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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### SWISS FOREIGN TRADE.

Swiss foreign trade returns for the first half year show a big drop in imports and a small decrease in exports. During that period imports totalled 622,581,548f. compared with 712,618,222f. in 1934, a drop of 90,036,674f., which is partly due to import quotas and partly to a decrease in the importation of raw materials, a sign of reduced activity in Swiss industry. Exports aggregated 402,162,814f., as against 405,008,719f. in 1934, a decrease of 3,845,905f., which is much smaller than had been anticipated, but which shows that the depression has not yet reached its end. The adverse balance is 220,418,734f., or about 36 per cent., while it was 307,609,503f., or nearly 40 per cent. the previous year.

Of the four chief exporting industries, watch-making — which has slowly improved since the beginning of last year—records a rise of 6,000,000f., and the machines industry a rise of 2,000,000f. On the other hand, the silk and cotton industries register drops of respectively 10,000,000f. and 8,000,000f.

Commercial exchanges with Great Britain were rather slack. Imports from Great Britain totalled 37,700,000f. (45,400,000f. in 1934), and exports to Great Britain 35,400,000f. (43,700,000f. in 1934). Great Britain holds the fourth place among the chief customers of Switzerland; Germany (161,690,000f.), France (106,200,000f.), Italy (47,000,000f.), Great Britain (37,700,000f.), U.S.A. (32,600,000f.) Great Britain also holds the fourth place among the chief buyers of Swiss goods: Germany (90,100,000f.), France (60,400,000f.), Italy (38,200,000f.), Great Britain (35,400,000f.), U.S.A. (20,700,000f.).

#### SWISS BANKING STATEMENTS.

According to the Swiss Banking Law, every Swiss bank whose balance-sheet sum exceeds 20,000,000f. is compelled to issue a half-yearly balance-sheet. Although this decree came into force on March 1st last, ever since 1931 leading Swiss banks have made it a habit of issuing quarterly balance-sheets.

Several balance-sheets of leading Swiss banks made up to June 30 are now available. All of them have one main feature — namely, a considerable drop in the balance-sheet total, which is due to a great extent to the pressure on the Swiss franc last spring.

#### SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

During the week ended July 23rd the gold reserve of the Swiss National Bank increased 25,900,000f. to 1,278,000,000f., while the note circulation decreased 15,300,000f. to 1,230,000,000f. On July 23rd the gold reserve represented 83.4 per cent. of all the engagements of the bank.

#### GERMAN-SWISS ARBITRATION.

The Swiss and German Governments signed an arbitration agreement on the subject of the abduction from Swiss territory of the German journalist Herr Berthold Jakob.

It will be remembered that Herr Jakob, who had ventured to criticise the Nazi regime, was enticed to Basle by Nazi agents last March and by them forcibly abducted over the German frontier, this abduction constituting a violation of Swiss sovereignty.

The Swiss Government protested energetically in Berlin against this attack on its sovereign rights, and the result is the arbitration agreement signed yesterday. Professor Huber, the eminent authority on International Law, will represent the Swiss point of view.

#### TWO MILLION POUNDS OWED TO THE LEAGUE.

The League of Nations and its subsidiary organisations are costing more to run.

The budget estimate, now announced, for 1936 is £2,200,000, a total representing an increase of £180,000.

Great Britain's payments — the largest individual contribution of any State to the League Budget — will, however, be reduced by about £200,000 for 1936.

The total amount budgeted for League expenditure is never spent, for over-budgeting is resorted to on account of the number of countries which are in arrears with subscriptions.

Abyssinia was £962 in arrears with her contribution for 1934 on April 30th, 1935, Honduras has never paid a full year's subscription since her admission to the League in 1920.

In all, 23 of the League's 59 member States owed money in respect of past contributions on April 30th this year. The total sum due was just under £2,000,000.

#### ROAD ACCIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The figures of road accidents in Switzerland during 1934 have just been published. They are appalling. No less than 625 people have been killed, whilst 12,200 have been more or less seriously injured.

### LOCAL.

#### BASLE.

The death is reported from Basle at the age of 70, of M. Gottfried Sieber, for 29 years teacher of the English language at the "Unteren Realschule" in Basle. M. Sieber was also a teacher, for over 14 years, at the Swiss Mercantile Society in Basle.

M. Karl Soucoup, a member of the Editorial Staff of the "National Zeitung" since 1919, has retired from his post.

M. Jakob Gysin, rector of the "Basler Mädchenprimar und Sekundarschule" has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

#### ZÜRICH.

Professor C. G. Jung, the well-known medical scientist, is celebrating his 60th birthday anniversary in Zurich-Kusnacht. Dr. Jung was born in Kesswil in 1875, and studied medicine at the University in Basle; where later on he officiated as a teacher. In 1909 and 1912 he was made a doctor *honoris causa* of the Clark-University in the U.S.A. and the Fordham University in N. York respectively. In 1909 he opened a practice in Küssnacht-Zurich, after having been previously an assistant surgeon at the asylum of the "Burghölzli." On several occasions he went to Africa and Mexico to study various diseases on the spot. Professor Jung is the author of many books on medical subjects which have procured him an honoured name far beyond the frontiers of our country.

M. Heinrich Müller-Jelmoli, a former General Manager and President of the Board of the "Zurich," "Allgemeine Unfall und Haftpflicht Versicherungs A.G." has died in Zurich at the age of 91. M. Müller was a great authority in the Insurance profession in Switzerland.

M. Max Hirtzel, the famous operatic tenor at the Opera House in Dresden, and a native of Zurich, has been informed that his engagement is terminated and that he should leave the country. He is charged with having made some disparaging remarks during a stay in Switzerland about the Hitler régime; charges which he strenuously denies.

#### BERNE.

Two young men from Berne, von Grünigen and Graf were killed when climbing the Blümlisalp, their bodies were found by a rescue party.

#### LUCERNE.

During the Federal Music Festival which took place in Lucerne on July 19th-21st, over 55,000 people from all parts of Switzerland have visited this competition. Federal Councillor Etter, who represented the Government made a patriotic speech.

The oldest of the three hotels on the Riggulm, the "Schulhaus" has been completely destroyed by fire; it had accommodation for 130 people.

The death is reported from Lucerne of M. Charles Blankart, a former manager of the "Crédit Suisse" in Lucerne. The deceased has been for over 35 years an outstanding personality in the Swiss Banking profession. He was a director of many important industrial concerns.

### ST. GALL.

The late Mme. Elise Segmüller from Altstätten has left an amount of 100,000frs. to various religious and charitable institutions.

### VALAIS.

The Zinal Rothorn, 13,855ft. high, has been climbed by a one-legged man. He is Mr. Geoffrey Winthrop Young, brother of Lord Kennet, formerly Sir Hilton Young.

Leaving the Rifflealp Hotel, above Zermatt, he spent the night at the Trift hut and reached the summit at one the next afternoon. He was accompanied by Capt. Heywood and two guides, named Knubel and Lagger.

Mr. Young, who lost his leg during the war, had successfully scaled the Matterhorn three seasons ago, and had also other climbs to his credit.

### TICINO.

Mme. Marguerita Merlini, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Locarno, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

## LES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER ET LA MERE-PATRIE.

PAR GERHART SCHUCH, Berne.  
Article publié "Dans Mon Pays".

Le Pays des Waldstätten fut peuplé jadis, si l'on en croit une légende, par des hommes venus du Nord, dont la "Landsgemeinde" avait décidé, vu la misère des temps, qu'un habitant sur dix, désigné par le sort, quitterait le pays de ses pères, et s'en irait au loin, chercher des possibilités de vie. Le même destin poursuivait les descendants de ces émigrés: de nos jours encore, un dixième de notre population demande à l'étranger le pain et les ressources que la patrie ne peut lui donner.

Cette proportion suffirait pour nous intéresser à nos concitoyens qui vivent à l'étranger; mais elle ne saurait à elle seule expliquer l'importance du rôle national éminent joué par nos colonies. Si les quelques milliers de Suisses qui se trouvent au loin avaient manqué leur vie, s'ils étaient des traitres à la patrie, s'ils l'avaient tout au moins oubliée, quelle signification auraient-ils pour nous? Qui s'intéresserait à leur sort, s'ils n'étaient que l'écumène rejetée par notre population?

Chacun sait que, bien au contraire, la Suisse à l'étranger n'est pas seulement grande par le nombre, mais par la valeur de ceux qui la représentent. Elle est grande aussi par leur fidélité à la patrie. Ces exiles qui, dans des circonstances extrêmement difficiles, résistent courageusement aux forces qui veulent les arracher à leur pays d'origine, comptent parmi nos citoyens les plus précieux et les plus utiles. Si bien qu'on n'étudierait pas les questions qui les touchent comme un simple problème démographique; on leur verra une active sympathie, on saura se réjouir de leurs succès, partager leurs peines et, en reconnaissance de l'activité qu'ils déploient pour le plus grand bénéfice de notre prospérité nationale, on les aidera vigoureusement, on les soutiendra fraternellement dans leurs postes d'avant-garde.

On pourrait facilement raconter une série de faits qui montrent d'une manière touchante l'admirable patriotisme de nos concitoyens, forcés de quitter la Suisse. Au soir de sa vie, toute de misères et de privations, une brave Suisseuse, exilée au loin, dans une grande ville industrielle, n'avait plus qu'un désir: revoir une fois encore, avant de mourir, son cher lac de Zurich; et, comme ce souhait n'était pas réalisable, elle voulut, au moins, plonger ses yeux dans ceux d'un compatriote qui devait retourner bientôt près de la rive aimée, et pourrait ainsi, pensait-elle, la contempler à sa place. Un jeune Suisse de l'Amérique du Sud, obligé de prendre la nationalité de sa seconde patrie et d'y faire son service militaire, tint à honneur, bien qu'il en fût dispensé, d'accomplir aussi son devoir de citoyen envers sa patrie d'origine; son école de recrue terminée, il voulut, avant de repasser l'océan pour rejoindre sa famille, se charger d'une cassette qu'il remplissait de terre du pays: son père avait dit que, s'il devait mourir à l'étranger, il désirait, au moins, un peu de terre suisse pour recouvrir sa déponille. Nous pourrions nommer encore un professeur qui préféra sacrifier un brillant avenir plutôt que de renoncer à sa nationalité suisse, comme l'aurait exigé la loi du pays étranger où il se trouvait.

Celui de nos compatriotes émigrés qui traduisit avec le plus d'éloquence l'amour du pays natal est peut-être Gottfried Keller, l'auteur du chant célèbre:

O mein Heimatland, o mein Vaterland,  
Wie so innig, feurig lieb ich dich! ...

Nul ne pourra jamais décrire toutes les preuves d'attachement à la Suisse données chaque jour par nos expatriés. Il disait vrai, ce Suisse de l'Amérique du Nord, qui déclarait que l'amour de la patrie est en raison directe du carré des distances.

L'étranger qui vient chez nous y représente le pays d'où il est originaire. Ainsi, qu'on le veuille ou non, notre jugement sur les autres nations est essentiellement déterminé par la conduite de leurs ressortissants. Le Suisse de l'étranger est, à son tour, une sorte d'ambassadeur de sa patrie: ce qu'il fait de bien rehausse notre prestige, ce qu'il fait de mal nous fait déchoir aux yeux de l'étranger. Voilà pourquoi le crédit moral de la Confédération dépend en quelque sorte de nos compatriotes établis à l'étranger. Les pays qui comptent des colonies suisses, dont le niveau est particulièrement élevé, nourrissent à l'égard de notre pays une confiance pour ainsi dire illimitée. D'une façon générale, on connaît et on apprécie les Suisses pour leur honnêteté et leur amour du travail; on sait que l'on peut compter sur eux, et que, dans quel domaine que ce soit, leur tâche sera accomplie avec soin: de là vient l'excellente réputation dont la Suisse jouit partout au dehors.

Mais nos concitoyens établis à l'étranger ne sont pas seuls à bénéficier de cet avantage. Aussi longtemps que le fait d'être Suisse constituera sans autre une recommandation, les jeunes gens de chez nous auront toutes les portes ouvertes à l'étranger, où ils pourront aller élargir leur horizon, apprendre les langues et se développer tout en soulageant le marché intérieur du travail. Le chômage s'est aggravé chez nous justement depuis que des lois prohibitrices entravent notre émigration, tandis que les Suisses de l'étranger se voient forcés de rentrer en masse. Nous devons savoir gré à nos colonies de ce que, même en ces temps très difficiles, elles tiennent le flambeau allumé, c'est-à-dire conservent la vieille tradition suisse de travail honnête et consciencieux: si elles l'abandonnaient, les temps meilleurs auraient beau revenir, la situation des travailleurs suisses, à quelque classe qu'ils appartiennent, serait à jamais compromise et nous perdriions du même coup les relations avec l'étranger dont notre vie économique a un si grand besoin.

Que serait, en effet, notre expansion commerciale sans les voies que lui ont ouvertes nos compatriotes de l'étranger, non pas seulement directement, mais indirectement, par la qualité de leur travail qui a créé la renommée des produits suisses. Leur mission est d'autant plus importante que nous n'avons pas, à l'étranger d'agences commerciales officielles: l'exportateur suisse recherche, entretient et développe par ses propres moyens les débouchés nécessaires à notre industrie.

On n'insistera jamais assez non plus sur le rôle joué par nos compatriotes comme agents de propagande en faveur de notre tourisme. Dans le monde entier, on rencontre soit des personnes isolées, soit des sociétés suisses ou des colonies qui prennent à tâche de distribuer autour d'elles une très riche documentation propre à attirer les étrangers chez nous.

Tous ces services, si indispensables à notre vie économique, nos compatriotes les rendent sans beaucoup de bruit, presque toujours sans rémunération, par pur amour du pays.

Lorsqu'éclata la guerre de 1914, n'est-ce pas l'amour du pays qui fit accourir sous nos drapeaux 25,000 Suisses à l'étranger? Combien durent alors abandonner leur situation et compromettre leur fortune, prêts à offrir leur vie pour une Suisse que plusieurs n'avaient jamais vue et dont certains ne savaient même pas la langue. Dans cet attachement à la patrie d'origine, il y a quelque chose de plus que le souvenir sentimental du pays où l'on a vécu son enfance, puisque, même parmi nos concitoyens qui passèrent toute leur vie au loin, nombreux sont ceux qui tiennent à leur droit de cité, avec une conviction qui devrait faire rougir maints Suisses restés au pays.

(à suivre)

## FIGURES TALK.

Three weeks have passed since the Federal Choir Festival in Basle has come to a conclusion. It might interest our readers to see a few figures in connection with this undoubtedly popular festival.

137 special trains, apart from the regular service, have conveyed about 14,000 singers and visitors to Basle, it is reckoned that about 42,000 persons (including competitors) from all parts of Switzerland, have visited the town during the Singing competition.

As it is the custom to offer the various competing sections on their arrival a loving cup, 260 litres of wine were required to fill the numerous silver cups.

13,500 silk ribbons were needed to decorate the competitors, and nearly 17,000 badges were sold. 17,200 copies of the official guide were purchased.

Three hundred waitresses were in attendance to look after the wants of the visitors, the latter consumed over 51,000 litres of beer, 28,300 bottles of mineral waters and 26,200 bottles of wine, in addition about 800 glasses of Champagne were sold.

24,000 Banquet dinners were served for which 13,215 kg. meat was used, costing 30,200 frs., 6,265 kg. vegetables and 7,400 kg potatoes were cooked for which 10,000 frs. were spent. 7,681 kg. of bread and 59,000 rolls were baked, at an expense of 5,100 frs.

The wages for the catering staff came to 36,000 frs.

43,200 persons attended the performance of the "Festspiel" (Mutterland), another 20,000 people paid to see the revue "Z'Basel a mym Rhy" 50,000 Lottery tickets were sold.

## Prof. BUSER'S Alpine Boarding Schools for Girls

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## UNSERE SCHWEIZERHEIMAT.

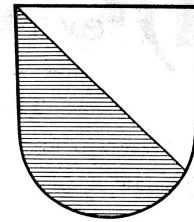
I have a book in front of me which it is my pleasant duty to review. In perusing it, this duty has become first a pure pleasure and then an absolute obsession. Then it plunged me into despair, lest my poor words should not be able to do it justice. Next came a wave of hot enthusiasm, bidding me sit up for nights and nights to translate it forthwith for the English born Swiss who does not read French or German. For it seems to me that *All Swiss* must somehow get to know this book. By it and in it we shall know our country and ourselves. It will refresh our spirit, enlarge our minds, and our hearts will beat faster for the pride of being Swiss. It is the fittest possible expression of our patriotic convictions, our history and our hope of salvation. By it we shall clarify our knowledge of all things Swiss, and through this greater possession we shall refine our patriotism.

Aptly entitled: — *Unsere Schweizerheimat*, ein Buch für Landsleute im Auslande, the book is issued by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Commission des Suisses à l'Etranger. The German copy is bound in a stiff red cover, representing a portion of the national flag; through the white cross there is a view of an alpine landscape with its reflection in the lake in the foreground. The editor is Dr. A. Lätt, the publisher Orell Füssli.

Giuseppe Motta, the head of the Political Dept. at Berne, in a foreword of keen appreciation recommends this book to the study of every Swiss abroad, he praises the excellence of its make-up, text and illustrations, and in particular its educational purpose; he ends on a note of optimism in the perpetuity of the fidelity of the Swiss. Dr. Lätt, the editor, explains in his foreword the genesis of the publication and he has every right to regard this effort on the part of the N.S.H. as a worthy successor of the two previous books on the same subject. Abroad, as at home, the text and the numerous illustrations should serve to evoke the memories of youth in the grown-ups, and teach the young of the greatness and singularity of our national inheritance. He pays a touching tribute to the Swiss abroad, whose name he is not allowed to mention, but whose munificence has made the production of the book possible. We shall never see this great compatriot of ours again in the flesh; he died in 1935, but you also can pay him silent tribute in the contemplation of his photograph, the last but two in the book.

The contents of the book convey a most complete and satisfactory survey of our homeland. The physiological aspect of the country and the

## ARMS OF ZURICH.



Per Bend Argent and Azure.

Though the fifth canton to join the Swiss Confederation, Zurich ranks the first place in order of precedence.

Rudolf of Habsburg, who was subsequently elected emperor of Austria by appropriating the provinces which he had wrested from Ottocar of Bohemia, appended an oriflamme to the banner of Zurich in consideration of its valuable assistance in the field of battle.

Zurich has always regarded this honour as a sign of precedence over all other cantons.

In the days when there was no common emblem and the seal of each sovereign state was appended to official documents, that of Zurich served to seal official pieces emanating from the whole of the Confederates. By virtue of this distinction and ancient usage, the banner of Zurich was larger than the banners of the other cantons.

Some armorialists see in the bendwise arrangement and tinctures of those arms a symbol of the beautiful Lake of Zurich lying in a SW to NW direction. The fact that the exact origin of the arms of Zurich is not known, except that they are very ancient, makes this explanation quite acceptable.

One or two lions, the personification of Zurich, are often supporters of the shield, holding, since the battle of Dättwil (1351), a palm branch in their paws as a sign of victory.

P.S.

## PERSONAL.

We extend hearty congratulations to Miss Joan M. Pfister, daughter of our compatriot, M. R. E. Pfister, of 56, Conway Road, Southgate, N.14, on her approaching marriage to Mr. Charles B. Grant.

The Wedding will take place on August 10th, at Christchurch, Southgate.

population, written by Prof. Alfred Chapuis of Neuchâtel, forms the introductory chapters, and a very sound foundation to the remarkable historical study of the country from mythical times until to-day by Dr. Alfred Specker of Zurich. The progress of the historical development is kept in a very concise frame, but is as good an abridged history of Switzerland as I have read. The following chapters deal with the political constitution of the country and are written by Tell Perrin in an easily comprehensible style and form. The next section of the book, on the culture and spiritual life of Switzerland, is composed of eight articles by different authors and deals with such subjects as culture and education, poetry and literature, the famous Ticinese architects, Swiss art and art appreciation, folk songs and music, the activity of Swiss womanhood, etc. All of them articles full of spirit and valuable information. The last section of the book, dedicated to the Swiss Abroad, is again divided into two parts. The authors are the two secretaries at the Secrétariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne. Miss Alice Briod presents a very sympathetic study of the struggles and achievements of the emigrants; Mr. Gerhard Schurch draws the conclusions of the inter-dependence between the emigrant and his homeland and vice versa.

He defines the duties and obligations of each party, he reiterates the ideals underlying the attachment to the country of one's birth, the greatest of which is contained in the warning: — Seid einig, einig, einig!

The illustrations are a fit accompaniment to the excellence of the literary contents. There are 16 full-page colour prints, some of them most exquisite and all of them delightful; there are pages and pages of beautifully reproduced photographs of the delectable land, of wonderful alpine scenery and prosperous towns, of famous architectural works and the railways, of many famous compatriots, etc. etc.

If I have not been able yet to convince you that this book should be yours, I have one more potent argument in its favour: — the price of only 4/- per copy, French or German. There will be an ample stock in London very shortly, and we hope that by next Christmas every Swiss family in England will possess this book of books. It is the best gift for a Swiss on all conceivable occasions and will be treasured by the owner as few books are. Orders for single copies or parcels may be sent to the Secrétariat of the N.S.H., 34, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, with pre-payment.

A. Fred. Suter.

Pres. London Group N.S.H.

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