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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

In reply to a provocative note of the Soviet Government, inculcating our authorities for the Lausanne Murder, the Federal Council rejects in dignified terms this monstrous accusation, adding that the affair will form the subject of an independent investigation by the local judiciary court.

(According to an unconfirmed "Times" telegram (May 25th) numerous arrests have been carried out among the Swiss colonies in Moscow, Petrograd and Kieff as a reprisal for the assassination of Vorovsky. The grant of visas to Swiss nationals wishing to enter or leave Russia has been prohibited by the Soviet executive.)

The late Professor Eugen Huber has left his property to the Swiss Confederation, with the obligation that his private residence in the "Rabbenenthal," including the valuable library, should be turned into a law college attached to the University of Berne.

Mr. C. F. J. Schnyder von Wartensee, the vice-president of the Swiss National Bank, has been appointed financial adviser to the Austrian Government. Born in Sursee (1874), he is a member of one of the oldest Lucerne families, whose name is closely connected with the historic days of the Battle of Sempach. The older members of the London Colony will remember Mr. Schnyder in his younger days, when, at the beginning of this century, he spent some years in this metropolis (Crédit Lyonnais), and, if we remember rightly, was at one time a student of the educational department of the Swiss Mercantile Society. From London he went to Italy, later on to South America, and on his return to Switzerland he distinguished himself in the reorganisation of the Banque de l'Etat de Fribourg.

The sitting of the Grand Conseil at Bellinzona was enlivened on Friday (May 18th) by a somewhat turbulent exchange of views, accompanied by an unrehearsed display of boxing, between two deputies, Censi (Liberal) and Zeli (Socialist), caused through an attack on the Socialists by the former.

The accounts for 1922 of the Town of Zurich balance with a surplus of Frs. 6.5 million, which will be allotted to the amortisation fund of war loans.

The traffic returns of the Swiss Federal Railways continue to show steady improvement. The total receipts for the month of April amount to Frs. 29.6 million (27.6 million in 1922), and the grand total for the four months to end of April this year to 110 million, as against 100.5 million in the same period last year. Chiefly thanks to an appreciable reduction in the expenditure, these four months yield a surplus of 23.3 million francs, compared with a deficit of 4.7 million francs in 1922.

A considerable decrease in unemployment figures is recorded for the month of April, 35,522 totally unemployed being registered, as against 44,909 for the end of March.

A fifth train, carrying 60,000 kilos of foodstuffs, clothing, etc., to the value of Frs. 130,000, was despatched from Berne on May 5th for the benefit of the children of the famine-stricken districts of the Volga (Russia).

Following the example of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, the management of the Ritz-Carlton Hotels in New York and London have offered a further scholarship at the hotel school at Cour (Lausanne). The holders, in addition to a ten months' inclusive course at the hotel school, are entitled to four months' free station and practical training at one of the hotels belonging to these two concerns.

For taxing the "fonds de secours" of the chocolate company Tobler to the tune of Frs. 12,566 (about a quarter of its income) the cantonal and municipal treasuries of Berne have been informed by the company that the latter will in future withhold its financial support from the numerous social and charitable institutions to which it has hitherto liberally contributed.

The Comptoir Suisse de Lausanne is arranging for September 14th a special "Réunion des Suisses à l'Etranger" in order to give our compatriots, staying in Switzerland at that time, an opportunity of expressing their ideas and wishes, with a view of co-ordinating and concentrating Swiss economic propaganda abroad.

Owing to the abnormal rise in the price of sugar (70% since December last) Swiss confectioners have raised their prices for biscuits, gateaux, bonbons, etc., by about 10%.

The Basle section of the Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein is celebrating on June 2nd and 3rd the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

A number of Swiss trade societies (Soziale Käufer-Liga, Kaufmänn. Verein, etc.) have made joint representations to hotel proprietors to abolish gratuities in their establishments; a list of "no-tips" hotels is to be published shortly.

A unique way of acquiring and preserving knowledge was manifested by a law student, a Spaniard, who already had obtained an appointment in his country as a minor judge. By special permission he was allowed to visit the National Library in Berne, which lent certain books to him for his studies. Subsequently it was discovered that a number of pages were missing in these particular books, and on being questioned the would-be judge nonchalantly admitted the offence. He promptly paid for the damage after the affair had been placed in the hands of the judicial authorities.

Emil Schmied-Gürtler, who held several positions of trust in the canton, was condemned at Liestal to three years imprisonment for defalcations and embezzlement; the amount involved is stated to be Frs. 80,000. In December, 1921, he changed his residence to Germany, whence he was subsequently extradited.

In the course of a violent storm on the Lake of Lucerne a large goods barge, foundered between Vitznau and Gersau; two of the crew, Kittel and Brandmann, were drowned, and the others were saved by the regular steamer which happened to be in the vicinity.

Four children, between the ages of 3 and 8, were burned to death in a fire which destroyed a dwelling house and contents belonging to Alphons Blatti, of Mülhau (Aargau). The fire is said to have originated in an adjoining smithy.

Through the unexpected explosion of a charge, three workmen lost their lives in the ore mines of Gonzen, near Sargans.

Through the ignition of some fireworks in a grocer's shop in the Untergasse in Biel, two ladies, Mrs. Nicolet-Ortlieb and Miss Ortlieb, lost their lives, the upper part of the house being entirely consumed by the flames.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

### A "Richtige Baerner Mutz."

Even those of my readers who, like myself, know very little of the gallant art of Boxing, will admit that the following table, taken from the *Daily Mail* (May 12th) looks very impressive. We all feel proud always of the prowess exhibited by our wrestlers, and in *Robert Roth* we have the World's Heavy-weight Wrestling Champion.

No more laurels being to be gained in that sport, Robert Roth has been training for a year now for Boxing, and, according to the people who understand something about it, he justifies great hopes of reaching the top also in that sport.

The Swiss Colony will, no doubt, follow Mr. Roth's progress with the greatest interest and wish him the best of luck. I think, too, that many of us who, so far, have never taken the trouble of getting better acquainted with the manly sport of boxing, will take this opportunity of remedying this lack in our education. I, for one, am looking forward with keen interest to seeing Mr. Roth at work one of these days. So far my experience of serious boxing has been confined to watching such contests exhibited on the film. Even then, I remember, I got quite excited, especially once when the Carpentier-Beckett fight was shown.

Now that I hope to have the pleasure of not only watching first-class boxing, but at the same time backing a compatriot, I shall certainly not



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miss the opportunity, and I feel sure, when the day of the contest comes, I shall have the pleasure also of seeing the greater part of the London Swiss Colony assembled to watch "our man" win.

There has just arrived in London a young Swiss heavy-weight boxer, who, if he becomes what it is hoped to make him, will challenge Dempsey for the world's championship.

He is Robert Roth, of Berne, Switzerland, the heavy-weight wrestling champion of the world at the Olympic Games of 1920. He has been training for boxing for a year.

From the physical point of view the following table indicates how he outmeasures Dempsey:—

ROTH.		DEMPESEY.	
24	Age	26	
16 st. 10 lbs.	Weight	13 st. 8 lbs.	
6 ft. 2½ ins.	Height	6 ft. 1 in.	
78 ins.	Reach	74 ins.	
52 ins.	Chest (normal)	42 ins.	
33 ins.	Waist	33 ins.	

### The Swiss Turf.

In a number of English papers, for instance *Newcastle Chronicle* and *North Mail*, *Bradford Daily Argus*, both of May 15th, we find the following:—

We have not been accustomed to think of horse-racing as one of the attractions of Switzerland. It is a fact, however, that of late years the sport has made great advance in that country. In June and July there are to be important race meetings at Lucerne, Zurich and other places. It may be doubted whether all the holiday-makers, who go to Switzerland for rest and change, will welcome this development. But it is certain that the sport will attract entirely new classes of visitors.

The news agency responsible for the comment in the last sentence of the above obviously thinks of Switzerland as a sort of compact pleasure ground, something like "The White City" or a Luna-Park, and thinks that these races will make it impossible for people resting and taking things quietly. Most of the races have been run year after year, and quite a number besides them, without anybody who did not wish to attend them being inconvenienced or even aware of them. I have been in this old London of ours for more years than I care to remember. For a number of years I have lived not very far from Epsom. Strange to relate, I have never seen the "Derby" and have never been seriously inconvenienced by it either, except for the 10s. or so which regularly "go west" on that day, because I then have my "annual flutter."

### The Weather.

I bet—you see now how writing of Sport affects one's expressions even—I bet, you did not think (please, don't insult our readers; they do think sometimes, and, besides, we won't have any betting in our paper until betting has been sanctioned by forthcoming legislation.—Ed.) All right, Mr. Editor. Sorry! I now proceed, in a chastened mood, as follows: It seems hardly possible to me that any of my readers wished me to write about the Weather, seeing that for a fortnight or so they have read hardly anything else in their daily papers. But, you see, I cannot very well let you have the following cutting from the *Daily Telegraph* (May 11th) without some preparation. The shock would be too great. You who, in spite of Whitsun, shiver and try to look pleasant in your heaviest