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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The annual excursion of the Federal Council, which will be joined by the diplomatic representatives of our country abroad, will take place on August 25th; Wangen-sur-Aar is the chosen spot.

At the 17th Swiss Musical Festival in Zug the following societies secured first prizes:—Civica Filharmonica, Lugano; La Concordia, Fribourg; Feldmusikgesellschaft, Schwyz; Musikgesellschaft, Pfäfers.

At Hemishofen (Schaffhausen) a municipal institution for necessitous aged people was destroyed by fire, with the result that two female inmates lost their lives.

Mrs. Brenner, the wife of the head teacher in Mumpf, was drowned in the Rhine whilst bathing.

Fifteen sheep, mostly belonging to the Einsiedeln monastery, have been killed by lightning near Studen-Unterberg (Schwyz). Through the same cause a farm building near Rougemont (Valais) caught fire.

The Gordon-Bennett balloon race, in which Switzerland will be represented, has been fixed for September 23rd and will start from Brussels.

### The Toll of the Mountains.

Many alarming climbing accidents have occurred these last few days.

On the Rottalsattel, in descending from the Jungfrau, an inexperienced party of Viennese tourists, two ladies and a gentleman, fell down a couloir, about 1,300 metres deep, through the last one on the rope making a slip. After two days of great exertion, a party of Lauterbrunn guides succeeded in recovering the bodies.

States Councillor Joseph Riborty, of Sion, was killed through falling when coming down the Rawil Pass, where a local festival was being held in his honour.

Mr. Sommerhalder, of Munsterlingen (Thurgau), who was climbing the Sustenhorn, was picked up, in a very serious condition, by two Kandersteg guides who happened to be in the neighbourhood.

Felix Abbey, a well-known guide of Sierre, fell into a crevasse in the Grand Cornier glacier and was dangerously injured. He was extricated promptly, but there is little hope of his recovery.

A most remarkable accident happened on the southern side of the Mönch, and is reported by *The Times* correspondent as follows:—

Mrs. Coninx and the guide Bischof were climbing on the southern side of the Mönch, 13,465 feet, when the guide fell into a crevasse. Mrs. Coninx, by throwing herself on the snow, was able to avoid being pulled in after him, but she was not strong enough to pull the guide out of the crevasse, where he was hanging at the end of the rope. After waiting in vain for help, Bischof resolved to sacrifice his life in order to save Mrs. Coninx, who was unable to move. He ordered her to cut the rope, which at first she refused to do, but in the end she obeyed the guide's repeated order, and cut the rope. The rope, however, during the long delay, had cut so deeply into the ice at the edge of the crevasse that it had become frozen in, and was so solidly held by the glacier that it was able to support the guide for another three hours, until he was pulled up by a rescue party summoned by Mrs. Coninx.

Pastor Fritz Wuthrich, of Chiètres, whilst on an excursion in the Arolla district (Valais), succumbed to an apoplectic stroke just as he was entering the cabane Bertel.

Mr. Hugli, an employee of the Bernese Electricity Works, fell from the Agassizjoch on the Finsteraarjoch, where he lay unconscious for about twelve hours; he subsequently managed to crawl to the neighbouring Strahleggütte, but his condition is very serious.

Two tourists, Mr. Adolf Koch, from Basle, and Mr. Heinrich Reinsson, from Zurich, missed the edge of a couloir on the Grosse Schreckhorn and were thrown on the Schreckfirn. Though only slightly injured, they were brought down to Grindelwald under great difficulties.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Auslandsschweizer und Militärflichtersatz.**—Die bevorstehende Neuregelung des Militärflichtersatzes wird in den Kreisen der Auslandsschweizer mit besonderer Aufmerksamkeit verfolgt. Schon heute lässt sich an Hand einzelner Aeusserungen in der Presse erkennen, dass der Entwurf des Bundesrates bei unsern Mitbürgern in der Fremde keineswegs einhellige Zustimmung findet. Einzelne Bestimmungen werden lebhaft angefochten. Auch kann man sich in Auslandsschweizerkreisen des Eindrucks nicht erwehren, dass der Entwurf insgesamt wenig von jenem Verständnis für die besondere Lage der im Ausland lebenden Dienst- und Ersatzpflichtigen verrät, das man heute — im Zeichen der Annäherung zwischen Heimat und Kolonien — erwarten dürfte. Wir haben schon sehr ernst zu nehmende Befürchtungen aussprechen hören. Eine Annahme des Gesetzes in seiner jetzigen Form könnte zur Folge haben, dass viele Auslandsschweizer das fremde Bürgerrecht erwerben. Jedenfalls zählen die Schweizer im Auslande auf ihre Freunde im Parlament und auf das Secretariat der Auslandsschweizer, dass ihre Stimme ebenfalls gehört und gebührend gewürdigt werde. Ihnen ist es ja verwehrt, mit dem Stimmzettel Stellung zu nehmen, auch wenn sie, wie in diesem Fall, unmittelbar interessiert sind. (National Zeitung.)

**Die Bundesfeier in der Stadt Bern.**—Die Bundesstadt rüstete sich schon am Tage vor dem 1. August zur Bundesfeier. Von den öffentlichen Gebäuden war es das Bundeshaus, das sich als erstes zur Landesfeier schmückte. Die Fahnen der verschiedenen Kantone zieren den Balkon über dem Portal des Mittelgebäudes; vom Kuppelbau sowie von den verschiedenen Türmen flattern die eidgenössischen Fahnen; auch die Flügel des Parlamentshauses haben Flaggenschmuck angelegt. Dienstag nachmittags taten auch andere öffentliche Gebäude ihren Festschmuck an: ihnen folgten verschiedene private Bauten und Geschäftshäuser. Vorwiegend ist der Flaggenschmuck, der nach und nach andere Schmuckarten zu verdrängen scheint. Verschiedene Geschäfte haben ihre Schaufenster bereits seit einigen Tagen zum 1. August gerüstet. Besonders reizend und originell sind die einer Apotheke, in denen das Schweizerkreuz in verschiedenen Heilkräutern gebildet ist. Die Strassen- und Quartierleiste erlassen dieses Jahr Aufrufe zum Strassen- und Hausschmuck; berufliche Vereinigungen wenden sich an die Arbeitgeber mit der Bitte, den Angestellten von 4 Uhr nachmittags an freizugeben. Wie andere Jahre wird auch dieses Jahr das Münster festlich beleuchtet werden. Dagegen wird von grösseren Feierlichkeiten dieses Jahr abgesehen. (Bund.)

**Le 1er août à Zermatt.**—Le 1er août a été brillamment fêté à Zermatt. Une foule d'étrangers et de Suisses des divers cantons écoutait d'un seul cœur et dans un même sentiment patriotique le remarquable discours du conseiller fédéral Schulthess. L'orateur a souligné avec éloquence les dangers et les devoirs présents.

Après cette exhortation à l'union intercantonale, M. le pasteur F. Thomas a pris la parole et, dans une magnifique péroraison, il a rappelé l'attachement de Genève à la Confédération et le devoir de servir et d'aimer. Sa cause fut vite gagnée; c'est dans un grand enthousiasme que la foule a répondu à son appel en chantant de tout son cœur l'hymne national.

Le 2 août, M. Seiler, conseiller national, réunissait tous les Suisses dans un charmant coin de Zermatt, où un succulent déjeuner fut servi avec une parfaite cordialité et un charme exquis.


M. Ch. Bernard a rappelé qu'avant d'être un internationaliste il faut être un bon patriote; il a rappelé la nécessité de s'unir pour lutter et faire triompher la cause si noblement défendue par la Société des Nations.

De la musique, des danses, des jeux ont couronné cette journée de joie et de paix, bienfaisante et fortifiante pour chacun.

(La Tribune de Genève.)

**Nos tireurs restent à l'écart.**—On apprend que le président de l'Association suisse des tireurs, M. le major Raduner de St-Gall a communiqué aux Américains que les tireurs suisses ne participeront pas au match de tir qui aura lieu à Champ Perry en Amérique.

Le bruit courait depuis un certain temps que des difficultés financières et l'installation primitive du champ de tir américain et des logements des tireurs s'opposeraient au déplacement de nos tireurs. Nous regrettrions vivement que la nouvelle ci-dessus fût confirmée. Il est des traditions qu'il faut main-



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tenir; celle du tir en est une, et nos matcheurs avaient une revanche à prendre. L'abstention de nos hommes risque au surplus d'être interprétée par les Américains comme un geste de mauvaise humeur.

On trouve de l'argent pour toutes les entreprises, même pour aider l'Union syndicale à démolir le pays. Il est étrange que l'on n'en trouve point pour permettre aux meilleurs de nos carabines le voyage en Amérique.

(La Tribune, Lausanne.)

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

### A Presbyterian World Parliament in Switzerland.

The Rev. G. A. Frank Knight, D.D., F.R.S.E., writes extremely interestingly and feelingly in the *Glasgow Herald* (31st July) on the Presbyterian Alliance at Zurich, "probably the most cosmopolitan gathering of its kind which has ever been held." I note with interest that British representatives to this Congress were entertained by the Presbyterian Church at Basle, where Professor Dr. Boehringer (the father of our esteemed Editor) gave an address of welcome, in the course of which he pointed out with justifiable pride how important a part Basle had played in the Reformation period.

The Congress itself was held at Zurich, and I will just give the following lines from the article referred to, which to my mind show clearly enough how important it is for All Christian Churches to work together in order to "set up Christ's rule, not only in Europe, but elsewhere":—

With few exceptions what these reports revealed was a Europe of shattered congregations, of ruined fabrics, of half-starving pastors, of penniless students, and of grievously diminished financial resources. In many cases the state of matters is so appalling that unless Protestant nations rally to the rescue, religious progress and freedom will be things of the past. Yet with singular unanimity the delegates all spoke of the remarkable new spiritual life which is pulsating through these harassed Christian communities, of the thirst for God, and of the quickened interest in the Gospel and the Word. They all revealed high faith and courage, and with conviction they stated their resolve to risk things that Christ's rule might be set up in Europe. It was a touching and notable confession, coming from men, many of whom had seen their homes in flames, their churches in ruin, and their families slain.

### "Leopold Wulfling."

*Daily Mirror* (1st August):—

"Herr Wulfling," who once was the Archduke Leopold Ferdinand, is now contributing his reminiscences to an Austrian newspaper. He is the brother of Princess Louise of Tuscany, and his matrimonial misadventures, like those of his sister, have received considerable publicity. His first wife was an actress, and his second wife was a Swiss domestic servant.

He is, however, one of the most cultivated members of the house of Hapsburg. In the course of a law suit in which he became involved while living in Switzerland, the Swiss judge complimented him on his accomplishments, declaring, in his judgment, that "he speaks and writes ten or a dozen languages correctly, and has a knowledge of mathematics and astronomy which would qualify him to occupy a professorial chair in any university."