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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

The international shooting competition at Stockholm has begun very favourably for Switzerland. Here are the results up to now:

	Flat	Kneeling
Hartmann .. .. .	382	375
Lienhard .. .. .	368	363
Zimmermann .. .. .	380	377
Reich .. .. .	370	361
Tellenbach .. .. .	382	368

With a total of 5,443 points, Switzerland have beaten their own world record of 5,391 made in 1928 at Loosdiemen. In the individual class Hartmann has beaten by six points his own world record of 1,109 points made by him in 1925 at Saint Gall.

At the standing position Hartmann has also beaten by six points the record of 352 points, established at Saint Gall in 1925. The President of the Confederation has sent a telegram to the Swiss representatives telling them how proud Switzerland was of their achievement.

Hartmann has been proclaimed world champion.

Switzerland recently met Austria in an International Athletic meeting at Berne, the former taking the honours by 68 points against 56.

### LOCAL.

Rapperswil (St. Gall) is celebrating the 700th anniversary of its foundation. N.Z.

The Federal Railways have decided to convert the present Gotthard route into a double track line. The tunnel through Monte Ceneri is also to be started in the near future. St.G.

A few months ago Fridolin Dürst left his farm in California and returned to Rüschiikon in the hope that his wife might there recover from her melancholy. As this hope did not materialise, and unable to face his wife's removal to a mental home, Dürst killed her with a revolver shot and then committed suicide. St.G.

During the Federal Shooting Competition at Bellinzona, the body of an unknown man was found in the Lago Maggiore, near the mouth of the Ticino. He has now been identified as a 55 years' old farmer, Alfred Meyer, from Wilchingen (Schaffhausen), father of three children. The cause of his death remains a mystery. St.G.

A novel way of committing suicide was followed by a lady shop assistant in Zürich. In despair over an unhappy love affair, she threw herself from the top of the Utlilberg Tower and achieved the desired end. N.Z.

The decision of the Valais authorities to evacuate the hamlet of Randonnaz has awakened deeper interest than ever in the sad question of emigration from the high valleys of Switzerland. The Federal Council have decided to submit the whole matter to a special commission and have promised to give the conclusions arrived at their most serious consideration.

Twenty high pastures in Monthey and Val Ferret are contaminated by Foot and Mouth Disease. At the beginning of August, 1,669 heads were affected. The spread of the disease is therefore much greater than was the case last year. The first symptoms were discovered on the 22nd May at Val d'Herens and ever since then in spite of strict supervision the disease has made very serious progress.

If the series of climbing accidents continue, this year should be a record one in this respect. Following last week's fatalities there are four

other fatal falls. One in the Val Ferret, where a young climber from Paris M. Daniel Hauser, 21 years of age, was climbing with some friends. All of a sudden a large stone detached itself from the mountain and fell on the tourist who was found with a broken skull.

The second at Baltschierental, where a young boy of 12 fell in picking raspberries.

The third on the Wetterhorn where two climbers from Neuchatel, Messieurs Jacot Guilmart and Louis Roy lost their lives.

The fourth on the Matterhorn. There two young ladies, daughters of Dr. Schiess, of Fribourg-in-Breisgau accompanied by the Bernese guide Kohler, and the well known Alpinist Dr. de Beauclair climbed the Matterhorn on Thursday. On the way down Dr. de Beauclair and one of the young ladies who were tied to the same rope, had a fall of about 200 metres just below the Solvay Refuge.

Owing to the torrential rains of the last few days a serious landslide occurred on Monday afternoon above Zinal. The waters of the obstructed river have caused important damage, carrying with them several bridges and interrupting communications with the lower part of the Val d'Anniviers. At Zinal itself two chalets were carried away, although the inhabitants escaped with their lives. It is supposed that it will be necessary to call in the military to clear the approaches to the village and re-establish communications.

## FREE ZONES DECISION IN OUR FAVOUR.

The Permanent Court of International Justice gave a decision this afternoon at the Palace of Peace on the first of the questions submitted to it by France and Switzerland concerning the Free Zones in Haute Savoie and the Pays de Gex. The decision, which was in favour of the Swiss thesis, was that of nine of the twelve judges, the three dissentients being M. Nyholm (Denmark), M. Negulesco (Rumania), and M. Dreyfus (France).

About two hundred people were in the court to hear the judgment, including Mrs. Snowden and several members of the delegations to the Conference.

The question to be decided was whether article 435, paragraph 2, of the Treaty of Versailles had as between France and Switzerland abrogated the provision of the treaties of 1815 and 1816 regarding the Customs and economic regime of the Free Zones, or whether it had for its object their abrogation. The Court decided that the clause of the Treaty of Versailles did not abrogate the regime of the Free Zones, and had not abrogation for its object, the only aim of the treaty being to leave France and Switzerland to settle this regime between themselves by means of an agreement, the contents of which were in no way prejudged by the treaty, and which therefore may or may not solve the abrogation of the Free Zones. In the considerations for the judgment the Court pointed out that Switzerland did not sign the Treaty of Versailles, and had accepted the provisions of the clause in question only with an explicit reservation respecting the Free Zones.

This is not the final judgment of the Court on the matter. Under the agreement between France and Switzerland the Court was first to decide this particular question, and then, before rendering any judgment, was to give the parties a reasonable period to settle the matter between themselves, and that failing such an agreement the Court was to pronounce its decision by a single judgment.

The Court by means of the order made to-day fixed May 1, 1930, as the date of expiration of the period within which the parties may settle between themselves the regime of the zones. Failing such an agreement the Court will then pronounce its judgment.

It follows from this decision that when the French Government removed the French Custom houses from the frontier between France and the Free Zones to the frontier between the latter and Switzerland in November 1923, it was guilty of a violation of the Treaty of Versailles, and the Custom-houses should now be restored, pending a final solution of the question, to their original position.

## WHAT'S DOING IN OUR COLONY?

For last Saturday evening the 17th inst., at the Club-House of the Union-Helvetia, the "Territorial Administration England" invited members and friends to muster in full force for the Farewell Concert of Mr. and Mrs. Frey-Bernhardsgrütter, who again reaped grateful applause from a numerous gathering, which at times might have preserved a little more silence, not only during the singing, but also while a speech was being delivered by the Honorary Chairman of the evening, Mr. N. Frederick.

I have a further little "grumble," on occasions like this, when a fair sprinkling of English friends of both sexes is present, *why send round a plate?* It is far from good taste and must as inevitably as unfortunately, tend to lower the standard of the artistes, especially in the eyes of the uninitiated. There are various other and far more "gentle" methods of collection, which would prove equally efficacious and savour less of the boxing-booth!

### A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY MISSED.

The speech delivered by our compatriot and leader in the Hotel sphere, Mr. N. Frederick, revealed a deplorable circumstance ament the visit to this country of some four hundred Swiss Scouts, who attended the International Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead and to whose Camp our Minister, Mons. C. R. Paravicini, paid a visit.

I call it a deplorable circumstance without fear of contradiction, for in whose lifetime is it likely to happen again that our Colony will have a chance of meeting, in one "bunch," happy youths representing not only every one of our 22 Cantons, but also a world-wide movement whose objects must be termed laudable, in the full sense of this word?

What a happy rally around these young Swiss scions could have been organised and how many of the members of our colony have been deprived of spending a few hours in most genial company? I will not labour our loss any further, but I feel certain, many a lump will rise in many a throat among us, when one visualises, if only faintly, the atmosphere which such a gathering would have produced and the stimulating heart-balsam that would have flowed from the singing by those members of the rising Swiss generation of our Schweizerpsalm and "Rufst du mein Vaterland."

There is, however, one redeeming feature, outwardly our face has been saved by the spontaneous and generous action of one member of our colony, who singly sprang into the breach at the last moment, and, doubtless, our Swiss Scouts have left these shores with the kindest of thoughts for their host and friend Mr. N. Frederick. He took the entire contingent to the Zoological Gardens, over Carrera's Cigarette Factory, which each scout left with a present of cigarettes, over Selfridge's Stores, and showed them over the palatial Grosvenor House Hotel, which excited their keenest interest, naturally so, remembering that we spring from—a nation of Hotel Keepers. The previous evening, Tuesday, Mr. Frederick had divided his "little" party into two sections, taking one to the Coliseum and the other to the Palladium, re-uniting them at Lyons' Corner-House, where they indulged in refreshments, and were 'banned' to the premises by the band playing homely tunes in their honour, until the Tube and District gates had been closed against them and a weary tramp to West Brompton faced them. The Benjaminus of the contingent, however, were wheeled to their quarters by Mr. Frederick's car picking them up along the route and returning as often as was practicable to fill up with tiny tots and bring them to rest.

The Ticinese Detachment were also favoured by Mme. Monico with an invitation to the Cafe Monico, Piccadilly, where their hostess regaled her protégés in the warm-hearted fashion inherent in our compatriots from the southernmost corner of Switzerland.

At Tilbury on Wednesday Mr. Frederick's guests, after an unsuccessful attempt to kidnap their benefactor and carry him off with them, took leave from him on board the S.S. Alsacien which carried the Swiss Scouts on their home-bound journey to the French port Dunkerque, and it must be a great moral satisfaction for Mr. Frederick to be conscious of having planted a seed of deep affection in so many young hearts.

The following telegram was sent to Buckingham Palace:

Lord Stamfordham,  
Private Secretary to H.M. The King,  
Buckingham Palace.

My Lord.—The Swiss Contingent to the International Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead on the point of re-embarking at Tilbury on the L.M.S. Steamship "Alsacien" for their country, desire His Majesty the King to be informed how very much all the Boys and their Leaders enjoyed their stay in His Majesty's country. They carry away with them the highest appreciation of all the wonderful things they have seen in this great Country and they also wish to thank His Majesty for the high honour he has thought fit to bestow on their Chief for whom they will always preserve the warmest affection.

That His Majesty's complete convalescence may only be a matter of a few weeks is the fervent wish of all, and if our little country could be of any benefit to his health, His Majesty may rest assured that every Scout would heartily welcome his Royal Visit at any time.

I have the honour to remain your Lordship's humble servant,  
FRITZ SCHEURER,  
Official Leader of the Swiss Delegation.

The next morning the following letter accompanied by an exquisite bouquet of flowers was handed in at the Royal Palace by Mr. Frederick's private secretary on behalf of the Swiss Boy Scouts who by that time had crossed the Channel.

Lord Stamfordham, 15th, August, 1929.  
Private Secretary to H.M. The King,  
Buckingham Palace:

Mr. Fritz Scheurer, Official Leader of the Swiss Delegation at the International Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead, has the honour to present his compliments to His Majesty's Private Secretary, and would be extremely thankful if this modest bunch of flowers, which the Swiss Scouts desire to be used in one of His Majesty's apartments, could be employed for this purpose.

Mr. Scheurer regrets to trouble His Majesty's Private Secretary, and he desires to thank him for this courtesy. FRITZ SCHEURER.

His Majesty's Private Secretary replied by wireless as follows:

Fritz Scheurer, Leader Swiss Boy Scouts, L.M.S. Steamship "Alsacien," North Foreland Radio: "The King has received with much pleasure your telegram and thanks you all for the kind message and good wishes to which your telegram gives expression. His Majesty is delighted to hear that you have enjoyed your visit in this country and wishes you and your contingents bon voyage and a safe return home."

Except for the following rejoinder I must leave matters for the present where they are.

Endeavours will certainly be made to get to the root of this unfortunate neglect, which I fear lies "at home" in this instance and certainly not here. In this connection I would just mention that some of our compatriots seem to take the Swiss Legation as a sort of Theatrical Agency, whose sole mission it would be to provide our colony with entertainments, and if anything goes wrong, they immediately pounce upon the Legation as having failed in its duties. I wish these gentry would take a leaf out of the book of the nation whose hospitality they are enjoying and comport themselves as the English do, instead of glibly criticising where it is least justifiable, and openly showing disrespect to our Minister, and also to members of the Legation, as was the case at Hendon during the delivery of the various patriotic speeches when disgracefully noisy conduct emanated from the refreshment tent, so that two English friends of mine voiced the opinion that "Democracy" also seemed productive of "ulcers."

Although, usually, truth begets hatred, that shall be no bar to reprimand where it is called for, this should be the mission of a Colony Organ, otherwise it is a still-born institution.  
O.J.W.

**CONCERNING THE MILITARY TAX.**  
A REPLY TO MR. NOTARI.

Letter to the Editor.

Dear Sir.—What a corollary to the just celebrated Festa Nazionale, the Tiro Federale in Bellinzona, the inspiring speech of our great Ticinesi Signor G. Motta, the praise in general of the patriotism of the Ticinesi to read of the threatened renouement of the most sacred, most precious birthright, our Swiss citizenship, the envy of many nations, publicly advertised because justice to a grievance is not ipso facto obtained.

I disassociate myself entirely from the ill-advised letter of my friend Mr. W. Notari in your last issue of the 17th August. I believe he over-stated the facts. If grievances there are I feel certain a more sensible and diplomatic handling of the question would obtain reader redress than a fantastic letter which gives one the impression as if the Military Authority had committed a terrible crime whereas the whole question is purely a personal one.  
Yours truly,  
OSCAR GAMBAZZI.

(We are very glad indeed to be able to publish the above forceful rejoinder to Mr. Notari's letter published in our issue of the 17th August. —THE EDITOR.)

**What Happened at Kienthal?**  
REVOLUTIONARY REMINISCENCES.

Kienthal? Kienthal? Does the name recall anything to mind or have we already forgotten that Bolshevism was hatched in that nest?

I spent last year at Kienthal, merely as a tourist, however, for I had entirely forgotten that it has an historical interest attached to it. This fact was brought to my remembrance through a long paradoxical discussion with my travelling companion on the question as to whether or not we have a right to put an end to life. . . .

A little incident told us casually by our guide—not that we needed a guide to cross so easy a pass, but we wanted our bags carried—just missed setting the discussion ablaze. . . .

One of my companions was recalling a happy and beneficial stay he had made at the hotel of the Griesalp, and said he had known there a neuroasthenic lady who was so much in love with the mists that she only cared to go out when there was a fog. Consequently she often got lost and a search had to be made for her. One day she was found wandering just above one of the famous cascades whose rhythm had fascinated her, but she showed no gratitude to her rescuer. Was she not, after all, mistress of her own fate?

"Yes," intervened the guide, "it must have been above the Falls of Dürdenbach, because I, too, rescued a traveller from there. He was a queer fellow, a foreigner, a German, or more likely a Russian."

"Was it long ago?" asked one of the party, not much interested in what the answer might be.

"During the War. It must have been in the Spring of 1916, in the month of April, because snow and ice were still about. The man had slipped, he was hanging over the water only holding on by his hands, he could not climb up and was calling for help. But no one heard him on account of the noise."

"I happened to pass that way. I saw him, I climbed up and seized him by the arm. Just in time! The next moment he must have fallen. When we were out of the scrape he looked at his hands that were red and bleeding, then he rubbed them together, chuckling all the time. At last he said in German:

"You have done a great thing; you will hear more of me by and bye." But I never have heard more of him."

"Did he tell you his name?"

"No, he did not! I knew he came from Kienthal where there was a great mustering of foreigners at the Hotel Baer, although it was not in the season."

"At Kienthal, at the Hôtel Baer, in April 1916! By Jove! my friend, you saved either Lenin, Radek or Trotsky! You would have done far better to let him fall over, for your rescued man has caused the fall of innumerable heads; so are not you, too, a little guilty?"

But the honest Swiss face showed no comprehension of the paradox nor of the joke. A guide who holds out his hand across the abyss is only following his calling, and even if it had been a question of saving Lenin, could he have hesitated?

And was it Lenin? It certainly was not Lenin. In all probability it was one of the other Russian revolutionaries, for the Russian revolution was brewed in Switzerland, and it was touch and go that there was not a revolution in Switzerland as well.

It was very near it on the 10th and 11th November 1918, while the Germans were entreating for the armistice which should put an end to the war. The attention of the world was diverted from these facts; but, to-day, history should carefully collect them. . . .

A first conference was held during the summer of 1915 at Zimmerwald, a charming little village in the Bernese Country; nearly all the Russian staff were already there, Lenin, Trotsky and Zinovief; while Switzerland was represented by two Socialist delegates, Naine and Grimm. The name of Grimm, who was always agitating, should be retained in order to understand through his career how easy it is to pass from Socialism to Communism and finally to revolution. Lenin was then living at Zürich, from there he directed the propaganda, for it was at Zürich that Bolshevism was elaborated, and even then they were preaching desertion from the Army and Navy, and against national defence.

But though the Conference of Zimmerwald, followed by another held in the Casino at Berne, are well known and talked of and even quoted in various manuals, the one held at Kienthal, important in another sense, is often passed over in silence. It was kept far more secret, yet it was there that the momentous resolution was taken definitely to abandon the minority programme for Bolshevism or the majority programme.

It opened on the 25th April, 1916, in the unobtrusive and rather pleasant little hotel "Vours"; forty-five members were present, among whom were Mme. Angelica Balabanof, Lenin,

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