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Autor: Lunghi, Elena
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HOME NEWS



FEDERAL.

On the 25th July Countess Wilhelmine von Hallwyl died in Stockholm. With her a generous representative of an old name, a real aristocrat in the true sense of the word, has passed away. Every year she came for a long period to Breitenberg and was known as a great antiquarian. Countess Wilhelmine has earned for herself a name partly through the thorough restoration of the family castle Hallwyl, for which purpose she spent enormous sums, further by founding the Hallwyl Institution in the Canton of Aargau. She also presented to the National Museum the valuable Hallwyl collection and lastly the National Library through her became the possessor of the rich Hallwyl Family Archives. By these deeds Countess Wilhelmine von Hallwyl has set up for herself an everlasting monument in Switzerland. N.Z.

SWISS HOUSE IN BUDAPEST.

The Swiss-Hungarian Aid Society plans to erect a Swiss House in Budapest to make a reality of the Pestalozzi ideal and to bring child protection a step nearer. This Society is celebrating its 10th anniversary and is issuing an illustrated momento to increase the funds that are already existing. In this Swiss House all the principles of education of the child (Swiss School and Youth Welfare) will be assembled. A site free of charge has already been granted. N.Z.

OUR DAILY BREAD.

A list drawn up by the statistical department as to the general shop prices charged in June for a 2lb. (1 kg) loaf of bread in 34 Swiss towns shows the following rotation: Bâle (44 cts.), Langenthal, Porrentruy (45), Liestal (46), Arbon, Neuchâtel (47), Baden, Bern, Bienne, Genève, Lausanne, Le Locle, Lucerne, St. Imier, Schaffhouse, Soleure, Vevey, Winterthur, Zurich (48), Glarus (49), Aarau, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Frauenfeld, Fribourg, Olten, Schwyz, Sion, Zoug (50), Lugano (52), Choir, Herisau, St. Gall (53), Rorschach (55), and St. Moritz (58). N.Z.

SWISS SUCCESS AT INTERNATIONAL REVOLVER MATCH.

The Swiss team competing at the International Revolver Match at Antwerp secured first honours with 2,649 points, beating France by 114 points. The following is the order of merit of the remaining competitors: Denmark, Italy, Belgium and Holland. The world championship was awarded to the 62-year-old Revillod de Budé from Geneva who, with 538 points, beat the Belgian Lafortune by two points.

THE FIRST OF AUGUST AT HOME.

Throughout Switzerland our National Day was celebrated with the traditional enthusiasm. Federal President Mussy delivered a patriotic address in Geneva. Some slight interferences were caused by communist counter-demonstrations at Zurich and Geneva.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

On the 28th of July Mr. Josef Magg Regenbogen died at the age of 82 years. Born on March 6th, 1848, at Laupheim (Wurtemberg) and after passing a thorough commercial apprenticeship he came to Zurich in 1869. In 1880 he founded the well-known house of Magg, a speciality firm for graphic industry. He was also one of ten founders of the Mercantile Society in Zurich. In 1890 he became a naturalised Zurich citizen. As representative of the Mercantile Society he was a member of the committee of the National Exhibition of 1883 and took part in many a congress for the improvement of the status of the commercial employee and of commerce in general. He was also an accomplished singer and musician. N.Z.

From the 1st of January, 1931, the Oerlikon and Limmat Tramways will be incorporated with the Zurich trams. The Lines Oerlikon Schwamendingen, Selbach Glattbrugg and Schlieren Weinlingen which have been in a very bad state of repairs will be pulled up and will be replaced by motor buses. Trial runs with these

buses have already taken place and to popularise this medium of transport the schoolchildren of Schlieren, Selbach, Glattbrugg, Affoltern and Schwamendingen have had free runs last week, which naturally pleased them immensely. Especially as each partaker was presented with a Bratwurst at the end of the journey. The inhabitants of Altstetten, Schlieren, Oerlikon, and Selbach will profit mostly by this incorporation, as the fares to these places will be considerably cheaper than what they are now. N.Z.

BERNE.

A party of 10 Dutch tourists met with an accident on the upper Grindelwald Glacier. They slipped down a 60 feet high ice-wall. The cause of the accident was the last person, who was not at all equipped for mountaineering, lost her foothold and pulled all the other tourists, equally un-equipped to climbing, down with her. The guide, unable to hold the lot, came down with them. One lady and one gentleman suffered slight bruises, but the guide was not so lucky. He received a nasty head wound and several lesser wounds on arms and legs. N.Z.

LUCERNE.

Under the title of The Glacier Garden Lucerne Institute Amrein Troller, an institution has been founded with the view of keeping the Glacier Garden and the adjoining popular scientific Museum as a Nature's monument and to retain and develop the same for all times on the same lines as it is done now.

The objects which were found in the Glacier Garden together with the Museum will remain an interesting scientific document, dealing with the prehistoric as well as the later natural history of Switzerland and its people. The net profit arising from the Garden will be devoted to further Swiss National Science and Home Protection. The funds of the Institution are to be used to facilitate excursions of the schools in Lucerne and in the Canton of Lucerne; to extend the study of Swiss prehistoric history, as well as the geological cartography of Switzerland and Swiss Nature and Home Protection. The Conservator of the Garden and the Museum is Mr. Willy Amrein-Küpfer, the well-known President of the Central Swiss Association of Home Protection. N.Z.

GENEVA.

One of the hydro-planes which carries passengers daily between Ouchy and Evian crashed into the lake about 5-600 meters outside Ouchy. Two of the passengers, M. Crelier and his wife, from Lausanne, who were killed outright, have not yet been found. A third passenger, a Mme. Carlin from Lille, staying at Evian, was taken to hospital in a serious condition and died there a few hours after her admittance. The pilot, M. Vallin, and his mechanic, M. Billigot, were also removed to the hospital, both having sustained serious injuries, and their condition causes the gravest concern. The authorities are trying to save the machine in order to ascertain the cause of the accident. V.

TESSIN.

On the 29th of July at 9.45 a.m. the bridge which is being built over the Maggia river, connecting Locarno and Ascona fell in. While the workmen were engaged to pour cement into the form of the middle span, they heard a cracking and took alarm; all could get away to safety. The whole of the structure fell into the river. Luckily no one was hurt. N.Z.

GRISONS.

The Grison papers state that Engineer-Director E. Zimmermann has submitted to the respective department his application for a concession to build a Cogwheel Railway to the Piz Bernina. The Commune of Pontresina has voted in favour of it, but the result of Samaden is still outstanding. According to the project the line will start from the Station Morteratsch 6,147 feet, run along the Chalhagiu to the height of 8,619 feet directly below the Boval glacier, and from there in a 3½ mile long tunnel through Piz Boval, Piz Morteratsch, Piz Prievkus, Bianco Grat to Piz Bianco.

The mouth of the tunnel is near the top of Piz Bernina, 13,183 feet. The difference in altitude to overcome is 7,036 feet. Electric traction will be the motive power. The total track length will be nearly 6 miles and the run will take 80 minutes from beginning to end. As on the Jungfrau a mountain hotel will be built on the saddle. The cost will amount to nearly half-a-million sterling.

VAUD.

Amidst great enthusiasm, the monument which Belgium has dedicated to Switzerland was

inaugurated on the 27th of July at Ouchy. The monument represents a young woman offering a garland of flowers and bears the inscription:

“La Belgique reconnaissant à la Suisse hospitalière”

Amongst the speakers were the Belgian Minister of Justice, the Belgian Minister at Berne, Federal Councillor Pilet, the Swiss Minister at Bruxelles, M. Barbey, etc., etc.. It might be interesting to our readers to know that during the great war Switzerland looked after 4,000 Belgian refugees, nursed 4,400 prisoners of war and clothed 2,000 children. T.G.

IL NATALE DELLA PATRIA.

Din! Don! Dan!

Così, piamente, solenni le campane suonano—

Din! Din! Din!

E piamente, graziose, le campane delle mucche al pascolo rispondono.

Concerto pieno di misticismo questo—pieno di devozione per la Patria che festeggia oggi il suo grande Natale. E se il suono delle campane trova sempre, in ogni luogo ed ora, una via diretta al cuore, e sa parlarci sempre di cose gentili, dolci e meste, in questo giorno più che mai ci fa pensare, o meglio che pensare, meditare! Meditare sul passato eroico della piccola Svizzera, sulle lotte sue per arrivare ad occupare il posto che, tra altre nazioni, vanta ora—posto di onore, e credo di non spingermi troppo oltre, se dico di gloria.

E alle ritmiche note delle campane risponde con un slancio spontaneo, tutt'affatto particolare, il cuore nostro che palpita di vivo amore per la patria...

Svizzeri siamo e fieramente lo proclamiamo!

E qui, in questa simpatica borgata di Stans, vicino alla culla della Confederazione, vicino a quel romito praticello del Grutli che fu silenzioso testimone del grande Giuramento, mentre il sole splende più che mai radioso in sì solenne giornata, le campane sembrano lanciare nell'aria una più forte, una più salda promessa!

Sotto un cielo stellato, veramente degno di una fulgida giornata estiva (la prima forse di quest'anno e che sembra quasi venuta anch'essa così riccamente addobbata per rendere il tributo della natura alla nazione), tra l'attenzione di tutti i cittadini radunatisi per ammirare ed applaudire, davanti all'artistico monumento del prode Arnoldo di Winkelried, situato su un piccolo promontorio, nella piazzetta principale, ed avente per sfondo il severo Stanserhorn, la musica di Stans ci rallegra e ci fa fremere di vero amor patrio con arie prettamente nazionali—la prima delle quali è un saluto all'Eroe di Sempach... “per lui di Sempach fulgida la stella sfogorò”... e dal popolo, come da una sola gola, s'innalza alto il canto... il popolo non può rimanere muto, deve anch'esso rendere omaggio al suo Guerriero.

Alla musica succedono baldi ginnasti che si fanno applaudire con i loro ben spiegati giuochi ginnici, piramidi, sbarre.

E quasi oscuro completo ora... in lontananza si muovono delle fiacole, verdi, rosse... si ode un argentino canto ed il corteccio sfilare... sono ragazze cinte da graziose ghirlande di fiori campestri, sono ragazzi portanti stendardi svolazzanti che procedono gli uomini di Uri, Svitto ed Unterwalden, vestiti nei loro costumi caratteristici e che sono i nobili e fieri discendenti dei Padri della Confederazione; il rumore cadenzato delle forti zoccole sul selciato è pure musica simpatica.

Come non sentirsi Svizzeri in questa sera che ha quasi del sacro?

Poi su su per il cielo, quasi a sfidare le stelle che splendono lontane, filano diritti i fuochi d'artificio e, multicolori, fanno del cielo un tessuto fantasmagorico... e una pioggia d'oro pare volersi lanciare sulla folla intorno... Sono cascate di fiori, di gemme...

Lassù, sull'aprica cima del Stanserhorn splende un'enorme croce federale illuminata, ottimo effetto di luce, e pure da lassù un faro gira il suo immenso occhio chiaro su tutto il cielo intorno... e il Pilato splende... e il Righi.

Fasci di luce, fuochi, canti per la Svizzera nostra.

E un reverente saluto forse ognuno tacitamente manda ai fratelli confederati della Patria tutta, ai quali così fortemente ci si sente legati, ma più reverente e saldo ne va uno ai fratelli d'oltre i confini nostri... lontani dalla madre terra, ma che la madre terra onora con il loro lavoro, il loro agire, ed alla quale vola spesso il loro nostalgico ricordo.

Stans, agosto 1930.

ELENA LUNGHI.