

Home news

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1932)**

Heft 572

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

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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.

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

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Telegrams: FREPRINCO. LONDON.

VOL. 12—No. 572

LONDON, OCTOBER 8, 1932.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free) . . .	8s 6d
	6 Months (26 issues, post free) . . .	16s 6d
SWITZERLAND	3 Months (13 issues, post free) . . .	8s 6d
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(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.

LARGE DEFICIT IN FEDERAL HOUSE-HOLD EXPECTED.

It is expected that the accounts for 1932 of the Swiss Confederation will close with a deficit of about 80 million francs.

REDUCTION OF PAY TO SWISS CIVIL SERVANTS.

A Bill reducing salaries by 7½ per cent. from January next until the end of 1934 has been passed by the Swiss National Council. It is expected that it will save the Government 24,000,000f. (£960,000 at par), but it will be necessary to reduce expenditure by another 9,000,000f.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

Monsieur de Stoutz, formerly Swiss Minister at Madrid, has taken up his post as chief of the division of foreign affairs in Berne. His predecessor, Dr. P. Dinichert, the new Minister at Berlin, will present his credentials to President Hindenburg on the 15th of this month.

FINANCIAL RESULT OF THE "HYSIPA" EXHIBITION.

The final accounts of the "Hyspa" exhibition, which was held at Berne from July 24th - September 20th, 1931, have just been passed. After having refunded the capital raised for this purpose there remains a net profit of 162,000f.

INAUGURATION OF THE POWER STATION HANDEK.

The inauguration festivities of the new Handek Power Station took place last Sunday at the Grimsel Hospiz. A banquet with 300 covers was served; amongst the participants were Federal Councillor Minger, and representatives of the cantonal governments of Berne and Basle, and delegates of the Federal Technical University Zurich. Various speakers praised the new station as a master-piece of technique.

Professor Ritter, on behalf of the Federal Technical University, informed the gathering that the University has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on chief engineer Kaech, who was in charge of the work. Federal Councillor Minger pointed out, in his address that this important station was built without any subvention from the Federal Government, and that the financing was undertaken by various communities and the government of the canton of Berne.

EUROPA CONGRESS AT BASLE.

The Europa Congress was opened last Saturday in the great Hall of the Mustermesse Building. The audience numbered about 600 persons; the congress was opened by a speech of M. Ludwig, head of the cantonal government. M. Amery, a former minister for the colonies spoke about the Ottawa conference, all the various speakers urged for a closer collaboration between the various European countries.

PROFESSOR PICCARD'S EXPERIMENT.

The height attained by Professor Piccard during his second trip into the stratosphere on August 18 is officially stated by the Swiss Aero Club to have been 16,201 metres (10 miles 117 yards), which is rather lower than the 16,500 metres claimed by Professor Piccard at the time, but is still higher than the altitude of just under ten miles which he attained on his first trip last year. The figures given by the Swiss Aero Club are subject to confirmation by the International Aeronautical Federation.

THE SWISS BROADCAST NETWORK.

Practical experience seems to prove that radio transmission can only be utilised to its greatest advantage when wire connexions are used in part of the circuit. In the early days radio was a competitor with wire transmission, but now it co-operates with it, the co-operation being to their mutual advantage. The transmitting stations in a broadcasting system are situated outside the cities where the studios are situated, and are connected to them by wires. In *Electrical Communi-*

cation for July, A. Muri, chief engineer of the postal administration at Bern, gives an interesting account of the Swiss broadcast network. For broadcasting purposes, Switzerland is divided into three zones. For French-speaking Switzerland, the main transmitter is at Sottens and is fed by the studios at Lausanne and Geneva. For German-speaking Switzerland, the main transmitter is at Beromünster and there are two relay transmitters at Bern and Basle. All three transmitters broadcast the same programme, and are fed from the studios at Zurich, Bern, and Basle as required. The main transmitter for Italian-speaking Switzerland is still under construction at Monte Ceneri. When completed it will be served by the studio at Lugano. In order to meet the requirements for music transmission, circuits having a cut-off frequency of 10,000 are provided. This enables a sound spectrum of 35-7500 cycles per second to be obtained without distortion. In addition, there exist lightly loaded circuits having a cut-off frequency of 6800 cycles, giving a range of 150-5000 cycles for broadcast speech transmission. At present 87 per cent of all the toll circuits are in underground cable.

A NEW WAY UP THE MATTERHORN.

A daring climbing feat was accomplished on September 18th, when the guides Carrel and Bieh, of Breuil, and two Italians ascended the Matterhorn by the hitherto unclimbed eastern rock wall. That wall falls almost perpendicularly from the shoulder on to the Furgg glacier and between the Furgg and Hörnli ridges.

From the Hörnli hut the climbers traversed the rock wall near its bottom, and towards its middle began climbing in the direction of the shoulder, which was reached without meeting serious difficulties. From the level of the shoulder to the summit remained 900ft. of rock wall, the last 150ft. of which is almost vertical and forms a buttress for the overhanging precipice in some places.

The four men spent 11 hours in climbing that buttress. They crossed steep conloirs, ascended vertical chimneys, often having to descend again by means of a double rope, and at times had no more support than the iron hooks which they had fixed into the rock.

After sunset they were overtaken by a thunderstorm, and spent the night in a small cave under the summit. There were two more thunderstorms during the night and snow fell; but the temperature did not fall too low, and early next morning they reached the top of the Matterhorn, whence they descended along the Hörnli ridge to Zermatt.

SWISS MACHINERY EXPORTS.

Among the Swiss industries to suffer most severely from the decreased purchasing power of foreign countries was that of heavy machinery, which includes steam turbines, engines and boilers, internal combustion engines, textile machinery, locomotives and commercial vehicles. Holland took first place among the purchasers of Swiss internal combustion engines, with a value of 2,791,055 fr., while China, France, Germany and Great Britain followed in that order, with respective totals of 1,979,950, 1,336,320, 1,014,899 and 933,877fr. France headed the list in the steam engine and turbine section, with 4,204,723 fr., Belgium, Soviet Russia, Holland and the Argentine coming next, with 2,220,243, 1,107,767 and 812,493 fr. respectively. The total Swiss export of machinery, of which these two items account for 14,711,081 and 15,904,777 fr. respectively, declined by 32.7 per cent. in comparison with the preceding year's figures. Swiss exports of all goods to Great Britain during the year under review amounted in value to 235.7 million francs, while her purchases of British goods were returned at only 96.4 millions. With the devaluation of sterling, however, there has been a drastic change in this position. The figures for December show a decline of 50 per cent. in the value of Swiss exports to this country, while, despite the fall in prices, purchases of British goods increased in value by 15 per cent.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th
for the
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL
at the
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

An incendiary bomb, thrown by young men believed to be Italians, caused an outbreak of fire in the Italian Consulate General in Zurich.

Passers-by observed three young men acting in a suspicious manner, and saw a fourth man hand to one of the others a parcel which was thrown through an open window on the ground floor of the Consulate.

The police were immediately summoned and gave chase, but the suspects escaped. Considerable damage was done to the building, and some of the consular papers and records were destroyed.

This incident recalls that a few months ago a similar attempt was made to destroy by fire the Italian Consulate at Geneva and also that the anti-Fascist *émigrés* in this country have never ceased their subterranean activities against Rome. The authorities now suspect that there is an organised conspiracy directed against the Italian Government representatives in Switzerland.

The Zurich section of the Swiss Alpine Club has given an amount of 20,000f. for helping the unemployed.

BERNE.

M. Dominik Flury, a well-known cigar merchant in Berne, was killed when chamois hunting in the Valüna Valley.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Dr. E. Koenig, for many years chief of the weights and measures office.

AARGAU.

Stadtmann Hans Hässig, has, at the end of last month, retired from his post, which he held for 25 years with great distinction. The town of Aarau loses thus one of her most faithful and excellent servants.

M. Hässig, who studied theology, has never officiated as a clergyman, but for many years he has taken an active part in various welfare institutions of his native canton. For a considerable time he was closely connected with the Kasteln institution, he was also one of the promoters of the Aargauische Heilstätte für Tuberkulose. He entered the "Gemeinderat" in 1889 to which he belonged without interruption until the end of last month. From 1901 - 1907 he officiated as "Vizeammann," in 1907 he succeeded the then acting Stadtmann, Max Schmidt, who entered the cantonal government. During his long term of office, the town of Aarau has passed through many stages of transformation, and if to-day the capital of the canton Aargau is not only one of the best organised towns in Switzerland, but also one of the most prosperous ones, the late chief magistrate Hans Hässig can claim a big share. The town of Aarau will not soon forget the great services which its distinguished son has rendered to it.

BASLE.

The winners of the Gordon-Bennett Balloon Race, Lt-Colonel Settle and Bushnell arrived in Basle last Saturday, and received a great reception. High officials of the Organising Committee, together with representatives of the Swiss Aero-Club, as well as a great number of Press Reporters, were awaiting the arrival of the pilots at the Central Station.

At the dinner which was offered to the two pilots, Dr. Dietschi, President of the Organisation Committee welcomed the Americans, and extended to them heartiest congratulations on behalf of the Swiss Aero-Club and the Swiss people.

Lt-Colonel Settle, in a short speech thanked the President for the hearty reception accorded to him and his colleague. He gave an account of his experiences during the flight, which were listened to with great interest.

Dr. E. Hoffmann-Stehlin, Director of the firm Hoffmann La Roche & Cie., A. G. in Basle, was killed last Sunday; he was passing the unguarded level crossing at Leimeren on the road Lyss-Aarberg, when his Mercedes car was caught broadside by the Lausanne-Lyss train. The impact was terrific and the car was smashed to pieces. Dr. Hoffmann was extracted with difficulty from the debris and taken in a serious condition to the District Hospital at Aarberg, where he died on Monday morning. He was born in Basle in 1896, he studied Chemistry and law at various Universities and took the degree of doctor of law. In 1921 he was appointed Manager of the sister society at Brussels, and in 1930 he was transferred to the head office in Basle.

(Continued on back page).

Home News—(Continued).

Dr. Hoffmann was President of the "Basler Kunstverein" and was a very popular personality in the social circles of the town.

The electors of the town of Basle have, with a large majority voted the necessary funds for a renovation of the Spalenter. (4,033 for, 1,119 against).

APPENZEL I. RH.

M. Bischof, Manager of the Appenzel-Innerrhodischen Cantonal Bank has resigned from his post for reasons of health.

GRISONS.

Burglars entered the Roman-Catholic church in Davos-Dorf, and took away six communion vessels to the value of 3,000 frs.

VAUD.

A French lady visitor staying at an Hotel in Lausanne was robbed of jewelry and securities to the value of 50,000fr.

THE EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

To the Editor, *Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in sending you herewith cheque for subscription due, I always read with great interest anything which the *Swiss Observer* brings regarding the Swiss Societies in England.—

I am sure the crisis and its consequences are making many of our compatriots abroad more home-sick than ever, thinking that everything would be just O.K. for them if only they were in Switzerland. But if they were here they would soon find out that the crisis also needs to be overcome here, and that business and work are not to be had for the mere asking for them. If the Swiss people at home and abroad were working together as a nation, like the British people do, I am still convinced that there would be no country better off and happier than Switzerland, and that there is therefore still *hope* for the Swiss of a *better future*. But what is needed is action and unselfish co-operation, rather than News Paper articles and preaching of all kinds.

The Swiss at home are so much concerned with the little cantonal and communal affairs and with the great "World" problems of Hitler, Hoover, Mussolini, Ghandi, Devalera, League of Nations, Disarmament, etc., that there is hardly any time left to think about *Swiss National problems* at home and abroad.

Switzerland has good brains, good hands and sinews, wealth and very valuable natural resources, but generally too poor leadership and lack of "*esprit de corps*," especially in industry, commerce and finance. There are too many square pegs in round holes! It is astounding how many responsible positions in factories and other offices are filled by foreigners who might easily be replaced by *Swiss* from abroad.

On a business journey to the beautiful Tessin not long ago, I had in my compartment a gentleman and his wife from Germany, probably a professor or high employee of the state.

He asked me if I knew a certain hotel which had been recommended to him as cheap and good. They had only about 200 Marks each with them, as it was not allowed to take more money abroad. With this amount they wanted to stay as long and naturally as comfortably as possible.

Standing at the window of the carriage and admiring the lovely country through which we passed, the fine waterfalls everywhere, the river below in the valley, the big saw-mills in full-swing, the great granite quarries with train-loads of fine stone blocks leaving them, the vineyards, the orchards, the fine picturesque villages on the mountain slopes along the railway lines, with their typical houses with painted facades, the beautiful old churches with characteristic campaniles, my travelling companions were genuinely happy and full of praise for all they saw.

In the adjoining compartments it was likewise. Everybody was boiling-over with joy, not only because of the wonderful scenery but also because of the nice warm sunshine and blue sky. Until we reached the north entrance of the St. Gothard tunnel it had been raining and was bitterly cold, the contrast was therefore quite overwhelming.

In our conversation and after these tourists had expressed their great admiration when they had seen the electric power station and the great pipe-lines which produced the power that moved our train, I said: "Who would have thought only a century ago that these high and rough mountains would become one day the source of such a mysterious and valuable power?" — "Aber in der Schweiz da steckt noch viel!"

Then you should have seen how this gentleman opened his eyes and replied in a very deep felt pensive tone: "Ja, ja, dass wissen wir eben!" But how many of our good Swiss people do not know it!

Yours faithfully,
Geneva, October 2nd, 1932.

M.B.

FOOTBALL.

Swiss Cup First Round, October 2nd, 1932.

Basel	4	Concordia	2
Young Boys	2	Biel	0
Zürich	5	Seebach after ex. time 1	
Chaux-de-Fonds	5	Solothurn	0
Lausanne	4	Etoile	0
Aarau	4	Oltén	1
Nordstern	0	Kreuzlingen	3
Young Fellows	3	Chiasso	1
Frauenfeld	0	Grasshoppers	7
Schaffhausen	0	Blue Stars	1
Lugano	6	Fortuna St. Gallen	0
Carouge	9	Gloria Le Locle	1
Servette	16	Burgdorf	0
Urania	9	Sierre	1
Bellinzona	8	Old Boys	0
Brühl	3	Oerlikon	1
Bözingen	0	Racing	1
Luzern	4	Allschwil	0
Vevey	1	Montreux	3
Grenchen	8	Yverdon	1
Locarno	10	Diana	2
Winterthur	2	Buchs (Aargau)	0
St. Gallen	3	Wädenswil	1
Bern	10	Lengnau	3
Juventus	1	Birsfelden	0
Monthey	2	Sp. G. Biel	1
Madretsch	7	Central Fribourg	5
Uster	5	Sp. C. Zug	2
S.R. Delsberg	5	Boudry	0
Balerna	3	Horgen (forfait) 2	
Mautier	4	Sion	3
Cantonal postponed		Stade Lausanne	

Who is Kreuzlingen? This is the only surprise of the first round. At the beginning of this Season Kreuzlingen was promoted from the third to the second League and they were drawn to play Nordstern, the Basle National League Club in Basle, and before three thousand spectators beat their class opponents on their merits decisively 3:0. There is no excuse for the National League Club. Kreuzlingen are a very keen and well balanced side, full of ambition to fight their way this Season into the First League and we can only wish them success.

Zurich had to fight hard to beat the newly promoted First League Club Seebach at home, the result being 1:1 at the end of full time, and they only managed to wear Seebach down in the extra half hour played.

Grasshoppers too had no easy success, as at half time the score still stood at 0:0.

The record, goes to Servette who beat Burgdorf the third League Club by 16:0! Half time score 9:0.

One more result deserves special mention and that is the debacle of Old Boys in Bellinzona, who lost 0:8. I am afraid Old Boys are getting "older and older" every week! M.G.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion 2/6; three insertions 5/-
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, October 12th, at 8.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Friday, October 28th, at 7 p.m. — Swiss Bank Club — Smoking Concert at Bridge House Hotel. Programmes 2/6 each.

Wednesday, October 19th, at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting followed by a causerie by the Rev R. Hoffmann-de Visme on "Impressions de Suede." at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, October 29th at 2 and 4 o'clock p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Film Show at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road: The art and technique of skiing.

Friday, November 4th, at 8 p.m. — Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 — Alfred Huggenberger Vortragabend: Aus eigenen Werken. Nouvelle Société Helvétique and Swiss Institute Orchestral Society.

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Dimanche, le 9 octobre, 11h. — "Ecouter un prédicateur" Ezedriel XXXIII, v. 30-33. — M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

6.30 M. R. Desaulles — Prédication.
7.30 — Répétition du Choeur.

Mardi, le 11 octobre, 8h. — Réunion de Couture au Foyer.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux instructions religieuses, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6. (Téléphone: Archway 1798). — Heure de réception à l'église: Mercredi de 11h. — 12.30.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 9. Oktober 1932.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule
7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

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Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.