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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## HOME NEWS

Dear Mr. Editor.—Really and truly, I am in a terrible predicament over this week's German Home News. You will readily remember the homily received from J.J.S. regarding the lugubrious news reproduced in our "official weekly."

Now this week I have looked for joyful tidbits; but, alas, I cannot find any in the enormous sheaf of papers you sent me. Can I help it, if people at home will fall off the mountains, or get drowned? Or that the Foot and Mouth disease is so rampant, that military courses in the THURGAU had to be suspended? Of course it may be of devastating interest, that ZÜRICH intends to buy the famous Oerliker Tram, that a Church congress was held at BASEL, and a yiddisher one at ZÜRICH, and that the Conservatives in LUCERNE get all hot and bothered over the question of a new State Councillor. Does it by any chance amuse your readers, if you tell them that our fiery National Councillor Valotton has "put his foot in it" with the musicians at home over his proposal that their compositions should be compulsorily put at the disposal of the wireless, against a modest fee? SOLOTHURN has been host to the gathering of Swiss N.C.O.'s, and lots could be said about that; but to some of our long-suffering military tax payers this would surely be of little interest. ST. GALL reports mostly troubles. They have so many teachers of 40 and more year's service, that they have decided to revise their pension regulations in order to make room for the younger generation. At SCHAFFHAUSEN they are enlarging the station (increased traffic in the onion market?), and they are also building an additional railway line to Neuhausen to do away with the frequent late arrival of trains. I have not yet heard, if trains from Hallau are late as well, nor for what reason. BERNE suffers from the holiday epidemic and is speechless.

Well, let's hope for better luck next week. (Perhaps you could persuade somebody else to have a go, and that would be very good news—to me it would be Best News!)

Yours sorrowfully,  
ZÜRICHGEGEL.

Mon cher Editeur.—Est-ce vraiment sage d'avoir supprimé nos langues nationales dans la rédaction de vos nouvelles locales? Il me semble qu'en anglais ces mêmes nouvelles ne sont plus aussi intéressantes et qu'elles ont perdu leur cachet régional. Pour ceux de nous Suisses romands qui n'avons que d'assez vagues connaissances de nos deux autres langues, ça ne nous faisait pas de mal d'avoir cette petite leçon hebdomadaire et je suis sûr que bon nombre de nos compatriotes de l'Est ou du Sud doivent avoir fait la même expérience.

Comme présenté la semaine dernière, le "Swiss Observer" est trop uniforme, trop simple et comme vous le savez c'est une qualité qui n'a jamais été appréciée par notre tempérament fédéraliste. Qu'en pense la majorité de vos lecteurs?

## THE ZONE QUESTION.

The President of the Confederation has tendered the thanks of the Federal Council to Mr. Logoz who has so ably exposed to Swiss thesis at the International Court of Justice at the Hague. As is often the case, now that this sore question is definitely settled in principle all parties concerned seem thoroughly happy. The French press admit that from the onset the matter had been handled very clumsily and that the men at the head of affairs let themselves be unduly influenced by local rivalries and prejudices. Switzerland in general and Geneva in particular are of course delighted but the people who are most glad are our old friends the Savoyards who will once more be able to enter the "Villk' Lumière" with a huge basket on each arm and exchange against our valuable Swiss francs the produce of their soil and labours.

## THE SWISS LABOUR MARKET.

At the end of July 1929 there were 4,801 unemployed against 5,525 for July 1928, whilst the

number of scheduled vacancies was 4,324 against 3,407 for 1928. The position can therefore be looked upon as entirely satisfactory. Qualified workmen are still wanted in a number of industries and the number of applications for employment is the lowest since 1921.

## ALPINISM.

A sad accident at the Aiguille du Goûter in which four Genevève were involved has resulted in the death of M. Fleury. Their caravan was caught in a thunderstorm and struck by lightning. The climbers were literally thrown up in the air and the victim fell down the frightful couloirs of the mountain on to the Bionassay glacier. Another member of the party, Mr. Andre Maystre was injured, but not seriously.

## RANDOM SHOTS.

I was pleased to see lately that there is a growing movement amongst the readers of the "Swiss Observer" to make use of its columns for exchange of views and criticism on matters of national and other concern. This is distinctly encouraging, and is as it should be. May this means of "broadcasting" be employed to full capacity and banish the lethargy which has existed far too long.

There exists a certain section in our colony which is really "cold-shouldered" by the methods of distribution of the "S.O." This is neither kind, judicious nor businesslike. In years gone by it was possible to purchase single copies of our fly-leaf "Messenger" at our Swiss-Clubs and at one or two cosmopolitan newspaper shops. True, it needed not even a perambulator to effect those wholesale deliveries not to speak of the little grist it returned to the mill, but chance readers were picked up nevertheless and had the bait been suspended long enough and had it been sustained and sufficiently tempting attraction, fishes in number would have been caught for the benefit of the circulation, the advertisers, the prestige of the paper and, perhaps, even for the "shareholders."

I am conscious of putting my nose into a hornets nest and I hope it will call forth a "speech for the defence." Readers enjoy these treats, they stimulate interest and that's my object, so let's have it!

I am further pleased to notice in the last issue a reversion to former editorial practice, viz., translation into English of the Home News. This must obviously tend to enlarge the reading circle, the news being thereby made accessible alike to Dütsch-Schwyzer, Welches and Ticinesi, to many an English lady who happened to be lucky enough (?) to induce a Swiss to say that fateful "I will," and last, but not least, to the offspring of mixed marriages.

Dear Mr. J.J.S.—I venture to answer the opening question in your "Cry from the Heart" with: "Too many Cooks spoil the Broth!" and finding myself now, metaphorically speaking, in the Kitchen, I would ask, why is the Chef, whose duty it is to look after the menu, which in the "S.O." is termed "Forthcoming Events," not more on the alert? For instance, it was indicated in the issue of August 17, that the Société Culinare Suisse has arranged a Cabaret and Dance at the Union Helvética Club for September 9th. Also in the same issue an advertisement announced a Concert at the same Club, and in the last issue (Aug. 24th) a special advert. of the Swiss Club in Charlotte Street has a similar announcement, in neither of these three cases is there any mention in the "Diary," ergo—wake up please, it is imperative that this feature should be kept up-to-date!

On the point of leaving the kitchen, a rumour of years ago drops out of my reminiscence-cupboard: A Swiss Chef is reputed to have asked His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII.), whether he, the Chef, should become a naturalized British subject? Replied the Prince: "If you are a Swiss, remain Swiss." Verbum sat sapienti.

Having read Mr. Notari's bold contentions argumentation and Mr. Gambazzi's reply thereto as an "outsider," I just desire to pose the following question: What would the Right Honourable, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Office think, on receipt of the "Humble Memorial" begging for admission to the British Realm, if the applicant derives the impetus for his prayer from vexation caused by the military imposts of his native land?

O.J.W.

## AVANT LA SESSION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Il est nécessaire entre la Haye et Lausanne où dit-on, se tiendrait.—la conférence des experts chargée des modalités et de la mise en vigueur du même plan, de jeter un regard sur Genève.

Car, quelles que puissent être les péripéties du "match" commencé à la Haye entre cet étonnant chancelier de l'Echiquier et l'Europe continentale, il faudra bien en "sa saison" prendre le chemin de la capitale des Nations et se souvenir qu'il s'y tient annuellement des assises vouées à la Paix et à la Concorde Internationale.

Lorsque M. MacDonald fut appelé au pouvoir, sa politique extérieure chantait les beautés d'une entente basée sur une détente générale. Il s'appropriait, couronné de lauriers, la houlette pastorale à la main, le verbe large, accueillant et nébuleux à la bouche, à venir moduler en notre salle de la Réformation son Hymne à la Paix.

M. Briand aurait écouté avec une soit-disant totale attention son éminent collègue, mais imbattable sur ce point, il serait monté de deux dièzes au moins sur la portée sonore et se serait fait couronner, par son confrère même, Barde et Troubadour de la Paix mondiale.

L'Europe secouée de spasmes de joie et d'attendrissement, la larme à l'oeil eut consciencieusement applaudi et les deux "compères" tout comme naguère le même Monsieur MacDonald flanqué à vrai dire de M. Herriot, eussent remporté un succès considérable. Ils eussent été au droit de s'attendre à recevoir—peu après et une fois de plus—les centaines de mille francs que Sieur Nobel, inventeur d'explosifs, attribue par le truchement de ses compatriotes à ceux qui édifient—ou démolissent—la Paix. Ils en auraient partagé le bénéfice et auraient profité de cette bonne albaune pour remettre à neuf les cordes et les clefs de leurs instruments.

Or, vint M. Snowden. Cet homme qui tient le rôle de basse avec une maîtrise insoupçonnée, coupa, tel un nouveau Jules César franchissant le Rhône précisément à Genève—le pont indispensable à l'aubade de son premier ministre. A coups d'archet discordants mais sonores, il pétriça d'anxiété et terrorisa les membres du futur orchestre. Dressé sur des ergots, qui certes n'invitent pas à un rapprochement, il s'est découvert plus nationaliste que le plus exalté des "tory."

M. Briand, qui a horreur de ses orages, du scandale, qui craint la foudre et qui ne goûte les dissertations internationales que pour autant qu'elles ressemblent à un puzzle littéraire ou à des mots croisés scientifiques devait être emporté par tant d'impétuosité.

Telle est la situation actuelle jugée de Genève. Au moment où nous écrivons ces lignes, la rupture n'est point encore à la Haye un fait accompli. Qu'on parvienne "in extremis" à l'empêcher, ou que brutale, elle éclate dans toute sa laideur, les milieux internationaux créés pour le développement de la paix, sont secoués par une affreuse angoisse et un indicible désarroi. . . .

Les collaborateurs d'hier se regardent déjà avec méfiance; ces techniciens, qui avaient perdu toute nationalité par le désir commun et sincère de l'entente internationale, sont déjà hostiles les uns aux autres, groupés à nouveau sous le drapeau de leur pays; ils seront demain des adversaires.

Cependant, que M. MacDonald prenne garde à ce qu'il viendra dire de la tribune de la Société des Nations. Je sais que cet homme éminemment sympathique, aimable et intelligent, s'il était allé à la Haye, n'aurait pas laissé la conférence—tout en défendant aussi bien que son irascible collègue les intérêts de son pays—s'engager dans une impasse aussi absurde. Il est malheureusement responsable des agissements de son subalterne. Qu'il s'attende donc à entendre en réponse à son exposé, de quelle nature qu'il soit, des appréciations sévères et cinglantes. Et M. Briand ne sera pas seul à exprimer au nom des nations indignées la réprobation universelle d'une attitude inattendue, qui, au moment où les peuples voyaient enfin poindre la Paix, empoisonne à nouveau l'atmosphère européenne, prête aux pires combinaisons et suscite la mauvaise humeur et sa soeur aînée, la Haine, germe de guerre!

ERIK.

(Although we think that the outcome of the Hague Conference does not at all conform to the fears expressed in the above article by an old collaborator, we publish it as an interesting example of the views widely held on the Continent with which we cannot agree.—THE EDITOR.)