

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: - (1935)

Heft: 721

Rubrik: Home news

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. 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. 14—No. 721

LONDON, AUGUST 17, 1935.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free) -	3/6
	6 Months (26 issues, post free) -	6/6
SWITZERLAND	3 Months (13 issues, post free) -	12/-
	6 Months (26 issues, post free) -	Fr. 7.50

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

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Reluctantly surrendering himself to the general desire for holidays, the Editor proposes to take a few weeks' respite. The publication of the "S. O." will therefore be suspended as from this issue, and the next number will appear again on Saturday, September 14th.

We trust that the faithful ones for whom the "S. O." has become an indispensable week-end diet, will bear with us for this short period.

The date of expiry of the prepaid subscriptions and advertising contracts will be correspondingly extended.

Any correspondence or enquiries received in the meantime will be attended to as usual.

THE PUBLISHERS.



HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The right of the Swiss National Bank to issue bank notes expires on June 20th, 1937. The Swiss National Bank has applied for the renewal of this privilege for another ten years — namely, to June 20th, 1947.

At its last week's meeting, the Federal Council recommended Parliament to approve the National Bank's application.

ITALIAN AGITATION IN SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council is taking a grave view of the propaganda which has been going on in the Ticino, for its union with Italy. The Federal Council has decided to prosecute on a charge of high treason Signor Emilio Colombi and Signorina Bontempi, who have been carrying on a pro-Italian campaign in a small Bellinzona paper, called the "Adula," and who have just been arrested.

The Federal Council considers that the correspondence which has been seized indicates that the two arrested persons and other supporters of the movement advocated by the "Adula" are aiming at intervention by a foreign Power in the internal affairs of Switzerland.

In addition the Council has asked the postal department to examine the question whether participation in the movement by Government servants is compatible with the law governing Swiss Government officials.

SWITZERLAND BANS ANTI-WAR CONGRESS.

The Swiss Federal Council decided to prohibit a projected international congress at Basle, which was to have been held Saturday to protest against the possibility of war between Italy and Abyssinia.

Considerable comment has been caused in Switzerland, partly by the Government's last-minute prohibition of this congress, and large capital has been made in Socialist and Communist circles of the suggestion that the decision has been really dictated by internal political considerations.

The Federal Council, however, has taken its decision under Article 102 of the Swiss Constitution (preservation of the internal and external safety of the Federation) and is naturally concerned to prevent unauthorised international gatherings for the purpose of discussing a matter which does not primarily concern Switzerland and which is also to some extent *sub judice*.

The Swiss Government might well feel that the only international body in Switzerland which has a right to discuss the Italo-Abyssinian ques-

tion is the League of Nations, and it would naturally wish to prevent some "amateur League of Nations" rushing in where even angels may fear to tread.

DIPLOMATIC NEWS.

M. Pierre Bonna of Geneva has been nominated, "Chef der Abteilung für Auswärtiges," at the same time he has been promoted to the rank of Minister. Minister Bonna was formerly Councillor of Legation at the Federal Political Dept. He will be succeeded by Dr. H. Fröhlicher, chief of the Consular Service.

SWISS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

In order to protect the home industry, the Federal Council has restricted the importation of cutlery.

KEEP OFF THE GRASS.

Several municipalities in the Canton of Grison have banned Motor camping, since the hotel trade has been adversely affected by the practice.

SWISS EXPORTS FALL.

Swiss imports in July were 300,000f. lower at 110,100,000f., compared with June.

Exports fell by 5,100,000f., to 62,200,000f. There is thus an adverse trade balance of 47,900,000f., against 43,100,000f. for the previous month.

SWISS GIRL'S ARREST.

The Swiss authorities have intervened to secure the release of a Basle servant girl who has been arrested by the German police at Lörrach across the frontier, on a charge of espionage. The girl declares that she went to Lörrach to visit the dentist. This is a common practice as dentists are cheaper in Germany than in Switzerland.

Despite the representations and protest made by the Swiss authorities, however, the girl is still held by the German police.

ALPINE FUND IN MEMORY OF KING ALBERT.

To help the families of mountaineers who lose their lives as guides or while climbing for sport, the Swiss and Belgian Alpine clubs have founded a "King Albert Memorial Fund" in honour of the late King of the Belgians.

More than 700 persons have lost their lives while climbing or skiing in Switzerland during the last 10 years. In the last few years the average annual death roll has been 100.

EXAMINING MAGISTRATE AND BANQUE POPULAIRE SUISSE.

The Examining Magistrate and the Public Prosecutor have agreed to drop the case against the following former General Managers and members of the staff of the Banque Populaire Suisse: Dr. Stadlin-Graf, Adolf Cassani, L. Jaquet, R. Lehmann, R. v. Tobel, and Ch. Niess (since dead) for lack of evidence. Criminal proceeding were taken at the time against these officers of the Bank charging them with "criminal negligence." Dr. Stadlin and A. Cassani, former General Managers, will have to bear half of the costs of the prosecution, the other half will be borne by the state. No indemnification to the other accused will be paid. Although judicial enquiry has been brought to a conclusion, the now re-organised Banque Populaire Suisse will continue its civil suit against the former directors.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

At the end of July 63,497 persons were unemployed, or 3,819 more than at the end of June. The figures in July 1934 were 49,198.

The Swiss Legation wish to notify all Swiss citizens resident within this Consular district that since January 1st, 1934, a new form of passport has been in use. Consequently all the old passports (green covers) will cease to be valid after December 31st, 1935.

Such old passports (green covers) as are still valid for three months or more on December 31st, 1935, will however be exchanged free of charge for a new passport.

For the issue of a new passport it is necessary to remit to the Legation two recent full-face photographs (without a hat and NOT Photomats), as well as the old passport and the Swiss Registration Card.

Passports can be issued for periods of 1, 3 or 5 years.

Holders of old passports (green covers) are advised to apply for their passports before December 31st, 1935.

SWISS PROFESSOR'S MISSION TO BRAZIL.

M. M. A. Bischoff, head of the Police Institute in Lausanne, and Professor at the University has been engaged for a three month lecturing tour by the Brazilian government.

"AUSLANDSCHWEIZER" AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

A group of young "Auslandschweizer" were received last week at the Federal Palais by Federal Councillor Motta.

NEW SWISS BANK.

The "Bündner Bank," of Chur, has been registered to carry on the business of the "Bank für Graubünden," now in liquidation, which stopped payments a year ago.

The capital of the "Bündner Bank" only amounts to Frs. 20,000, but it will be increased later, and creditors of the "Bank für Graubünden" will then receive shares and bonds for their claims. Dr. Friedrich von Tscharnar has been elected as president of the new bank's board of directors.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The population of Berne at the end of July numbered 120,502.

Dr. Marcel Godet, Director of the Swiss National Library has celebrated his 25th service Jubilee.

Dr. Porzig, Professor at the University in Berne, has been asked by the Bernese Government to relinquish his post as Group leader of the German Nat. socialist party. Prof. Porzig refused to do so and has handed in his resignation, which was accepted. Professor Porzig is returning to Germany.

Dr. Emil Ryser, for many years Pastor at the "Pauluskirche" in Berne has died in Zweisimmen, where he was on a visit to his son, at the age of 78.

Dr. F. Ludwig, medical practitioner in Berne and Dr. E. Hintzsche, "Prosektor" at the Institute of Anatomy in Berne have been appointed Professors of medicine at the University in Berne.

BASLE.

Dr. Andreas Heusler, Professor of philology at the University of Basle has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Professor Heusler was from 1890-1919 Professor at the University in Berlin. He was born in Basle in 1865, the son of the well-known historian A. Heusler.

ZURICH.

An announcement, that it has been established that the "Realkredit- und Verwaltungen A.G." and "Kontroll und Organisations A.G." both of Zurich, have been carrying on their business on a fraudulent basis for some time, has caused great surprise. Six arrests have been made, namely C. Th. Straub, director, A. Imhof, Alfr. Schwander and Füllemann a notary in Berlingen. Losses sustained by clients are exceeding 1½ million francs.

LUCERNE.

An epidemic of infantile paralysis has broken out in various places in the canton of Lucerne. Several deaths are reported. The schools in the villages of Hergiswil and Zell had to be closed.

VAUD.

M. Adolf Rehberg, who was for many years a teacher at the Conservatoires of Geneva and Lausanne has died in Lausanne at the age of 67; the deceased was a well-known violon-cello player.

ST. GALLEN.

The late Tannery proprietor Stärkle in Gossau has left an amount of 20,000 frs. for charitable purposes.

GRISONS.

From St. Gall comes the news of the death of M. Walter Fehr-Braendlin, for many years a member of the Board of the St. Gallische Credit-Anstalt and since 1919 its President.

Dr. Fritz Lichtenhahn from Basle, a well-known lung specialist and founder of the children clinic Prasura in Arosa has died in Arosa at the age of 54.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine" at every meal—for Health!

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

Mme. Margarethe Gysel in Wilchingen has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

SCHWYZ.

The death is reported from Gersau of M. Werner Camenzind, partner of the "Florettspinnerei" in Gersau at the age of 56.

URI.

M. Werner Lusser, a former National-Councillor and "Landammann" has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary.

SOLOTHURN.

In Solothurn died, at the age of 77, M. Jules von Arx. The deceased was a partner in the "Baugesellschaft Olten." From 1904-1911 M. von Arx was "Ammann" of the "Bürgergemeinde" Olten.

L'AFFAIRE DE L' "ADULA" ET LA REACTION DU CONSEIL FEDERAL.

L'arrestation de M. Colombi et de Mme Bon-tempi n'a pas surpris le public après les fortes paroles de M. Motta lors de son discours du 1er août, ni surtout après la lettre ouverte du promoteur de l'"Adula", lettre dont la *Tribune de Genève* a publié un résumé. Il était bien évident que le Conseil fédéral ne pouvait accepter d'être bravé avec tant de désinvolture sans procéder immédiatement aux actes que réclamait d'ailleurs M. Colombi: son incarcération et la mobilisation du Parquet fédéral contre lui. D'ailleurs, il faut reconnaître d'emblée que l'importance attachée aux résultats des différentes perquisitions opérées à l'Adula rend bien précaire la défense de M. Colombi: il n'est pas d'usage, chez notre gouvernement, de persécuter des citoyens, même adversaires déclarés, s'ils ne se sont pas rendus coupables des plus graves méfaits.

Cependant, sans insinuer le moindre blâme contre des poursuites qui ont toute l'apparence de la raison et dont le bien-fondé sera pleinement démontré d'ici peu par l'instruction en cours, il est permis de considérer avec quelque surprise la soudaine explosion de colère du Conseil fédéral. Le problème de l'"Adula" est loin d'être récent. L'irrédentisme tessinois existait déjà avant la guerre, peu puissant, il est vrai, mais réel. Au lendemain de 1918, il reprit sans plus de succès, heureusement, mais en s'organisant et en s'affirmant mieux sur le terrain de la doctrine. Que M. Colombi et son mouvement de l'"Adula" aient alors joué un rôle dangereux et qui méritait d'être endigué fut-ce par des mesures draconiennes, personne n'en disconvient. Pourtant, rien de pareil ne se produisit: on protesta, on fit de la polémique de presse, et c'est tout. Le trait le plus curieux, à notre sens, réside dans le fait que le fascisme alors en pleine virulence conféra aux manœuvres de l'"Adula" une exceptionnelle gravité. Pendant un lustre, on se demanda sérieusement chez nous si les anciennes relations de confiance et d'amitié italo-suisses pourraient être rétablies. L'intelligence et le sens diplomatique de M. Mussolini, la patience et le tact de nos gouvernants parvinrent enfin à dissiper les malentendus parmi lesquels figurait au premier chef le conflit tessinois. Ce dernier étant réglé à notre satisfaction, tout entra dans l'ordre.

On en a encore eu une preuve il y a quelques semaines, à l'occasion de l'affaire de l'"Adula" précisément. A mesure que l'orage grossissait contre M. Colombi, celui-ci ne laissait pas de quêrer l'aide de ses amis italiens: il ne l'obtint que très parcimonieusement. M. Motta y a fait allusion le 1er août, mais au fond les "échos" qu'il a dénoncés dans la presse de nos voisins sont bien peu de chose en comparaison des concerts d'imprécations que soulevait naguère le moindre incident de frontière entre le royaume de Victor-Emmanuel et nous. Il paraît établi que le gouvernement fasciste n'appuie pas l'"Adula" dont il s'est servi dans un temps où sa politique était différente et qu'il ne peut à cause de cela désavouer ouvertement.

On en vient alors à se poser les questions suivantes. L'"Adula" sentant décliner son prestige en Italie même n'aurait-elle pas risqué dernièrement son va-tout et commis des actes suffisamment répréhensibles pour motiver la fondroyante intervention du Conseil fédéral? Mais, si tel est le cas, ne convient-il pas de penser que Berne, en couvrant le risque de révéler la susceptibilité romaine, a eu autre chose en tête que le châtiement d'un ou de plusieurs citoyens déloyaux et l'antéfixement définitif d'un mouvement en train de s'éteindre? Peut-être pourrait-on distinguer dans cette complexe affaire un sérieux avertissement donné à des tiers qui n'ont aucun lien avec l'"Adula" mais dont les procédés de sournoise invasion et d'espionnage sans scrupule ont motivé la loi fédérale du 21 juin. La volonté de leur montrer que la Suisse s'est ressaisie, que le temps des enlèvements, des vols et des intimidations de toutes sortes est aujourd'hui révolu, telle serait la cause profonde de la réaction étrangement vive du Conseil fédéral dans l'affaire de l'"Adula". Elle nous semble extrêmement pertinente dès le moment où

il est établi que M. Colombi a encouru une culpabilité certaine.

Jean Marteau.
(Tribune de Genève).

THE "SUNDAY EXPRESS" AND SWISS HISTORY.

The following short notice has appeared in the issue of the 11th Inst. of the "*Sunday Express*."

IN SWITZERLAND.

"The Swiss Government arrests Fascist leaders in its Italian-speaking provinces.

There is no Swiss race. The country is made up of Germans, Frenchmen and Italians. The Nazis have long been busy trying to make the German Swiss break away.

Now the Fascists are trying to make the Italian Swiss break away.

Both stress claims of race.

Neither will have the slightest success. Race is not the only thing that counts. History, tradition and, above all, the love of freedom are often stronger."

We have for obvious reasons desisted from replying to such a display of wanton ignorance on the part of the Editor of the "*Sunday Express*;" but we are glad to inform our readers that one of our subscribers in the provinces has sent a letter to our contemporary, he wrote as follows:

12th August, 1935.

Sir,

In your yesterday's issue of the "*Sunday Express*" under the heading of "*March of time*" appears the paragraph "*In Switzerland*," where you go on to say:—

"There is no Swiss race. The country is made up of Germans, Frenchmen and Italians."

I consider it a great pity that the Public should be so misled by articles appearing in newspapers of good repute. I remember that during the War this sort of thing created a great deal of controversy in the Press, which was regrettable, for it created a false impression.

Switzerland is probably the oldest Democracy and Independent State in Europe. The typical Swiss native is a sturdy fellow, hardened by the climate in the Mountains and his claim of race is undeniable.

Switzerland, being situated in the heart of Europe its people naturally speak the languages of the neighbouring Countries. There is, in fact, a very old language resembling Latin, still spoken in some of the Mountain Valleys.

However, because German, French and Italian is spoken in Switzerland this surely does not deprive the Swiss Nation of her racial pedigree, otherwise the same could be said of other Nations. For instance, in Gt. Britain Welsh is spoken in some parts and Gallic in others, and, going back in English history, i.e., to the time of the invasions of the Romans, Normans, Danes, Dutch, French, etc., surely it cannot be argued that because of this there is no English race.

Really, such paragraphs as that referred to appearing in your esteemed Paper arouse indescribable feelings in the heart of

A TRUE SWISS.

The Editor,
"Sunday Express,"
London, E.C.4.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP OF SAILFLYING ON JUNGFRAUJOCH 11,340 ft. a.s.l.

The following countries will be represented at the 1st International Camp of Sailflying on Jungfraujoch from September 4th to 18th.

Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia and Switzerland. The following entries have been made:

1. *Germany* under Udet the flyers Dittmar, Hofmann, Hirth and Riedel.

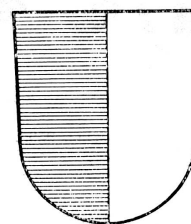
2. *Austria* is sending the sailflyers Wolfgang Hütter and Ulrich Hütter, Bruno Gumpert Karl Frena, and Peter Lerch.

3. The entries from *Yugoslavia* are: Aleksander Stanojewic, Boriwoj Ivkovic and two others not yet chosen.

4. *Switzerland* is represented by Willy Baur, Basel; Mario Martinaglia, Walter Rebsamen, Basel; from Zürich: Emil Berna, Felix Binder, Max Kramer, Marcel Godinat, Oscar Baroni and Guido Oetiker. The competitors from Berne are: Otto Schurter, Gottfried Sutter and Willi Vögeli. A total of 24 sailflyers will therefore attend the 1st International Camp of Sailflying in the Swiss Alps on Jungfraujoch.

The tremendous progress made in sailflying during the last few years is evident from the following records: Ludwig Hofmann, Germany, world's distance record of 470 km. Heinrich Dittmar, Germany reached a height of 4,320 metres above the start and Kurt Schmidt, Germany accomplished the longest uninterrupted flight of 36hrs. 36 min. The sailflyers Hofmann and Dittmar will attend the International Camp of Sailflying on Jungfraujoch, which is to be held from September 4th to 18th this year. It is highly probable that existing records will be well beaten on this occasion.

ARMS OF LUCERNE.



Per Pale Azure and Argent.

These arms are very ancient and probably, like those of Zurich, symbolize the wonderful Lake of Lucerne. Unlike the escutcheon, the banner is parted horizontally permitting both colours to be seen when the flag is rolled up.

Lucerne threw off the yoke of Austria in 1332 and, joining the alliance of the Waldstätten, Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, formed the nucleus of the future Swiss Confederation. This date marks the development of Lucerne as an independent and powerful State. In 1386, its banner flew gloriously on the heroic battlefield of Sempach and since then, the destiny of Lucerne is closely linked with that of the Confederation.

From 1815 till 1848, Lucerne has shared with Berne and Zurich the honour of being one of the temporary Vororts (capitals) of the Confederation; for this reason it now holds third rank in the precedence of Swiss cantons.

P.S.

DIE PROBLEME DES REGELMAESSIGEN ALPENFLUGES.

Von Walter Mittelholzer.

Der tragische Unfall der holländischen Verkehrsmaschine auf der neuen Alpenflugstrecke Frankfurt — Mailand hat zu zahlreichen, berufenen und unberufenen Kommentaren geführt. Es sei deshalb einem Fachmann, der seit zwei Jahrzehnten der Lösung dieser Probleme einen Teil seiner Lebensaufgabe gewidmet hat, gestattet die heutigen Methoden für die Durchführung des Alpenluftverkehrs dem Laien verständlich zu machen.

Bis vor wenigen Jahren konnte man von einem regelmässigen Luftverkehr über die Alpen nicht sprechen. Es blieb immer bei mehr oder weniger Schönwetter-Flügen, d.h. die Alpen konnten nur dann traversiert werden, wenn der Flieger Bodensicht hatte. Hier und da versuchten besonders Waghalsige, meistens waren es unerfahrene, junge Piloten, in den Alpen durch Nebel und Wolken durchzustechen. Allein in den Schweizeralpen haben diese Versuche mit unzulänglichen Mitteln, in den letzten 15 Jahren über ein halbes Dutzend Opfer unter den Piloten gefordert. Auch der Schreiber dieser Zeilen hatte es nur einem glücklichen Zufall zu verdanken, dass vor 13 Jahren ein Schneelag mit metertiefem Neuschnee seinen Sturz in die Tiefe bedeutend weicher abgebrems hat, als die nur einige hundert Meter davon entfernte Felswand es voraussichtlich getan hätte. Es war dies am 1. April, 1923 in den Glarneralpen. Die Südsseite der Alpen, von wo ich aufstieg, war klar, während nördlich des Gotthards ein Nebelmeer sich bis auf 4000 m Höhe ausbreitete, in welchem es in dichten Flocken bis zur Talsohle stürmte und schneite. Auf ähnliche Weise, nämlich durch Anprall an die nebelverhängten Felswände sind die meisten Fliegerunfälle in den Alpen entstanden.

Erst mit der allmählichen Entwicklung des Blindfluges vermittels Instrumenten, die dem Flieger an Stelle des im Nebel verloren gegangenen Horizontes einen Künstlichen schaffen, dann aber vor allem dank der Funknavigation konnte man daran denken, die Alpen regelmässig zu traversieren. Dabei war man sich auf Grund der meteorologischen Aufzeichnungen der letzten Jahrzehnte klar, dass ca. während 250 Tagen eines Jahres die Alpen im totalen oder teilweisen Blindflug und vor allem in genügend sicherer Höhe überflogen werden müssen. Dass dies heute tagtäglich funktioniert ergibt sich aus der Statistik der Deutschen Lufthansa, welche die Linie Frankfurt-Mailand seit der Eröffnung am 1. Mai dieses Jahres mit 100% Regelmässigkeit durchführt. Dabei hatten wir in diesem Mai ganz schlechtes Wetter mit noch riesigen Schneefällen in den Alpen.

Mit den modernen, starken, mehrmotorigen und rasch steigenden Verkehrsflugzeugen wird bei der Methode des Blindfluges eine Mindesthöhe von 4000 m eingehalten. Ist die Luft in dieser untern Zone noch zu turbulent, so wird bis auf 6000 m Höhe gestiegen, wo dann in den allermeisten Fällen ein ruhiger Flug möglich ist. Durch die eigene Funkpeilanlage an Bord der Flugzeuge ist der Flugkapitän sozusagen jede Minute im Klaren über seinen Standort. Er kommt nacheinander in Verbindung mit den