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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### THE FIRST OF AUGUST.

Several cantonal authorities have issued orders to the effect that demonstrations which do not form part of the official celebrations will be prohibited on the 1st of August. Likewise the wearing of uniforms (so called "shirts") and the carrying of any kind of arms are interdicted.

#### THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

The official figures of the Federal Accounts for the six months to end of June exhibit an excess of expenditure of 1.8 million francs; for the same period last year a surplus of 19.6 million francs was secured.

#### SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

Traffic returns for the first six months of the current year are still unsatisfactory though the figures for the months of April and June compare favourably with the corresponding period last year. The traffic surplus amounts to about 30 million francs (2½ million less than for the first six months in 1932) which is nearly 35 million francs short of the amount required to cover interest, depreciation and amortisation.

#### ARMY SENTENCES.

During the sitting of the fourth divisional court at Lucerne two legionaries were dealt with. It is not generally known that in 1928 service in a foreign army without the consent of the Federal Council was enacted an offence. One of our compatriots happened to be "down and out" in Paris and as a last resort joined the French Foreign Legion. He was given an excellent character but the Court sentenced him to 60 days imprisonment for having "weakened the defences" of our country. Another one had joined the Legion as far back as 1923; previously to that he had not been altogether a "good boy"; he had even been dismissed from the Swiss Army. He chose to start life afresh in the African desert service. Ten years isolation and hard work in the African sand and sun had not killed the love for his old country which on his return promptly recompenses him with 60 days imprisonment.

#### LESS SWISS ABROAD.

The number of Swiss who emigrated into overseas countries during the six months to the end of June is 470 or 65 less than in the corresponding period last year.

#### DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF . . .

A Swiss customs official (and a first lieutenant in the Army) at the frontier station of Erzingen happened to make a disparaging remark about the German regime in the hearing of his German colleagues. He was subsequently lured across the frontier, arrested and sentenced to four weeks imprisonment.

#### SWISS PILOT KILLED.

Werner Stöcklin from Zug who had flown a new machine from Geneva to Lyon in order to deliver it to a local surgeon, subsequently made a fatal crash whilst displaying it to its intended new owner. Both were killed on the spot.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The improvement in the labour market which has been evident since the end of January still proceeds. The number of unemployed registered at the end of June amounts to 53,860 as against 57,163 to end of May. With the exception of the watch industry, all trades have had a share in this improvement, particularly so the textile industry.

### LOCAL.

#### ZÜRICH.

The death is reported of Prof. Robert Seidel after a protracted illness at the age of 83. He was a popular lecturer on social subjects both at the Polytechnicum and the University. He had immigrated in 1870 from Saxony being by trade a weaver, started later on in business, was appointed school-teacher and took a keen interest in municipal affairs. He was a member of the National Council.

#### BERNE.

The municipality of Bienne has managed to close its financial year with a smaller deficit than was originally anticipated. The deficiency is now only 1.2 million francs (!) instead of 1.4 million francs.

#### BASLE.

The "Basler Vorwärts," a communist daily will have to find another editor: Robert Krebs, who hails from Oppligen (Canton Berne) has been expelled from the canton by order of the police department; he has given notice of appeal to the States Council.

#### SOLOTHURN.

Remarkably keen interest was shown in the election of the "Stadtammann" of Olten no less than 93% of the town fathers recording their votes. Dr. Hugo Meyer (liberal) found favour by a small majority over his opponent National Councillor Dr. Kamber (socialist).

A bill is being submitted to the Cantonal Council according to which all civil servants will be automatically pensioned off on reaching the age of 65.

#### ST. GALL.

The Tamina Gorge between Vättis and Pfäfers was the scene of a serious accident. A large car with six passengers missed the road border and dropped 150 metres. With great difficulty the party was extricated alive and transported to a local hospital. The condition of the chauffeur and Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Bodenmann from Zurich is stated to be grave.

#### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

Dr. Heinrich Bolli (liberal) has, for reasons of health, retired from the Federal States Council of which he has been a member since 1906.

#### VAUD.

A largely attended meeting of traders and retailers convened by the cantonal Chamber of Commerce protested vigorously against the proposed registration of the "Migros S. A.," apparently a wholesale company transacting a large business with consumers in other parts of Switzerland.

### FOOTBALL.

#### DELEGATES MEETING IN VEVEY.

On July 15/16th important decisions were arrived at, with unprecedented and quite unexpected ease, in an atmosphere of almost perfect harmony.

The National League will consist of 16 Clubs next season, 15 clubs in 1934/35 and 14 clubs in 1935/36. These will play in one group, season to commence on 27th August 1933 and end on 8th July 1934. The final leader of the National League will ipso facto be holder of the Swiss Championship. Those ridiculous "Finals" thus become a thing of the past. As the S.F.A.V. reckoned their loss of revenue caused thereby at no less than frs. 38,000.—, an extra international match is to be played annually by way of compensation. Any remaining deficiency the National League Clubs will have to make good.

The First League continues to play in two groups, East and West, of 9 clubs each, to be increased to 10 and 11 each in the following two seasons.

Some opposition to the President of the Football-Committee, O. Eichler, had made itself felt for some time and whilst Young Boys Bern proposed re-election, F.C. Bern nominated W. Müller, Bern's popular captain of Police, with the result of: O. Eichler 218 Votes (re-elected): W. Müller 185 Votes.

Next years delegates meeting is to take place in Lugano.

And finally we would like to express our great regret at the decision of our old friend Henry Tschudy, to make way for younger blood. His is a great record of 31 years continuous service in the S.F.A.V. where he held at one time or other every important office with distinction. In Eastern Switzerland and particularly in St. Gall his name is a household word, synonymous with "a great sportsman." Let us hope that his vast store of experience and good advice may still be at the disposal of his old Club, F. C. St. Gallen. It is difficult to decide whether to commend or condemn laying down one's charges at the early age of 51. No doubt it has been done with the best intentions and if there are young men to take up the work with equal or greater energy, tact and vision, the S.F.A.V. is indeed to be congratulated. M.G.

## 1st AUGUST

1291 — 1933.

By KYBURG.

When the tumult of the day has died down, when the hurrying footsteps of those returning from work are not heard anymore, when the little children are safely put away in their cots, when father turns to the newspaper, lights his pipe or cigar or cigarette and settles himself down in his chair to read of happenings outside his immediate circle, when, mother takes up her darning needle and when, through the wide-open windows the preciously cool air of the summer evening streams into the room and all is peace and quietude, when, in the words of that wonderful song "Die Dämmerung sinkt auf's Schweizerland" then, if it be the 1st of August, all of a sudden, bells are heard all over the country, joyous bells, thankful bells, little ones and big, deep-voiced ones, all sending out one momentous message to the people:

### Switzerland Again Celebrates Its Independence!

Gladness and gratitude fill the heart of every right thinking man and woman. Gladness that once again Switzerland has been allowed to live a year in peace, gratitude that once again the Swiss People may celebrate that precious gift which surpasses everything else in importance, that FREEDOM.

Bon-fires are lit on the hills and mountains, signalling one to the other that "all is well," songs are sung in the Towns and villages testifying to the same message, speeches are made from endless platforms to thank Providence and to exhort the listeners to continue living lives worthy of FREEMEN and FREEWOMEN.

We SWISS living abroad, separated from our homeland by land and by sea, send our innermost thoughts across on that evening, across to our beloved country, across to the hills and dales, the eternal mountains and in those moments, when we celebrate in close union of spirit with our kinsmen at home, we too feel that deep gratitude, that holy stir in our hearts, we too, testify with our kinsmen and rejoice that once again "all is well."

We are proud to signal, not only to each other, but to the World at large, that "all is well" in Switzerland. We know very well that there is a great deal happening also in Switzerland, to which that signal could not be applied, but when, on the 1st of August we Swiss celebrate our INDEPENDENCE, we say "all is well," and we signal it to those abroad, not in a spirit of arrogance, of superiority, but in a spirit of deep gratitude, and in the hope that others, who, in an effort to cure the ills that beset their people, chase after all sorts of chimerical expedients, might take stock of themselves and their thoughts and turn, for a moment, to the contemplation of what has been achieved in Switzerland and what is being held fast there.

It has been stated with a great show of reason that the abolition of patriotism must necessarily precede any serious attempt to bring the Nations of the World together in a closer union.

It all depends what one understands by the term "patriotism." If it means the love one bears one's own country to the exclusion of kindly consideration for any other, if it means that one's own country must be considered right in every case, that one's own country must come first in every instance, that one must be imbued with the notion that no other country can possibly come near it in any way, that no other country's people

can possibly be anywhere so good and excellent as one's own countrymen and women, then I agree to the necessity of abolishing Patriotism.

If on the other hand, Patriotism means the natural love any living man or woman has for his or her country of origin, the same as the love that a Winterthurer quite naturally feels for his home-town, but which does not prevent him for feeling a deep love also for the Canton of Zurich and equally so, even more perhaps, for the country of Switzerland, then I disagree.

Patriotism which enables one to extend one's love for one's nearest home to the larger home without and from that to the still larger home which is represented by the country of one's birth, and from that, it would follow quite naturally, to the still larger home represented, say, by the Continent of one's birth, and, still extending, to the whole Earth, is a fine thing and to be encouraged.

And, I think and hope, in that respect, we Swiss can be an example to others. We can show other Nationals that, although we are Swiss first and foremost, we are also good Europeans and good "Worlders" if I may coin that name.

When we come to look into the history of the Swiss Confederation, as we know it to-day, we shall see that it has grown up from very small beginnings, in precisely the same way, as the World-Confederation will grow up. From a beginning of three small Cantons in 1291, it embraces to-day 22 Cantons, most of them, as individual Cantons, larger than any of the three first ones.

This progress from the smaller to the larger UNIT has been slow, has necessitated a number of wars, all sorts of "international" clashes, religious strife, economic wars, congresses and conferences in great numbers and of the most varied composition, but, finally and under the pressure of necessity as much as because the individual really wanted it, the FUSION has come about, gradually, painfully at times, joyously in other instances.

Tariff wars, quotas I believe, and other trade hampering devices, all have been used at one time or another during the growth of this Switzerland, this Swiss League of Nations, until to-day, Switzerland has

ONE COUNTRY — ONE CONSTITUTION — ONE DESTINY

which, as friend Stauffer said in last year's 1st of August message in the S. O., constitutes PATRIOTISM.

In other words, the growth of the small units into a larger WHOLE has not done away with Patriotism, but, on the contrary, made Patriotism possible, in a loftier form, in a form which in its interpretation means much more to the welfare of the individual Swiss than did the old form of patriotism embracing only the smaller unit.

"ALL IS WELL" signal the celebrations in Switzerland on the 1st August 1933, because the difficulties of the time through which we, in common with the whole World are passing and which are, as, I believe, emerges fairly clearly from the above, and the travail of the World struggling towards that greater FUSION of its individual units, are difficulties which, although they beset our people at home directly and impose extremely heavy sacrifices upon them, are as nothing, compared to the all important fact that our Switzerland, that lovely, beautiful country of ours, is SAFE and INDEPENDENT.

Therefore, when WE SWISS celebrate the 1st of August let us be aware of the deep significance attached to that UNITY and INDEPENDENCE which we celebrate. Let us take renewed hope that one day it may be possible to celebrate this festival of achieved Unity and Independence on a much larger scale. Let us hope that the World at large will finally realise that salvation will come only when the various units come together, that improvement will be possible only when the various forms of warfare in which the various countries are engaging in to-day, have ceased and when in their stead there is PEACE and GOODWILL, UNITY and INDEPENDENCE.

We all have learnt, from the lips of men like Arthur Henderson and others qualified to form an opinion on such matters that FEAR is the greatest stumbling block to Disarmament and to the efforts that are being made to abolish trade barriers, in other words, to the bringing together of the Nations into one harmonious, and therefore INDEPENDENT WHOLE.

May not they look at the history of Switzerland too, they that FEAR?

Swiss History will teach them of fears that brought about wars and other disturbances throughout the growth of the Swiss Confederation. At the same time, the Switzerland we know to-day, will teach them, how utterly unfounded those fears were, how infinitely better off the various, formerly individually independent members of the Swiss Confederation are to-day, now that their former individual has been merged into the greater sovereignty embracing them all.

"ALL IS WELL! Let us pray that this signal may flash next year not only from the eternal mountains of our beloved Switzerland, but from all the beacons right throughout the whole world!

And meanwhile, on the evening of August 1st, 1933, let us send our affectionate thoughts across to our dear homeland, commune with our people and celebrate with them, and let us thank GOD and invoke his further blessing on the land of our fathers.

HEIL DIR HELVETIA!

VIVE LA SUISSE!

EL VIVA SVIZZERA!

### FILOSOFIA ESTIVA.

Un foglio bianco, a quadretti violacei, mi sta davanti: mi sfida, mi schernisce quasi perché vede che non riesco ad interessare entro questo suo reticolato, nessun disegnano nero, che, alla fine, abbia la pretesa di chiamarsi "un articolo."

Comodo, per questa carta, lo schermarmi, ma come si fa a mettere in movimento con alquanta alacrità, quel povero cervello che si trova così bene, assonnato e tranquillo? Provate a scuotere un po' bruscamente un dormicchio e sentirete che brontolio ne ricevete per ringraziamento! Pensare — intendiamoci: pensare qualche cosa che ne valga la pena — come si fa con questa caldura che ci prende per tanti fantocci di celluloidi e ci liquefa adagio, adagio?... Niente affatto! non bisogna lasciarsi prendere dall'indolenza... avanti! Una nel magazzino dell'energia un tantino di questa specie di benzina umana che ci fa muovere, vivere! — Forse che non hanno energia in corpo quegli uccelletti che nascono tra i frondosi alberi, incominciano a cinguettare già all'alba, quando il cielo ha quel tenue color azzurro, lieve come un sospiro, chiazziato qua e là di rosa, timidamente dorato dai primi raggi del sole? — E che da fare hanno queste rondini! come svolazzano intorno, giù e su, su e giù; si direbbe che tutti il lavoro dell'universo è sulle loro spalle, meglio, sulle loro aliucce che battono, fendono l'aria di continuo, senza posa. Che chiacchierone sono! (giù... appartengono al genere femminile!) cosa poi han sempre da raccontarsi? Cose gentili solo, credo, perché con quelle loro note musicali così dolci, non possono non dirci cose gentili. Non sanno di certo, loro, che voglia dire brontolare, imprecare! Pettegole mie male, ma senza maldicenza: come quelle vecchie che, alla sera, sedute sul limitare di casa loro, vanno narrandosi i casi della vita, pronosticando un avvenire oscuro o sereno, fu il loro passato, il loro presente... Ma... giova pronosticare il futuro? giova forse pensare, affannarsi per questo indomani? chi lo conosce? nessuno; neanche chi lo vede delinearsi davanti a sé, nitido come l'aurora... Buio, buio pesto, null'altro. Nel cielo sereno i nuvoloni si accavallano all'improvviso, quando più splende il sole; gli acquazzoni cadono a rovescio quando men lo si crede... Ma, consoliamoci, la legge della ricompensa esiste per qualche cosa; la bufera pur avendo forse sconvolto, non può essere eterna; passerà, e il sole ritornerà a brillare più fulgido di prima anzi; e i benefici suoi raggi ricostruiranno ciò che venne distrutto; accarezzandoli, assopiranno, faranno scomparire, i dolori... E intanto, noncuranti, i bimbi questi garruli uccelletti umani, cinguettano nei prati smeraldini, dove i vivaci colori dei fiori interrompono quella verdea uniformità. Ecco l'avvenire... eccolo lì che gioca a rincorrersi, a rimpattino, "alla casa!" che sgambetta vivace, ruzzola e ride... Che importa loro se qualche temporale improvviso li faccia correre al riparo? ridono i bimbi dell'acqua che cade, e aspettano che cessi, poi usciranno di bel nuovo, a riprendere il giuoco interrotto... il loro giuoco che a volte attraversa momenti gravi... così proprio come la vita!

luglio 1933

Elena Lunghi.

### MEMORIES OF THE VALAIS.

By SIR ARTHUR HORT.

A trip taken in 1931 to two of the most frequented resorts in the Canton Valais has stirred memories of forty years back and more, and tempts me to some discursive reminiscences. In the long interval I have, though an almost fanatical lover of mountains, avoided Switzerland for a combination of reasons which it would be tedious to enumerate. The French Pyrenees have lured me a dozen times, and I have made some acquaintance with the French and Italian Alps, Dauphiny, Savoy, Piedmont, South Tirol. One reason for the choice of Alps outside Switzerland may be mentioned: I confess to a foolish habit of collecting alpine plants and endeavouring, with varying success, to grow them. Now it happens that the flora of the Eastern and Western ends of the chain is on the whole richer than that of the Central Alps. It happens also that it has become less easy to take plants from territory under Swiss rule on account of recent prohibitive legislation: at all events, one has to go to the trouble of convincing the authorities that one uses the trowel with due discretion, and does not, like the heedless persons whom the law was framed to restrain, tear up plants indiscriminately without regard to their rarity or to the possibility of acclimatising them.

But to turn back from recent experience to the now distant years of which it has refreshed the memory. I first crossed the Channel in 1885 with my father, having just taken my degree. He had been an expert climber and was one of the founders of the Alpine Club, the idea of which was first broached in a letter to him from Mr. W. Mathews. Since he had perforce given up climbing he had continued to visit the Alps almost every summer, and his knowledge of the mountains and their less obvious hostilities was thorough. Many years before 1885 he had noticed the wonderful possibilities as an Alpine station of Fée on a shelf above the Saasthal and at Saas-Fée, as the place had now come to be called (inaccurately, as the late Mr. Coolidge informed me), he now proposed that we should make our principal stay: the first hotel had been opened the year before.

I was first however to see something of the Bernese Oberland giants, and we walked over the Gemmi by the horrible dusty zigzags down to Leukerbad. Here it was our duty to see the sights of the place, the patients taking their cure all together in a large bath: they stood up to their necks in water and took light refreshments from floating trays. As we entered, we were greeted with shouts from the bathers. I could not detect what they were saying, but our guide explained that the shouts were aimed at me and that the words were "Chapeaux! Chapeaux! il y a des dames ici." I removed my hat and received a round of cheers. I wonder if this mild jest still continues: the Lötschberg short cut to the upper part of the Rhone Valley has probably deprived Leukerbad of many visitors. From the baths we drove down to Leuk in that stifling hollow, and thence trained to Visp, where we passed a hot, uncomfortable night. The next day my father rode a mule and I walked up the Saasthal to Saas-Fée: now and for these many years you train as far as Stalden and escape the hottest and dustiest stage. In a few more years' time you (if you wish it — the prospect does not allure me) will be able to drive all the way by the new road now under construction.

The long tramp (we took all day over it, stopping for rest and refreshment at Stalden and Saas-im-Grund) was enlivened for me by the way-side sights of gorgeous butterflies, lizards, and huge crimson crickets, and by the eating of sour barberries. There were then two hotels at Fée, one only just finished. The company at the older hotel, where we stayed, was mainly English. It included, at or soon after the time of our arrival, G. H. Rendall, afterwards headmaster of Charterhouse; A. W. Verrall, most revolutionary of critics of Attic tragedy and most lovable of men, with his wife, also a distinguished classical scholar; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Leaf, with their two sons, Walter, the brilliant Hellenist, and equally eminent as a man of business; and Herbert, beloved of many generations of boys who, like myself, were educated at Marlborough — where happily he still lives.

Thus Cambridge scholarship was strongly represented. Walter Leaf had been senior classic, Rendall third in the same year, Verrall was second in the year in which S. H. Butcher was senior. There was also the much respected Bursar of Marlborough, J. S. Thomas, with his family. "Respected" is perhaps hardly a strong enough word. I remember that once, when a boy had the hardihood to write him a letter, to which however he had not the courage to append his name, complaining of the school dietary, the answer was a notice on the school board: "The boy who writes anonymous letters to the Bursar is advised to take the more manly course of a personal inter-

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