

# M. Le Pasteur René Hoffmann-de Visme

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upon him and his foreign policy. He solemnly declared that in all questions of foreign policy as well as military matters, the Federal Council had at all times but one heart and one soul.

#### DEFENCE LOAN "FUENFLIBER."

To commemorate that emphatic, patriotic demonstration of the will of the Swiss people to defend the country against all-comers, the issue and over-subscription of the defence loan, a special five franc piece has been struck. It shows a kneeling female figure, holding in one hand the dove of peace, while the other rests on a sword, pointing to earth. On the reverse appear the Swiss Cross, a steel helmet, the year 1936 and the inscription: "Pro patria armis tueda." All who subscribed to the loan may, on proof, purchase a coin. Any surplus will eventually be put in circulation. The coin is, of course, legal tender, value 5 francs.

#### NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

The 22nd annual general and delegates meeting of the N.S.H. will be held at Romanshorn on the 25th and 26th September.

#### BETTER RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

For the month of August the receipts of the Federal Railways with 29.37 million francs show an increase against last August of 3.79 million. Passenger receipts improved by 0.82 and goods by 2.9 million, the latter due to a sharp increase in international traffic. The percentage betterment of 14.8% falls below the July figure of 21.7%.

Expenses were but 30,000 francs higher than in August last, so that the month provided an excess in receipts of 11 million, or, for the first 8 months, of 78.4 million francs. Thereby a net improvement of over 35 million has been achieved, in comparison with the same period of the previous year.

#### THE SHARE INDEX OF THE NATIONAL BANK.

On 10th September this index stood at 182% as against 185% on 25th August and 110% a year ago. For industrial shares alone the respective figures are: 225, 257 and 178%.

The average return of 12 Federal Bonds and Federal Railways Bonds (again on the above mentioned dates) amounted to 3.37, 3.36 and 4.59% respectively.

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

The well-known novelist, John Knittel, (at one time a member of the City Swiss Club), within the short space of 14 years has written and published 3 dramatic plays and, what is perhaps more, has succeeded in getting same produced on the stage. The first performance of "Via Mala" (after his somewhat lurid novel of the same name) has just been staged at Zurich and was enthusiastically received. An ovation was accorded to the author and actors.

\* \* \*

3,700 boys took part at this year's "Knabenschiesse" in Zurich. In the end three tied with 34 points each, only 1 point below a possible, a result that had never before been achieved. This year again the boys shot with the ordinary army rifle.

##### URI.

The Association of former members of the Swiss Papal Guards held a meeting in Altdorf, when 60 old comrades took part. A wreath was laid at the grave of the founder of the association, Landammann Alois Huber.

##### SOLOTHURN.

From the 18th September to the 3rd October Grenchen will stage an exhibition in 6 halls. Chief interest centres in the exhibits of the watch industry. Other features are provided by agriculture and artistic gardening. And to cover expenses there is the attraction of a mild gamble by the sale of lottery tickets.

##### BASEL.

The question of a new air port at Basel has entered an advanced stage of discussion. The present ground cannot be extended and is rapidly becoming inadequate to deal with the ever growing traffic. Of the alternative projects for an up-to-date civil air port those of the Bruderholz and the Hard have been abandoned in favour of Allschwil-Burgfelden. To render this site adequate for all modern requirements, it appears to be necessary to take in some ground beyond the French frontier. Certain objections from the military point of view seem to have been satisfactorily refuted. Basel now expects a definite decision on the part of the Federal Council, followed by prompt measures to get the project realised.

\* \* \*

At the end of August the population of the town of Basel stood at 169,100.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Mercantile Society of Basel celebrates this year the 75th anniversary of its foundation. 16 young, budding sons of Mercury founded the K.V.B. in the year 1862.

##### APPENZEL.

Inner- and Ausserrhoden are jointly holding an exhibition in Teufen where the canton's repre-

sentative trades, industries and agriculture are displayed by 300 exhibitors. The textile industry, in particular the world famous embroideries deserve special mention. Well represented are cattle and poultry, not forgetting the "schütülig bravi Houndli."

A special feature is provided by a Festival Play "s Appzelelerland," from the well-known pen of August Steinmann, editor at the St. Galler Tagblatt, with music by Director Juon of Teufen. At the opening performance the play was received with great applause from an enthusiastic audience.

#### ST. GALL.

During the last three years cultivation of tobacco plants has been taken up in the St. Gall-Oberland, more especially in Vilters, Sargans and Mels. This year particularly the new venture has met with a good deal of success. The quality of the leaf is said to be one of the best in Switzerland.

#### FOOTBALL.

19th September, 1937.

#### INTERNATIONAL MATCH.

AUSTRIA ..... 4 SWITZERLAND .... 3

This season's first international engagement led our Eleven to Vienna where their appearance did not exactly prove a great draw. 25,000 spectators who, notwithstanding our poor reputation on the football field, had ventured their money, were about as agreeably surprised at what they saw, as the writer was at what he read. But our space is precious, so we have to be short. Austria fielded a strong eleven who quickly got into their stride. We had only one "Bernese" in the team, and that a forward (at any rate he plays for a Bern-club, but where he hails from may be a very different matter) and yet, we were completely overrun. In the first minute the famous Sindelar had the ball in the net, another followed his example in the seventh and a third disaster fell in the 20th minute. 3:0 for Austria. And now our lads woke up. Wallace (does not sound very Swiss, but he is naturalised and, well, we cannot be too particular) scored, only to see his point promptly washed out by a fourth goal for the Austrians. Two minutes remained till half-time; but believe me or believe me not, that was time enough for our "Bernese" afore mentioned, named Paul Aebi from the Young Boys, to place the ball in the net to make the half-time score 4:2.

Both camps were surprised; the Swiss defence was never expected to give away four goals in 45 minutes, nor were the forwards credited with serving up two goals so promptly. But better was to come. For quite half an hour the Swiss penned their foes in their half and after 30 minutes play of several missed chances, G. Aebi of Servette netted to make the score 4:3. The Austrians now began to play with somewhat unnecessary vigour. A wonderful back like Sesta ought to know better, but it always seems to be him. Anyhow, nothing more in the scoring line happened and Switzerland has come out of their first international test of the season 1937, 38 with credit.

Team: Huber; Minelli, W. Weiler; Springer, Vernati (so far all Grasshoppers) Loertscher (Servette); Bickel (Grasshoppers), P. Aebi (Young Boys), Ruff (Grasshoppers), Wallace and G. Aebi (both Servette).

7 Grasshoppers, 3 Servettiers and 1 Young Boys!!

M.G.

#### ALBERT HEIM IN ENGLAND.

In 1907 the Geological Society of London celebrated its Centenary. Heim's work was so well-known and appreciated, that he received in a succession of years the distinction of being made a Foreign Member and this was followed by the highest award the Society can confer, the Wollaston Medal in Palladium, a rare mineral obtained from gold. He was therefore one of our honoured guests on this notable jubilee.

There were many from all over the world.

Sir Archibald Geikie, O.M., presided over the numerous functions. One of these was a Soirée at the Natural History Museum. It simply snowed with decorated personalities amongst whom the Germans were the most resplendent. But there were a few in ordinary evening dress. Heim was one of these. I addressed him in "Schwizerdütsch" and he was highly astonished. Ja wer sind Sie? Chômet Sie, mer wând die Sach bespreche. He was then the special guest of the first Lord Avebury, but it did not matter. He spared the time for a lengthy talk with a perfectly unknown countryman of his. He was like that.

At the official dinner he was placed at the top table and given the task of replying to the toast of the Geological Surveys of the world. A rare compliment to the Survey which achieved great work with small means. He did it with a directness and character admired by all. We all felt "le style c'est l'homme lui-même." After that he journeyed to Oxford to receive the degree of Dr. Sc. Honoris Causa. The public Orator of the University of Oxford addressed him as follows: "Hic ille est Alpium Sinarum investigator, etc."

A few years later he was the guest of the British Association in Scotland and he studied the problem of the Highlands with the twin stars of Scottish Geology, Peach and Home. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and drew a picture skillful as he was in the art of drawing, of these two noted brothers of the hammer, while he indicated what he thought was the structure of the Highlands by superimposing on them a diagram of the Säntis.

Heim lived long enough to see most of his contemporaries pass away. When he was eighty he told me "lang chas nûme so witer ga" but I playfully reminded him that it was usual for distinguished geologists to live till ninety and cited the example of Sir Archibald Geikie. He has nearly rivaled the age of his friend.

Professor L. Kober of Vienna in his book "Das Alpine Europa" pays him a handsome tribute. The reference is to the "Geologie der Schweiz." Heim's great achievement:

"In dieser Arbeit erkennen wir nicht nur die Wissenschaft auf dem Gipfel der Zusammenfassung, wir bewundern auch die Kultur dieser Wissenschaft, die Vollendung der Darstellung in Wort und Bild." — Kellers Verse: "Lasse strahlen deinen schönsten Stern nieder auf mein irdisch Heimatland."

assuredly is capable of a spiritual interpretation.

May Providence provide us always with stars of light illuminating our homeland and casting a kindly glow far beyond our narrow frontiers.

Albert Heim was such a gift.

Liverpool, 20th September, 1937.

E.M.

#### M. LE PASTEUR

#### RENE HOFFMANN-DE VISME.

We are indebted to a Correspondent for the following article which unfortunately we received too late to be inserted in last week's issue.

Profondément ému et affecté par les douloureux événements qui viennent de semer le deuil et l'affliction dans tous les rangs de la Colonie suisse de Londres, ainsi que dans les nombreux milieux en Suisse et à l'étranger où M. le pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme avait su acquérir un si haut degré d'estime et de sympathie, permettez-vous à un vieux Suisse de Londres d'emprunter un petit espace dans l'"Observer" comme tribut à la mémoire de celui qui occupa pendant de longues années une place si grande et honorée?

Les paroles émouvantes de M.M. les pasteurs Emery, Christol et Hahn à l'occasion du Culte Commémoratif célébré dans le temple d'Endell Street lundi dernier — rendant un si vivant témoignage de ce que fut M. Hoffmann-de Visme pour sa famille et pour la communauté religieuse de Londres en particulier — auront déjà trouvé leur écho dans la presse. Ce que je désire ici souligner plus spécialement, c'est ce que fut l'homme, le patriote actif et dévoué dont nous déplorons aujourd'hui le brusque départ. Au risque de me voir devancé par d'autres rapporteurs, je ne pourrais mieux le faire qu'en rappelant les phrases éloquentes prononcées dans la même circonstance par M. Ch. de Jenner, Conseiller de la Légation, au nom de M. le Ministre, malheureusement absent, et de ses collègues.

M. Paravicini, a-t-il dit, qui a pu suivre la carrière du défunt depuis son début, serait certainement mieux placé pour parler de ses grands et innombrables mérites. Cependant dès sa première rencontre avec lui, l'orateur avait eu l'impression qu'il se trouvait en présence d'un Suisse en qui brûlait un ardent amour pour sa patrie, un désir de se vouer à son pays et à ses compatriotes, et bien vite avait-il pu se rendre compte des bienfaits de son infatigable activité au sein de notre Colonie et apprécier toutes ses bonnes actions. Tous ceux qui l'ont connu savaient, comme lui, qu'il n'avait qu'un but, celui de servir son Dieu, sa patrie et son prochain! Sans jamais recourir aux moyens plus faciles qui lui étaient offerts pour atteindre son idéal, il devait toujours rester fidèle à sa grande œuvre qui était celle de travailler parmi les Suisses de l'étranger, dans l'immense métropole, qui exigeait tant d'efforts et devenait une tâche presque insurmontable. A côté de son activité pastorale, il trouvait encore le temps de s'occuper, avec la verve qui le caractérisait, de toutes les questions intéressant notre pays, prenant une part active à ses œuvres sociales et même aux discussions sur les questions politiques suisses que soulevait la Nouvelle Société Helvétique, et c'est avec émotion que M. de Jenner pensait maintenant à cette bouche à jamais close, à cette voix qu'on n'entendra plus! — La légation elle-même, disait-il, perdait en M. Hoffmann-de Visme un des plus nobles collaborateurs de son activité sociale qui jamais ne refusa un service, même des plus ingrats.

Nous n'oublierons pas, a-t-il ajouté en terminant, celui qu'il a plu à Dieu de reprendre et en qui nous aurons toujours l'exemple d'un Suisse vaillant et d'un fidèle serviteur de la Patrie.

Bd.