

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: - (1934)

Heft: 665

Rubrik: Some of the forthcoming events in Switzerland

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 30.01.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

August 23 and following days
Swiss Golf Championship for Ladies, open to amateurs, on the Engadine Golf Links at Samaden-St. Moritz.

August 25
Peasant Costume Ball at the Kursaal at Interlaken.

August 25 and 26
Swiss Golf Championship 1934 with International Participation at Lausanne-Ouchy.

August 26
Swimming Competitions at the Interlaken Swimming Baths.
"Grand Prix Suisse" for Automobiles (Bremgarten Circuit) at Berne.
Opening of the Football Season at Lausanne.

August 26-September 2
Bicycle Tour of Switzerland, starting at Geneva.
Second International Beach Week at Lausanne-Ouchy.

August 27
Ladies' Cup on the Engadine Golf Links at Samaden-St. Moritz.

August 28-September 2
International Tennis Tournaments at Lucerne.

August 30-October 10
Vacation Course for Modern French at the University of Lausanne.

August 31
Fashion Show at the Kursaal at Lucerne.

September
International Festivals during League of Nations Session at Geneva.

September 1-6
30th World Peace Congress at Locarno.

September 2 and 9
Open-air William Tell performances at Interlaken.
William Tell Performances at Altdorf.

September 3-9
International Tennis Tournament at Lausanne-Ouchy.

September 4-7
Congress of the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Energy at Lausanne.

September 6-16
International Golf Contests at Lausanne.

September 7-9
Swiss National Golf Championship at Lausanne for Ladies and Gentlemen.

September 8-23
Swiss Fair of Agriculture and Food Industries at Lausanne.

September 9
Sailing Regatta at Lausanne-Ouchy.

September 13-15
Golf Championship (Watson Cup) at Lausanne.

September 14
"Engelweihe," Divine Dedication, at Einsiedeln.

September 15
Chamois Hunting begins at Interlaken.

September 16
Federal Prayer and Thanksgiving Sunday.

September 17-22
Tennis Tournament at Grindelwald.

September 18-25
International Tennis Tournament at Lausanne.

September 22 and 23
National Costumes Festival at Montreux.

September 23
Concours Hippique of the Geneva Society of Cavalry at Geneva.

September 29 and 30
Valaisan Vineyard and Autumn Festival at Sion.

October and November
International Radio Show at Geneva.

October 14
Bicycle Tour of the Canton of Geneva, starting from Geneva.
St. Meinrad's Feast at Einsiedeln, with final celebrations of the 1000th Anniversary.

October 30-November 4
International Concours Hippique at Geneva.

November
International Tennis Championship on Covered Courts at Champel, Geneva.
First International Basketball Tournament at Geneva.
Bridge Challenge at Lausanne.
Inter-Pensionnats Ping-Pong Tournament at Lausanne.
Festival of the Nations at Lausanne.
November 4-11
International Peace Week at Geneva.

LONDON SWISS RIFLE TEAM.

At a general meeting of the Team held last Thursday, the 12th of July, at the Swiss Hotel, Old Compton Street, W.1, the final arrangements in connection with the participation at the forthcoming "Tir Fédéral" were discussed and settled.

The following members will represent the London Colony at this national competition festival: Messrs. O. Brullhard, A. Burkhardt, A. Deubelbeiss, J. C. Fenner, W. Fischer, A. Fuchs, J. M. Hess, P. Hilfiker, F. Notter, Alf. Schmid, Arn. Schmid, H. Senn and J. C. Wetter. All of them have now left for Fribourg, the statutory rounds having to be fired off between July 21st and August 1st.

We wish to stress the point that the competitors are bearing the whole of the expense themselves, no contribution from outside sources having been solicited nor offered. The unfavourable exchange position added to four months' of persevering training involve a heavy personal sacrifice and demonstrate both their patriotism and love of our national sport.

A special collection made amongst the members of the Team will enable them to offer to the Prize Committee in Fribourg an exquisite silver cup suitably engraved.

On behalf of the London Colony we desire to offer the London Swiss Rifle Team best wishes for the success it so fully deserves.

THE NEW ADVENTURERS.

Since the war there has come into existence a school of young mountaineers whose motives and methods are radically different from those of the older generation. To the latter the new point of view may be uncongenial, but it must be remembered that it is the gradual and inevitable changing of conditions that has just as gradually and inevitably produced the modern methods. The new technique, outrageous as it may seem, to some, has in fact been nothing more than an adaptation to the altered circumstances.

In the happy days in the middle of the last century, when the vogue of mountaineering may be said to have started, there seemed to be an unlimited number of unclimbed peaks. This period may be designated as the first phase of Alpine climbing, and it was not until the end of the last century that the seeker after virgin peaks had to look further afield than the Alps. Towards the end of the last century, however, the decreasing number of unconquered summits had compelled the more adventurous to find distraction in discovering new routes to the familiar mountaintops. Nor was this unreasonable, for the pioneers who had climbed the Swiss and Italian sides of the Matterhorn, or traversed Monte Rosa from Italy into Switzerland, or had explored the classic routes on Mont Blanc, had long ago realised that each new way of approach, to even the most familiar peak, constituted a completely different and novel expedition. For instance, only an expert would guess that the Matterhorn, whose vast bulk dominates the Italian pastures at Breuil, is the same mountain that towers so gracefully and impressively above the Swiss village of Zermatt. In fact, when approached from opposite sides, the Matterhorn is as different to climb as it is to look at, and this applies to all great peaks.

So for a time the profusion of variety to be found on each of the great mountains satisfied even the most adventurous: it was the Indian summer of mountaineering; the evil day on which it had been expected that the Alps would be "exhausted" seemed to be indefinitely postponed, and new routes sufficed instead of new peaks. This period may be called the second phase of Alpine climbing, and it continued approximately until the end of the European War. Throughout this second phase there was a growing tolerance on the part of the Alpine world towards guideless climbing, a practice which the majority of the pioneers had looked upon as a dangerous form of naughtiness. Since the earliest days, it is true, there had been successful guideless ascents, but they were only sporadic instances, and Canon Girdlestone's prolonged guideless activities in the 'sixties did little to change opinion, for his ingenious narrative revealed too many hair-breadth escapes to encour-

age others to follow his example. However, a campaign in 1876, accomplished by Messrs. Charles and Lawrence Pilkington in company with Mr. Gardiner, was a very different affair. Within the limits of a comparatively short holiday these three carried out with unvarying success a series of guideless expeditions of all degrees of difficulty. The effect of this performance was decisive, and guideless climbing from that day gradually became respectable. Later on, too, the advent of a class of amateurs who could spend more time, money and thought on mountaineering than even the best guides could spare made it evident that men with the necessary leisure and aptitude were at least as trustworthy as guides for any expedition, however difficult. Subsequently, with the general impoverishment that followed the European War, there were few climbers left with money enough to pay guides for long engagements, and, after the war, guideless expeditions became so common that they no longer excited comment.

But even so, during the second phase of Alpine climbing, apart from this relenting attitude to the question of guideless expeditions, the views of the majority of mountaineers remained orthodox, and strict attention was still paid to the fundamental principles as preached and practised by the pioneers. The latter had always drawn the sharpest distinction between difficulty and danger. While admitting that mountaineers might enjoy difficulty with clear conscience and not be deterred by danger, they maintained that true mountain craft consisted not merely in conquering difficulties, but also, as far as possible, in circumventing dangers. Thus they held that no degree of mere difficulty could excuse an experienced mountaineer if he fell off his mountain. But they also declared that it was inexcusable for anyone to venture into the sort of place where the mountain was likely to do the falling and might fall upon the mountaineer. According to this theory, risk from falling stones and avalanches could nearly always be avoided. To run such risks voluntarily was, in the orthodox view, prejudicial to the good name of mountaineering.

After the war these ideas, which had worn so well, came to be discredited and repudiated by a new school which now arose among the numerous young guideless climbers. The third phase of Alpine climbing may now be said to have begun, and the greatest revolution that the ethics of mountaineering have yet undergone began to take place. It was partly caused, perhaps, by a war-worn attitude of mind, but chiefly by what has been often described as the "exhaustion" of the Alps. Now, it has been maintained very plausibly that the Alps can never be exhausted, and this is true, no doubt, in the case of those who love them best. On the other hand, in the case of a man whose motive in climbing may be a passion

for exploration, he will surely find that for him the Alps have been exhausted long before the last route up each gully, ridge, face or quarry has been charted with dotted lines and classified in the last and most exhaustive climber's guide-book of some future age.

The Alps have been referred to by a great writer and mountaineer as the playground of Europe. Such an analogy is disagreeably suggestive of gymnastic apparatus and asphalt schoolyards. Certainly, if the Alps have become a mere playground to us to-day, there is some excuse for the young generation's rejecting the hallowed traditional methods of mountaineering and the present state of affairs can be accounted for. When the best pitches of the playground are overcrowded, when play is becoming stale and the peaks, with all their routes, have been traversed again and again, what novelty or uncertainty is there left? The only solution is to alter the rules of the game, and the young generation will not scruple to do so. They will make the new principles clear by their deeds; dangers must be faced, chances must be taken, uncertainty can be improvised. Are not the very few great mountaineering problems that are left in the Alps all of them dangerous to solve as well as difficult? The word 'impossible' is to have no meaning to the new mountaineer; he is to conquer tempests as well as precipices of ice and rock; it is not for him to wait upon the weather. For him mountaineering is the same thing as war, and, as the enemy gives no quarter, all means are fair. Thousands of feet of rope, scores of hooks, clasps, pegs, wedges, stirrups, slings, hammers, or anything else in the world that can be dragged or carried up a mountain may be used: no manner of mechanical means need be rejected; this is the new spirit.

It is curious that no English names are to be found in the records of this peculiar school of mountaineering. It seems that its general principles do not appeal to Englishmen; at any rate the English do not appear to put them into practice as far as climbing mountains is concerned. But the new attitude to the mountains, whatever Englishmen may think of it, is responsible for some astonishing exploits, edifying and the reverse. On the enormous northern precipices of the Grandes Jorasses a campaign is waged annually, and during one of the numerous unsuccessful attempts to storm the impregnable heights an incident occurred which may serve to show the spirit of the new movement. During the first day's assault upon the tremendous cliffs, which are notoriously exposed to falling stones and falling ice, the rope joining two of the climbers was severed by falling stones and the head of an ice-axe which was suspended in the belt of one of the men was, as their report states, "obliterated" owing to the same cause. The mechanical means employed on some of these attempts are often in accordance with the new principles, and