

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1931)

Heft: 527

Rubrik: Home news

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 11—No. 527

LONDON, NOVEMBER 28, 1931.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	{	3 Months (13 issues, post free) . . .	3s 6d
		6 Months (26 issues, post free) . . .	6s 6d
SWITZERLAND	{	6 Months (26 issues, post free) . . .	Fr. 7.50
		12 Months (52 issues, post free) . . .	14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postcheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAY.

The annual report for 1930 of the Swiss Federal Railways shows that the account was balanced with a net profit of 1,594,838 frs. as against 15,034,165 frs. in 1929, thus reflecting the depressed economic conditions which prevailed in Switzerland during last year. The provisional estimates, however, had placed the profit at 451,000 frs., so that the final results are considerably better than were anticipated. The number of passengers conveyed increased by 1,400,000 compared with the previous year; but the tonnage of goods traffic decreased by 700,000. The actual working receipts amounted to 420,546,374 frs., whilst working expenditure totalled 291,419,950 frs., a balance on the right side of 129,126,424 frs., compared with 150,975,841 frs. in 1929. The gross profit totalled 154,831,536 frs., and after deducting financial charges and obligations amounting, in the aggregate, to 153,236,698 frs., the net revenue was little more than a million and a half francs. Owing to trade depression and the departure from the gold standard in Great Britain and other countries there has since been a serious decline in the tourist traffic in Switzerland. This is likely to have further adverse effect on the railway returns, which will be reflected in the report for 1931.

BANKRUPTCIES IN SWITZERLAND.

The severe depression which has swept over the world has not resulted in an increased number of bankruptcies in Switzerland. In 1927, 652 bankruptcies were reported for the twelve months; in 1928 there were 623; in 1929, 619; and in 1930 616. During the first seven months of 1931 the total number of bankruptcies was 362 compared with 407 in the same period last year.

ZÜRICH.

The death is reported of M. Otto Ulmer-Hemmam, Senior Partner in the firm Ulmer & Knecht at the age of 71.

A large fire partly destroyed the Strebelerwerke (Fabrik für Zentralheizungs Anlagen) at the Herdern-Hohlstrasse. The damage caused is estimated at over 100,000fr.

BERNE.

M. F. G. Neuschwander, member of the Grand Council, and a well-known figure in Bernese political circles, has died at Oberdiessbach at the age of 68.

The Guarantee Fund amounting to 300,000fr. for the "Hyspa" (Ausstellung für Hygiene and Sport) which was held this summer has been paid back in full.

LUCERNE.

Dr. George Amrein, a well-known and popular medical practitioner has died at Sursee.

The Banking firm, Messrs. Spieler & Co., in Lucerne has closed and applied to the Court for permission to go into voluntary liquidation. M. F. Frank has been appointed receiver.

BASEL.

When the world-drug traffic trial was resumed at Basle on Monday, it was alleged that a large quantity of drug had been consigned to a doctor at Fribourg as "infant food."

The allegation was made during the examination of Dr. Rauch, a Geneva chemist, who was accused of having sold to the doctor heroin of the value of £4,600.

Part of the consignment, it was stated, arrived at Basle in tins, packed in boxes, which were declared to contain infant milk food.

Dr. Rauch denied having sent heroin through the doctor, and insisted that the boxes must have been changed at Basle or elsewhere.

BASLE.

Dr. Gadiant Engi, a director of the "Gesellschaft für Chemische Industrie" has received the degree of *Dr. phil. honoris causa* by the University of Basle.

GENEVA.

M. Moriaud, late member of the Geneva Government, who was arrested two months ago in connection with the Banque de Genève affair, has been liberated on bail, after having been previously refused bail thrice. It is reported that the deciding factor in acceding to the entreatments of Moriaud's council, was the state of health of the prisoner. Bail was fixed at the sum of 200,000fr.

According to the balance sheet of the Banque de Genève which was prepared by the "Schweiz. Treuhangesellschaft, the creditors of the aforesaid institution will lose about 47 million francs.

THURGAU.

The firm of Saurer in Arbon, has placed an amount of 55,000fr. at the disposal of their workmen, who are partially unemployed; this brings the funds voted for this purpose to a total of 300,000fr. since the crisis started.

SOLOTHURN.

A meeting of creditors of the Kammgarn-fabrik O. Walther-Obrecht A.G. Mülliswil took place at Balstal. According to the report of the appointed receiver, the assets of the concern amount to 1,046,210fr. against 1,613,514fr. liabilities. The share capital of 1.3 million francs is considered lost.

FOOTBALL.

SWITZERLAND v. AUSTRIA.

Next Sunday, 29th November, Switzerland are due to play the first International Match of the season, against the famous Austrian team, in Basle. The Swiss team was chosen on the 14th inst., to play as follows:—

Pasche, Minelli, Weiler H. (Grasshoppers); Fasson (Young Boys); Imhof (Biel); Spiller (Lausanne); Jaeck (Servette); Trello (Grasshoppers); Büche (Nordstern); Springer (Blue Stars); Kramer (Lausanne).

This selection has a good press and appears to be just about the best representative eleven we can call upon. Let the players be determined to play their normal, hard and unyielding game and forget the brilliant successes of their opponents over Germany and Scotland. Only thus may we hope the result to be fit for publication.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 22nd NOVEMBER.

NATIONAL League.

Young Fellows 3, Urania 2.
St. Gallen 2, Chau-de-Fonds 2.
Servette 0, Grasshoppers 4.
Young Boys 3, Blue Stars 1.
Old Boys 0, Biel 2.
Aarau 2, Etoile 4

League I

Lausanne 5, Solothurn 0.
Cantonal 0, Racing 3.
Grenchen 6, Stade Lausanne 1.
Oerlikon 1, Chiasso 0.
Winterthur 2, Concordia 2.
Locarno 4, Luzern 1.

SWISS CUP

2nd Round: Fribourg 3, Monthey 0.
2nd Round Replay: Lugano 0, Basel 1.

In the National League, Groupe I, Young Fellows displace Zurich at the top of the table, the other positions remaining practically unchanged. In Groupe II, Grasshoppers are now first with 9 points followed by Carouge 8, Aarau 7, Biel 7, Blue Stars, Young Boys, Etoile 6, Old Boys 4, and Servette 3 points.

In the First League, Groupe I, Lausanne Sports after 7 games have not lost a point, goals for 36, against 7, followed by Racing Lausanne with 10 points. In contrast, the third Lausanne Club, Stade, have lost all seven games. In the second Groupe Concordia now have a clear point lead over Brühl. Locarno with one match in hand is third with 8 points, 2 points behind Brühl.

In the Swiss Cup replay in Lugano, Basle gave further evidence of their improvement by their narrow win. Basle will meet Brühl in St. Gallen in the next round, a very interesting fixture. Fribourg is at home to Young Fellows Bern, who should make certain to be in the last eight.

M.G.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Barbar and Römer a new book by Felix Möschlin (A. Francke A. G. Berne) published at Swiss francs, 8.20.

The story, in short, tells of a Journalist and Scientist of Basle travelling to Rome to participate there in one of those Congresses which, holding their meetings now in this, now in that Capital or Seaside Place of Europe, hardly ever seem to achieve any real progress, as far as the international question which they are supposed to settle, are concerned.

There, in the capital of Fascismo our hero very soon enters into political conflicts, as unexpected as they are violent and a political outrage the repercussions of which might be as those of the tragedy of Serajevo, threatens.

How this moral conflict, interwoven with political and economical arguments, finally finds a solution, is the fascinating and exciting secret which it would be a pity to divulge here.

Apart from the story itself, however, the chief value of the book, to my mind, lies in the excellent descriptions of Rome the Eternal City. Reading through these pages, I felt again the influence which Rome, that colossal shrine of inherited culture must exercise on any thinking person. I imagined myself again wandering on the Pincio on a Sunday morning, I felt the cold shadows of the Corso Umberto, I blinked in the vivid sunlight when turning towards the Piazza Venetia and the wonderful National Monument below the Capitol.

Again I saw the Eternal City lying at my feet, below the Garibaldi monument on the Janicolo, St. Peter and its majestic dome giving the Town an appearance almost of the East, especially at the time when the last rays of sunshine turning from gold to blue and then to steely grey, linger over all those churches and monuments all those Hills and dark narrow streets down below that were Rome when I saw it.

At that time the saying was "if you have not seen the Pope you have not seen Rome" while now, it is the Duce you must see. And Fascismo about which we really know so very little, plays a big rôle in this book of Felix Moeschlin. Not that the author really takes sides for or against, although he pretends to do so. At least, when I had read the book, I was not sure in my mind, whether or not that Swiss Journalist and Scientist had finally succumbed and decided that what he calls the Positive in Fascismo outweighed the inevitable drawbacks of that system of Government.

The positive in Fascismo counts among its achievements the colonisation of the Agro Romano, the Campagna Romana which, in living memory was a desert almost with swamps, malarial tracts and, on the whole, unproductive. Some 200,000 hectares have to be won back for cultivation and we find, page 255:

"Da sehen Sie in den ersten Musterwirtschaften das Bild des zukünftigen Ganzen: Traktoren, Strassen, Bewässerungsanlagen, Brunnenanlagen, Windmühlen, die Wasser pumpen, Reservoirs wie Seen, ungeheure Rohrleitungen, Korn, Zucker-Rüben, schweizerisches und holländisches Zuchtvieh. Statt 10,000 Stück Rindvieh anno 1922 haben wir heute 20,000 Stück, statt 15,000 Hektaren Getreidefeldern 32,000, statt 4,000 Hektaren Kunstwiesen 32,500 Hektaren."

"Und was hätten Sie ohne Fascismo?"
"Nichts!" And here is a thought which might give a number of British landed proprietors who neglect the cultivation of their land, furiously to think:

"Mann hatte Gesetze, aber keine Ausführung der Gesetze. Man wusste, was zu tun war, aber man tat es nicht. Die Grossgrundbesitzer waren dagegen. Heute setzt man sie ins Gefängnis, man enteignet sie, wenn sie nicht mittun."

Again, positive probably is also the colossal but fertile opinion of the Duce in himself and in his mission..... page 347:

"Einen Wahnsinnigen nennen sie dich. O, dass es einen gibt, der wahnsinnig genug ist, die Freude am Kinde zu predigen, da alle Angst haben, Kinder zu zeugen."

Dass es einen gibt, der Weizen säht zwischen den Steinen, da kein Mensch mehr an den Boden glaubt.