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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The President of the Swiss Confederation has received the following telegram, handed in at Basle, from the King of Belgium:—

“En quittant le sol de la Suisse, je tiens à renouveler l'expression de ma sympathie pour votre pays, et à vous remercier pour les attentions dont j'ai été l'objet au cours de mes deux passages rapides sur le territoire de la Confédération.”

\* \* \*

The results of the Zurich Municipal elections, which took place on Sunday, April 2nd, are hailed with satisfaction.

The Communists have been unshipped from the Town Council, and the attempt of the Socialists to gain a majority on the Grand Town Council has been frustrated. The Bourgeois parties now hold the majority with 63 seats, while during the last legislative period the Grütlianner, Socialists and Communists, who constituted the left wing, held 68 seats against 62 to-day.

\* \* \*

To the Canton of Berne belongs the pride of embracing the three communities which extract higher income taxes than any other Swiss community. These are: Berne, the Capital, Bienne, and Thoune. Whether the taxpayers are anxious to retain the place of pride is not stated in the report.

\* \* \*

The Russian Soviet Mission for Genoa, which had asked for and received permission from the Federal Council to cross Swiss territory, has not set foot on Swiss soil, but proceeded to Italy via Tyrol and the Brenner route.

\* \* \*

Dr. Hans Hecht, Professor of English at the Basle University, has accepted a call by the University of Goettingen in the same capacity.

\* \* \*

Worried by constant misfortune in his stables, Josef Stocker from Sins (Aargau) left his farm and wandered about the country for four days without food. Utterly exhausted, he dropped on the bank of the River Aare, near Klingnau, and died during the frosty night from exposure. Stocker owned one of the largest farms in the Aargovien Oberfreiamt, and leaves seven children under age.

The Swiss aviation officer Mittelholzer, who only recently accomplished a successful flight from Rotterdam to Zurich, proceeded to Varese (Italy) last week to take delivery of a new Henriot aeroplane, which has been purchased by the Ad Astra Co., of Zurich.

Mittelholzer started with the new machine on Wednesday morning, March 23rd, from Varese; crossing the Tessin at an altitude of some 18,000 feet in perfect weather, he made for the Grisons, where, however, the weather conditions suddenly changed, inducing the aviator to alter his course towards the Glarner Alps, but he was soon enveloped in dense clouds of fog. After a little while these lifted suddenly, and to his terror the aviator discovered that his machine was fast descending towards a great black wall of rock. To avoid a fatal smash, Mittelholzer instantly pulled the machine round to the left and landed unhurt but shaken on a small bank of snow-covered rock between the Foo and the Riseten Pass, 8,000 feet up.

Although the aeroplane had sustained no damage, it was impossible to restart from here. Mittelholzer being an experienced alpinist, however, also realised that he would be courting death a second time if he delayed immediate descent to the valley on foot. He was less fortunate in this endeavour. Soon after starting on the descent he slipped and fell down a couloir, injuring his head and badly smashing one of his knees, which made progress not only painful, but also very slow. Towards evening of the same day (Wednesday) Mittelholzer reached a hut on the Riesetenalp, where he stayed overnight. Early on Thursday morning he resumed his downward journey, the injury to his knee and the deep snow impeding advance greatly, but being neither shod nor clad for a journey under such conditions, and as he could now only hope to find shelter down in the valley, he had to keep on the move so as to avoid succumbing to exposure. At 2 o'clock on Friday morning, over 30 hours after he had started from the Risalp hut, he at last reached the village of Matt, completely exhausted.

Careful nursing and medical attention are now gradually restoring the strength of the plucky alpine aviator, to the great relief of his friends and his many admirers.

\* \* \*

## LES AVENTURES DE SUISSES EN AMERIQUE.

Il semble que les histoires de chercheurs d'or et d'attaques d'Indiens, qui ont enchanté notre enfance, sont des légendes d'un temps fabuleux et disparu. Or, on vient d'enterrer à Locarno, en présence de représentants du gouvernement du Tessin, un Tessinois qui a vécu cette vie mouvementée des déserts américains.

Le héros de ces aventures est M. Jean Pedrazzini, de Locarno. Jeune homme, après avoir été au lycée, il entra aux Forges d'Undervelier, dans le Jura bernois, dirigées