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The Swiss Observer

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FETE SUISSE.

Pour la grande famille helvétique de Londres, juin est le mois de la fête suisse. Aux habitués ce rappel est presque superflu; aux compatriotes nouvellement arrivés au pays d'Albion, il s'agit d'esquisser ce que cette fête signifie. Or voici: chaque année à cette saison, en vertu d'une tradition vieille maintenant de 69 ans, la colonie toute entière est conviée sous un même toit pour entendre la voix du pays, pour chanter les beautés de la patrie et communier avec elle.

C'est donc jeudi 16 juin, au Central Hall, Westminster, W. qu'aura lieu la prochaine de ces grandes réunions annuelles des Suisses à Londres. Le programme que l'on a avancé cette fois-ci à 6.45h. (au lieu de 7 heures) sera précédé par le thé dès 5.30h. pour ceux qui le désirent. La clôture est prévue pour 10.30h. ce qui donnera à chacun d'amples facilités de regarder sa demeure. Et durant l'intervalle du programme, de 8 à 9h., on trouvera au vestibule le buffet habituel abondamment pourvu de quoi satisfaire tous les goûts.

Cette année plus que jamais la Suisse vient à nous le 16 juin, puisqu'elle nous envoie non seulement les fleurs aimées de nos Alpes, mais aussi des artistes distingués du pays qui interpréteront nos airs montagnards. Un programme fort intéressant vous attend, auquel contribueront bien sûr artistes et musiciens connus et dévoués de la colonie.

L'âge vénérable de cette fête en dit long de sa popularité, plus encore le total des participants qui, de sept, huit, neuf cents il y a quelques années, est passé en 1936 à près de onze cents et en 1937 à douze cents. Il y a la de place pour tout le monde. Aussi, vous tous qui voulez vous retremper quelques heures durant dans l'atmosphère de "chez nous," venez au Central Hall, Westminster, jeudi 16 juin. Si vous n'avez pu vous procurer un billet à l'avance, vous en trouverez à la caisse le soir même au prix modeste de sh. 1/6.



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.

SWITZERLAND INCLUDED IN MAP OF "GREATER GERMANY."

In a leading article the "Gazette de Lausanne" protested against the publishing in Germany of a document suggesting that that country has designs on Switzerland.

The April number of an official monthly bulletin published for the use of the teaching profession and the pupils of German evening schools, which is also circulated by the German Nazi organisation in Switzerland, contained a map in which nearly the whole of Switzerland was included in the territory of the "Greater Germany." The frontier between Germany and Switzerland was described as "the boundary of the internal separation of the territory of the German people."

The "Gazette de Lausanne" said that in this bulletin Switzerland was invariably included among the German States and the 3,000,000 German-speaking inhabitants of Switzerland were described as Germans living beyond the frontiers. The same map appeared in Marshal Göring's paper, the "National Zeitung" of Essen, on April 10th. The "Gazette de Lausanne" also said it should be known in Berlin that there was complete unanimity in Switzerland on the point that Switzerland was ready to make any sacrifices to defend her integrity and independence.

It is semi-officially announced that in consequence of a protest made at Berlin by the Swiss Government the German Government has undertaken to withdraw the map from circulation.

SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Council has extended its decree of November, 1936, against Communist action to cover propaganda likely to endanger the State. Thus the Government, Customs, and postal authorities are now entitled to seize all propaganda material, either Communist or Anarchist, anti-militarist, anti-religious, or likely to endanger the internal or external security of the Confederation, particularly as regards its independence and neutrality, its democratic institutions, and its national defence.

This will make it possible to take action against Nazi propaganda, which seems to have developed in Switzerland during the past few weeks. The new Federal powers also cover propaganda leaflets and material printed in Switzerland.

SWITZERLAND'S POPULATION.

"The schools are becoming deserted, while the homes for the aged are filling up."

In these terms Dr. Charles Brueschweiler, director of the Federal Statistics Bureau, describes Switzerland's population problem. By 1960, he estimates, there will be 100,000 fewer Swiss than the present four million odd.

In 1910 there were 1,173,240 children under 16 in Switzerland, and in 1930 only 998,391. In 1940, if the present tendency continues, there will be only 890,000.

Dr. Brueschweiler states that Switzerland has one of the lowest birthrates in the world. Thirty per cent. of Swiss married couples have no children, 20 per cent. one child, 20 per cent. two children, and only 30 per cent. more than two.

In the towns 65 per cent. of couples have either one child or none at all. And whereas 80 years ago only 370,000 people lived in the towns of Switzerland, to-day their combined population is a million and a half.

RADIO DEALER RESTRICTIONS

A decree recently issued in Switzerland restricts the sale of radio to traders holding a special licence. As a result of this the number of radio dealers has fallen from 3,000 to 850.

ON THEIR WAY FROM SWITZERLAND INTO TIBET are a number of famous St. Bernard dogs, renowned for their life-saving feats in the mountains. A monk from the St. Bernard Hospice is to deliver them to the Augustine Convent in the Himalayas, where they are expected to continue saving unlucky mountaineers as they have done for a century past in Switzerland.

GENERAL EVANGELINE BOOTH IN ZURICH.

General Evangeline Booth received a hearty reception by the population of Zurich on the occasion of a visit to the Headquarters of the Swiss Salvation Army in Zurich.

SWISS MILITARY APPOINTMENT.

The Federal Council has appointed Colonel Hans Frick, chief of section of the General Staff, to the post of second assistant to the chief of the General Staff.

Colonel Frick was born in 1888 in Zurich, he entered the Federal Instruction Corps in 1914; he was at one time commander of the infantry battalion 98 (Zurich), and the infantry regiment 28. Since 1935 he has held an appointment in the General Staff.

STREET ACCIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published, 599 people were killed during 1937 in street accidents, whilst 12,763 persons were injured.

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Le Comité.

A SPLENDID GIFT.

The late Alois Max Isler in Wildegg-Möriken, has left an amount of nearly three million francs to the Confederation to be used for insuring elderly people.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Küssnacht (Zurich) of Dr. Hermann Schneebeli-Schiller, late general secretary of the Swiss National Bank.

Considerable damage was caused through a fire which broke out at the engineering works in Oerlikon.

BERNE.

An exhibition showing the development and progress of map-making was opened on Saturday in Berne to commemorate the centenary of the establishment of the Swiss Topographical Bureau by General Dufour, whose map was long regarded as a model of cartography, and is still used. The exhibition will remain open until June 8th.

At a second ballot the two Socialist candidates for the cantonal government, Grimm and Moeckli were elected, only 13 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

The cantonal government represents the following parties: 4 members "Bauern, Gewerbe and Bürgerpartei," 3 Liberals, 2 Socialists.

M. O. Fricker, Manager of the well-known motor-cycle firm "Condor" in Courfaivre has celebrated his 40th service jubilee.

The administrator of the "Eidg. Alkohol Depots" in Delsberg, Georges Ceppi, has been arrested for embezzlement. It is reported that Ceppi has illegally sold large quantities of spirits to various private concerns.

LUCERNE.

The death is reported from Lucerne of Dr. J. Troller, a well-known medical practitioner in Lucerne at the age of 68.

NIDWALDEN.

M. Blättler, a late member of the government of the canton of Nidwalden has died at Hergiswil at the age of 67.

GLARUS.

The elections for the "Landrat" of the canton of Glarus show but little change from the former council. The strength of the various parties is as follows:

Liberals 28 seats (29); Democrats 25 seats (24); Catholics 9 seats (10); Socialists 10 seats (9); Independant 1 seat (1).

BASEL.

Dr. Jakob Wackernagel, for many years Professor of classical philology at the University of Basle, has died at the age of 85.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

M. Emil Dill, a well-known painter and drawing master at the "Kantonschule" in Zug, has died in Liestal at the age of 77. The deceased studied in Stuttgart, Paris and Munich.

NEUCHÂTEL.

The Head Cashier of the Cantonal Bank in Neuchâtel, Quartier-La Tente, who was wanted by the Police on a charge of embezzlement, has surrendered to the Police.

FOOTBALL.

26th/29 May, 1938.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Nordstern	..... 1	Grasshoppers	..... 0
Grenchen	..... 2	Grasshoppers	..... 7
Young Fellows	..... 3	Basel	..... 1
Young Boys	..... 4	Lugano	..... 3

Just to remind you that, apart from Internationals, we also play occasionally for League-Championship points. The above four matches completed the League programme 1937-38. Champions are F. C. Lugano, and for the first time on record, the trophy has found its way to the lovely Ticino. Hearty congratulations to the worthy winners. Grasshoppers are runners-up and Young Boys third. F. C. Bern with but 6 points from 22 games are relegated.

In the *First League*, playing in two sections, West and East, the programme has also come to an end. Chaux-de-Fonds are leaders in group West, 4 points in front of Vevey. In the East the playing strength of the clubs is much more evenly balanced, so that the position was quite open until the final whistle blew. The last two matches closely concerned F. C. St. Gall; they had to play Schaffhausen away and Concordia Basel at home. The latter headed the table with 28 points against St. Gall's 25; no-one else was left in the picture. To make matters more difficult, Schaffhausen had to win their last game if they were to escape relegation. And St. Gall had to make full points if they were to become sectional leaders, whilst a draw would suffice for Concordia. Let me apologise to my old friends for ever comparing them with inconsistent fickle Chelsea. They came out of the fray with flying colours, beating Schaffhausen by 1:0 and Concordia by 3:1 though playing almost the entire second half with but 10 men. St. Gall and Chaux-de-Fonds will now play for the First League championship (home and away), an honour which incidentally entails promotion to the National League.

And the final for the Swiss Cup has still to be played as between Servette and Grasshoppers. When, I do not know.

On June 4th the World Championship starts its first round proper in France. Switzerland meet Germany strengthened by some Austrians in Paris. Of that perhaps more anon.

M.G.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWISS Y.M.C.A. At Westgate House, 28/29, Bedford Place, London, W.C.

The Golden Jubilee of this Association, as it has been called, and a Golden Jubilee it was in every sense of the word indeed took place recently. While looking back and trying to write a short *resumé* of these memorable days May 14th to May 19th, we are proud of the fact that it has taken place, and proud of the ONE who is the Creator, Leader and Supporter and Centre of our Association, Christ our Redeemer.

On Saturday, May 14th a dinner was given at Westgate House by the Association, assisted by the wives of our Members, to the Representatives from Switzerland. The "warming up" took place there and then, when preliminary hearty speeches of welcome and of thanks were given to the six old Londoners from Switzerland, headed by Mr. M. Ernst Walder, from Zurich, Mr. Daeniker, Zurich, Mr. E. Wirz, Cantonal Secretary C.V.J.M. from Olten, Mr. Dejung, Staefa, Mr. Hiestand Richterswil and Rev. D. Witzig from Aarau. This was a memorable beginning for an occasion of high importance for Christian Workers.

Sunday, May the 15th, at 11 o'clock, a Festival Service took place at St. Annes, Gresham Street, the place of worship of the German-speaking Swiss Community. The Service was led by Rev. C. Th. Hahn, and a well balanced and greatly inspired address followed by Rev. D. Witzig, from Aarau, who spoke with conviction, persuasion and encouragement about the work that is the object of the Association. Indeed a sermon that was memorable and surely carried high in the hearts of all present.

In the afternoon at 4.30 the Delegate and Principal gathering took place at the home of the Swiss Y.M.C.A., Westgate House. The Chairman and President of the Association, Mr. J. Scheuermeier, welcomed seventy in number which were present and with pride do we mention the names of Delegates and Friends which honoured the Association by their presence:

Monsieur de Rham, representing Monsieur Paravicini, who was unavoidably prevented from being present.

Rev. D. Witzig, Aarau, Delegate of the Bundes Komitee Swiss Y.M.C.A.

Mr. E. Wirz, Y.M.C.A. Cantonal Secretary, from Olten.

Old Londoners, Messrs. Ernst, Daeniker, Dejung and Hiestand.

Mr. Soldan, President of the German Y.M.C.A. Messrs. Forner, Mueller and Osthof, also Mrs. Osthof, from the German Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Waterworth, of the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s.

Mr. Dallen, of the Kingston, Surbiton and District Y.M.C.A.

Rev. C. Th. Hahn, Deutsch Schweiz. Kirch Gemeinde.

Rev. Ch. Pummell, on behalf of the English Churches.

Mr. Th. Ritter, Swiss Benevolent Society.

Mr. M. Schneider, Swiss Mercantile Society.

Mr. J. Weber, Eglise Suisse de Londres.

Mr. Favre, Société Helvétique.

Everyone was heartily welcomed, the well laid tables and the beautiful floral decorations added greatly to make this meeting very successful.

The Chairman also read greetings and extracts of letters from "Old Londoners," unable to be present. A letter from Mr. Tobler, of Heiden, who was one, and to-day the only living Founder of the Swiss Y.M.C.A. He describes in simple and beautiful words, that took us almost back to 1888, to the first meeting of the Y.M.C.A. at which they sang: "Die Sach ist Dein Herr Jesu Christ," the very hymn with which the gathering was opened.

A pathetic letter from Rev. Arnold, an Old Londoner of 1898/99, who was originally chosen for the Sunday Morning address. He writes from his sick-bed in pain and agony, wishing us a blessed time. Other greetings were from the Bundes Komitee, Swiss Y.M.C.A.'s, Swiss National Committee Y.M.C.A.'s, and many more from Old Londoners. Telegraphic wishes were received from Mr. R. Horner, New York, Son of the Founder of our Association, and from Mr. von Okolfski, from Aarau.

After a splendid tea we heard some memorable addresses from Rev. C. Th. Hahn, Mr. Soldan, Rev. D. Witzig, Mr. Ernst, Mr. Daeniker, Mr. E. Wirz, Mr. W. Mueller, Mr. de Rham, Mr. Waterworth, Rev. Ch. Pummell.

The splendid musical entertainment was kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Estelle, son-in-law and daughter of our Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Niklaus, whom we thank here for their magnificent rendering of beautiful Piano Recitals.

Monday, the 16th May, the six Delegates from Switzerland were taken for a trip to Oxford, Henley and Windsor in cars which were gladly lent by three members of the Association, a day which also turned out to be a memorable one.

The closing day of this Golden Jubilee was Thursday evening the 19th of May, when the Bible study was led by Sekretär, E. Wirz, with an introduction taken from Matth. 26 and its Text "Die Zukunft des Reiches Gottes" followed by the usual popular after-discussion. To part with our Friends, we enjoyed a well served little supper and our Member, Mr. F. G. Sommer, revived memories with Films of recent year, that took us back to Switzerland to the closing stages of an August Conference of Old Londoners, as well as happy times, some of us were privileged to spend in his own Home and splendid Garden at the time when Mr. Wirz was busy in our midst.

A memorable time from the beginning to the end and uplifting to many a heart. Praise be to our Lord, who is the Inspiration and centre of such an Association and our unforgettable gathering.

R.M.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

A *resumé* of the last monthly meeting of the above Society and the lecture of Mr. Gottfried Keller will be published next week.

HELVETIA SOCIETY.

A report of the Annual Banquet of the Helvetia Society, which took place on Monday last, will appear in our next issue.

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