rates and proposals aiming at a gradual reduction in the number of inns to 1 for every 300 inhabitants, and which had been passed by an overwhelming majority by the cantonal Grand-Council, was thrown out by the "vox populi" with 35,795 no, against 16,736 yes. Of all the communes, Weesen was the only one to show a majority for the measure and that majority was just ten votes. All the political parties had either declared for the measure, or gave a free vote. Only "mine host" was not having any and his influence has surprised many an old politician.

GRISONS.

A young Viennese, named Mandel, missed his way when climbing the Scesaplana and finally got into a position where he could neither climb nor retreat. His cries for help were heard, but owing to darkness falling nothing could be done until next morning. He was then detected in an exposed position. A rope was lowered which he fixed round himself. On being pulled to safety he expired from sheer exhaustion.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Lieut. Max Baumann, in military service at Payerne, piloting a single seater fighter, crashed over the lake of Neuchâtel and was killed. Loss of flying speed appears to have caused the fatal accident.

* * *

A group of Bankers, Swiss Bank Corporation, Banque Populaire and the Cantonal Banks of Bern and Neuchâtel have taken over a new 4% 5 million franc loan issue of Ebauches S.A. This is now being offered for conversion to the holders of the 5½% 8 million franc issue of 1930, to be repaid on April 30th next and is not available for cash subscriptions. Ebauches S.A. is the trust concern of the manufacturers of rough movements for the watch industry, with a paid-up capital of 12 million francs and a general reserve fund amounting to 582,000 francs. A dividend of 4% was paid for the year 1936.

GENEVA.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of General Dufour, renowned citizen of Geneva, will be duly celebrated on September 15th, when it is hoped representatives from every canton will participate.

FOOTBALL.

12th September, 1937.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Basel	4	Lausanne	0
Grasshoppers	1	Lugano	0
Grenchen	1	Bern	1
Luzern	4	Biel	1
Servette	2	Nordstern	0
Young Boys	4	Young Fellows	0

The Swiss football season 1937-38 is only three weeks old. It is therefore somewhat early to arrive at definite conclusions as to the playing strength of the various clubs. Yet there are unmistakable signs of a great improvement in F.C. Basel's eleven, where some of the young blood introduced is shaping well. Full marks from 3 games, 8 goals for and 1 against is, at any rate, a jolly good start, after escaping relegation at the end of last season by a mere hair's breadth. Grasshoppers, the champions, have also won their three games; 4 goals to 1 shows a certain lack of penetrative power. Next in order we find Servette who dropped one point at Lausanne, a good performance nevertheless. Young Boys and Luzern both won two and lost one match, (the Y.B. at Lugano and Luzern at home against the Y.B.) Having scored 10 goals against four, Y.B. are

well away. Lugano and Lausanne have 3 points each in the locker. Nordstern and Bern 2 each; the new-comer, Grenchen, got his first point against Bern who are not up to their usual standard. And at the bottom languish without a point to their credit F. C. Biel and F. C. Young Fellows, with adverse scores of 3 to 11 and 1 to 8 goals. And last season those two finished fifth and third respectively. But as I said before, these are early days and anything can happen by next June.

M.G.

"FESTA FAMILIARE."

As yet another splendid holiday season is inexorably drawing to a close the "UNIONE TICINESE" are this autumn setting the social ball rolling. Their Dance Evening, the "Festa Familiare," will be held at the Schweizerbund (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.I, on Thursday, September 30th next, at 8 p.m.

Rather than a strictly "ticinese" function the evening will have this year a wider appeal to the whole Colony as, for the music, newly founded Swiss Accordeon Club are lending their collaboration.

The proceeds will go to the Benevolent Fund of the "Unione Ticinese." Tickets at the moderate price of 2s. 6d. will not only mark a contribution to a deserving cause but also provide the purchasers with an enjoyable evening. They are obtaining from all Committee Members or direct from the Secretary, Mr. P. De Maria, 4, Luxemburg Gardens, W.6.

ACADEMY CINEMA.

Oxford Street.

The new production at The Academy Cinema is "Le Roman d'un Tricheur" by Sacha Guitry, and I strongly recommend everyone to go and see this film. Most people have seen and admired Sacha Guitry on the stage and will therefore be interested to see his work on the screen.

The same qualities of light comedy, wit and humour are present, but Guitry has introduced a technique of his own which is a success in his hands and makes a welcome change from the ordinary technique in general use. Guitry's work has been compared to that of René Clair but I think this is a mistake as there is none of the extravagance of the latter's films. Contrary to my usual custom, I am not going to spoil things by describing the technique employed or by telling the story. The film is too good and must be seen to be appreciated.

Guitry, Delubac and Moreno all take part in the film.

Recently during a visit to France I saw another of Guitry's films, "Les perles de la Couronne" and although a similar technique is employed, "Le Roman d'un Tricheur" makes perhaps the better story as it is shorter and less disconnected.

Guitry is a lover of the country side and in the course of the story there are numerous scenes in French villages and on the coast of the Mediterranean.

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DER FLUGZEUGFUNKER. DIE RECHTE HAND DES PILOTEN.

(Anfang in der letzten rüchigen Ausgabe.)

Auch bei uns in der Schweiz wurde diesem Beispiele Folge geleistet. Einige erprobte Mechaniker, die schon öfters als Bordmonteur Kurs geflogen hatten, wurden während der langen Wintermonate zur Ausbildung an die Spezial-funkenschule nach Berlin geschickt. Vorher hatte man sich an der ausgezeichneten Arbeit, die Funker Christian Schaaf—auf dem Flugplatz kurz "Chrigel" genannt—leistete, überzeugen müssen, dass dieser Entwicklungsgang wirklich zum Nutzen der Gesellschaft war. Christian Schaaf, der erste Funker der Swissair hatte damals aus eigener privater Initiative während seiner Freizeit sich zum perfekten Telegraphisten ausgebildet und auch mit Erfolg die Prüfung der Obertelegraphendirektion bestanden. Heute ist "Chrigel" Chefunker der Swissair und neben ihm ist eine Stammgruppe von drei Funkern auf den grossen Linien der Swissair tätig, die alle zwischen 600-700'000 Flugkilometer hinter sich haben. Werner Wegmann, der Begleiter Walter Mittelholzer's auf seinem Kilimandjaro—und Tschadseeflug, und Jules Gloor gehören noch zur "alten Gilde," die als erste diesen Beruf ergriffen, während Paul Auberson eigentlich schon zu den jüngeren zu zählen ist, aber ebenfalls schon über eine grosse Erfahrung als Bordfunker verfügt.

Seit 2 Jahren sind nun durch die Obertelegraphen-Direktion auch in der Schweiz Kurse zur Ausbildung von Bordfunkern abgehalten worden und eine Reihe weiterer junger Leute, die im Flugbetrieb als Mechaniker tätig waren, hat diese Ausbildungsmöglichkeit benützt und mit Erfolg die bezüglichen strengen Examen bestanden.