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# The Swiss Observer

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## Where are you going to-day?

## To Herne Hill, for the Swiss Sports, of course!

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### HOME NEWS

In the elections last week-end for the Landrat of Basel-Land, the Democrats, who up till now held the majority in the council, suffered a serious reverse by the loss of 12 seats. All the other parties, especially the Socialists, increased their mandates. Barely 60 per cent. of the electorate recorded their votes.

The political and administrative reunion of the two half-cantons Basel-Stadt and Basel-Land has again become an actuality, this time at the instigation of the Socialist and Communist parties of the two cantons. The main difficulty seems to be the fear that in a fusion Basel-Stadt will have a preponderating influence to the detriment of the rural and agricultural population of Basel-Land.

A proposal in the Solothurn Grosse Rat to the effect that the prosperous industrial concerns should be compelled to make an annual contribution to the cantonal unemployment fund, was rejected by a large majority, the members of the labour party voting on the side of the "noes."

A questionnaire circulated by the Italian Vice-Consul in Locarno and other Italian organisations evoked considerable criticism during last week's meeting of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. The questionnaire sought to elucidate from local authorities the number and economic position of Italian residents in different districts of the canton. The rural councils so addressed were instructed by the Ticinese Government to refuse the information asked for.

Over nine million francs additional taxes have been collected in Geneva since the beginning of this year, due to a stricter application of the assessment régime.

At the international music festival which was held at Le Havre on May 23rd and 24th, "La Concorde" of Nyon (Vaud) was awarded a number of prizes in the different categories; it also gained the Sèvres vase offered by the President of the French Republic.

It has just been discovered that the alpine hut "Bernoud," on the Torberg above the Bellalp, has been swept away by an avalanche during last winter. It is barely 12 months since the cabane was erected.

Thrown against the radiator of a car, with which his motor-cycle collided, Charles Clerc, a mechanic from Evouettes (Valais), had an artery severed and died on the spot.

In crossing the railway lines at the St. Gall station, Jean Hofstettler, of Herisau, a mechanic in the employment of the Swiss Federal Railways, was knocked down by a passing express train and died from his injuries a few hours afterwards.

Cycling with some friends near Bassecourt, Paul Christe, a solicitor's clerk from Delémont, came into collision with a motor-cyclist and was killed on the spot.

Kaspar Bamert, a former Landammann of the canton of Schwyz and a well-known Liberal statesman, died in Bolenberg-Tuggen at the age of 72 after a long illness.

### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

#### Summer Time!

Our Editor has a fine sense of humour, somewhat sardonic sometimes and perhaps, but nevertheless subtle and fine. Else how could he ask me, ringing me up late on Monday afternoon, whether I could possibly let him have my "copy" on Tuesday morning? He must know that this means my rising very early on Tuesday morning, because the previous night, after work and play, I had barely time to glance through the "Gleanings," so that there is no alternative other than writing these "Notes" this (Tuesday) morning, before breakfast! Summer-time, indeed! In other words, our Editor wishes me to get the utmost out of Summer-time. His very soul shrinks from the idea of my staying in bed when King Sol has started on his daily illumination business. He (the Editor) knows that "the early bird, etc." He wishes me well. He wants his "copy." He got me up early. I am now writing all this drivel. How could I do otherwise, seeing that I have not had a sip of my early tea even? Here it comes—the tea I mean. So from now onwards things ought to improve somewhat. Let us hope so, or, I am sure, I shall lose my job!—and my readers will lose their patience. Poor, long-suffering readers, who pay tuppence for the privilege of reading "Kyburg's" vapourings. Well, well, they will be rewarded in the hereafter for the goodfellowship and patience they have shewn to their fellow-men. (If you do not soon dry up and give us something better, my printers will go on strike.—Ed.) Well, having let off early morning steam, we can now settle down to work.

I am extremely happy to give you at the very outset the following:—

#### Tolerant Swiss Protestants.

*Catholic Herald* (22nd May):—

An example of religious tolerance and co-operation has just come to light in Vevey, Switzerland. The Catholic parish of the city having received a bequest of several thousand francs, the Protestant city authorities passed a measure exempting the bequest from 50 per cent. of the usual inheritance tax.

A similar example is reported from Morat, where the Municipal Council, in majority Protestant, recently voted an appropriation of 1,000 francs for the construction of a bell tower for the Catholic church of that town.

The liberality of the Protestants of French Switzerland has won the respect and high esteem of the Catholic population.

Earlier readers of *The Swiss Observer* may remember that a long time ago I related how tolerant I had found the Toggenburgers as long ago as 1900, when I was on holiday at Homberg, where the mixed choir was conducted by the Protestant clergyman and had for its president the Catholic priest. At Winterthur and many other places, happily, confessional differences are strictly confined to religious services and do not enter the political life at all.

I am happy, too, to find that the splendid example of Printing exhibited weekly by *The Swiss Observer* has drawn the attention of British printers to Swiss achievements in that art. Vide—as related in the following from the *British and Colonial Printer and Stationer* (May 6th):—

#### Printers' Visit to Switzerland.

In continuance of the policy carried out for many years in encouraging senior students to travel abroad, the Department of Photography and the Printing Crafts of the City of Leeds Technical School (principal, S. E. Bottomley, F.R.P.S.) is organising a flying visit to Switzerland at Whitsuntide. We understand that the organisers will be glad to welcome any printers who are interested—especially those anxious to develop the photographic and lithographic side of colour printing. Exceptional facilities are being given for visiting, at Zurich, one of the foremost Swiss printing firms, and also a noted photogravure printing works.

The ideas underlying these tours are: (1) An opportunity for travel abroad under specialised

guidance at very reasonable rates; (2) an opportunity for visiting some of the principal printing and lithographic houses which are world-famous; (3) an opportunity for a reunion of past and present students and friends under unique conditions.

The following is an itinerary of the tour:—

Thursday, May 20th.—Leave Leeds by the 5.30 p.m. express for London. Spend night in London.

Friday, May 21st.—Leave London (Victoria) at 10 a.m. for Paris, travelling via Newhaven and Dieppe. Arrive Paris (St. Lazare) 17.58. Cross Paris to Gare de l'Est. Depart from Paris 21.35.

Saturday, May 22nd.—Arrive Basle 6.14. Customs examination and breakfast. Depart from Basle at 8.05. Arrive at Lucerne at 9.44.

Sunday, May 23rd.—At Lucerne.

Monday, May 24th.—Excursion to Zurich, leaving Lucerne at 8.34, due at Zurich at 9.41. Leave Zurich 17.51, due at Lucerne 19.08.

Tuesday, May 25th.—Excursions in Lucerne.

Wednesday, May 26th.—Leave Lucerne for Lugano by boat, travelling the whole length of the lake, afterwards taking the train via the famous St. Gothard Pass and Bellinzona. Arrive at Lugano in time for tea.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 27th, 28th and 29th.—At Lugano, with excursions to Italian Lakes.

Saturday, May 29th.—Leave for home via Lucerne, due London 6.45.

The approximate cost (from London) will be £15.

#### Need for Organised "Specials."

A number of my readers probably take in the *Sunday Pictorial*, and they may have read the article by that egregious writer, J. Ellis Barker, the famous British Tariff Reformer, which appeared on the 23rd May, entitled:—

Says Mr. Barker:—

"... Switzerland is a small country, and it may be overrun very rapidly by the standing armies of its neighbours. In order not to be caught unawares, the Swiss have given full military equipment, including rifles and cartridges, to the able-bodied men living along the border.

If foreign troops should cross the frontier, the men of the nearest villages will gather up their helmets, rifles, and will rapidly collect at the best strategical positions near by which have been carefully selected by the military authorities, and will stop the enemy's advance." (The italics are mine.)

Cheers and great admiration for the valiant Swiss! So is the British public acquainted with what goes on in foreign lands. Such arguments and pictures are used to illustrate the need for similar wonderful organisations in this country. Arguments which have all the more force, no doubt, because the reader remembers who Mr. Barker is and how he stands for Tariff Reform and uses similarly cogent arguments for its propagation. Oh, Mr. Barker! You should also have told your public of the "Sunday Pictorial" that the Swiss are not afraid of foreign armies, because, as was pointed out to Kaiser Wilhelm when he visited the Swiss army manoeuvres before the Great War, if the invading army happens to be twice as strong, numerically, as the Swiss defending force, the latter simply shoots twice!

That, by the way and in order to augment our readers' historical knowledge, that reply, given to the ex-Kaiser by one of our Appenzeller soldiers, decided the All-Highest to give Switzerland a wide berth and to invade Belgium instead. There is nothing like Truth, Truth unvarnished and naked, when comparing historical and political notes. It gives one such a feeling of knowing where one is, or was, or might be—does it not?—and it makes our articles look ever so much more well-informed. Besides, who is there among the public, thinks Mr. Barker, to contradict me? And has anyone heard of Switzerland being invaded during the Great War? Certainly not. And why not? Because, as I am at some pains to inform you, the chaps in the nearest villages collected at the best strategical positions, helmets and rifles and all, and simply stopped the enemy's advance! What a glorious country! No wonder they have a public

VERITABLES

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