

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: - (1939)

Heft: 925

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 2321/2.

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

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 20—No. 925

LONDON, 12 AUGUST, 1939

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free) -	3/6
	6 " " " " " " " " " " -	6/6
SWITZERLAND	3 Months (13 issues, post free) - Frs.	12.50
	6 " " " " " " " " " " -	24.00

(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, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

FEDERAL.

ELECTRICITY EXTENSION IN SWITZERLAND.

The Norman hero of the "Cloches de Corneville" considered his triple world tour quite an achievement. On visiting the Electricity Pavilion at the Swiss National Exhibition, however, we find that electric cables installed in Switzerland would reach five times around the world.

STUDY-TOURS IN SWITZERLAND.

The central committee for professional organisation in France is arranging a trip to Switzerland with the assistance of various Swiss societies in order that French business men and industrial owners may become familiar with Swiss achievements in the realms of industry, economy and social science.

FAVOURS GRANTED TO FOREIGN AUTOMOBILISTS.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to maintain till 31 Mai 1940 the 20 cts. reduction per litre of benzine granted to foreign car drivers.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE EXHIBITION.

During the first nine weeks more than 4,000,000 visitors came to the National Exhibition.

THE RADIO IN SWITZERLAND.

There are actually over 500,000 wireless set owners in Switzerland. The increase during 1938 amounted to 45,000. Switzerland occupies the seventh rank for the number of sets in proportion with 13.1% whereas last year she ranked only eighth.

THE PRADO EXHIBITION.

On June the first an exhibition of pictures from the Prado Museum was opened in Geneva. Nearly 200 pictures are shown. The exhibition will be closed on August 31st.

RIVER TRAFFIC IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland, in the middle of Europe, has no contact with the sea. Nevertheless the problem has been solved by the important harbour at Basle, on the Rhine, which gives indirect access to the North sea. The harbour has been so successful that many extensions have been necessary. Barges and the steam vessels which constitute the Swiss commercial navy can reach northern harbours without being unloaded. The importance of the Basle harbour and remarkable development of navigation on the home waterways is shown in an interesting way in the navigation pavilion at the National Exhibition.

SWISS MEDAL-ENGRAVERS AND PARAGUAY.

An order for 4,500,000 copper-nickel 10 and 5 Pesos coins has been passed to a Swiss firm by Paraguay, in spite of serious competition from foreign firms. This is proof of the excellence of Swiss industries and the confidence which they inspire abroad.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The mayor of Cologne, Doctor Schmidt, his assistant, Mr. Brenner and other personalities stayed several days in Zurich and visited the National Exhibition.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH.

(By Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich.)

The month under review has been conspicuous by the absence of any important business. The market remains in a wait and see position, apprehending disturbances from the field of international politics. In light trading, prices have responded only in minor degree to the

better disposition of New York during the current month. Our best industrials are quoted at prices which do not correspond with their present earning capacity.

The bond market has fairly well maintained its level of a month ago. Yields of Swiss Government securities range from 2½% to 2¾% for the short term issues and from 3½% to 3¾% for medium and long term issues. The floating of new loans has come to a complete standstill. The last local conversion issues have not been satisfactory. The Swiss-German Clearing negotiations have been concluded at the beginning of July; resulting again in further curtailment of cash transfer for the Swiss bondholders.

Quotations June 30th July 31st

	1939	1939
Schweiz. Bankverein	498	506
Schweiz. Kreditanstalt	520	525
Elektrobank	321	335
Saeg Serie A	49	47 bid
Motor-Columbus	180	190
Elektr. & Verkehr	80 bid	93
Italo-Suisse	93	94
Schweiz. Rückversicherung	3275	3280
Saurer	440 bid	435 bid
Aluminium	2360	2365 bid
Lonza	505	487 xd
Brown Boveri	189	180 xd
Nestlé	1034	1065
Sulzer	660 bid	690 bid

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

1st August. You will find a full report on the London 1st August celebrations in this issue, but I cannot abstain from coming back on that Day also in these Notes once again. In the "Neues Winterthurer Tagblatt" I find the following exquisite description in National Councilor Th. Gut's speech made at Winterthur's 1st August celebration:

"Die Schweiz als kleines, mit sich selbst versöhntes Europa"

which, I think you will all agree, is about as good a definition as one could hope to give of what our country is, stands for and aspires to be.

Again, in the same paper I find the following "thoughts" by H. Sch.

Das Schweizerkreuz:

Das irnenreine weisse Kreuz in blutig rotem Feld, das ist das Kleinod jedes treuen Schweizerherzens. Drei Kreuze sind dem Schweizermanne lieb und wert:

Das Schweizerkreuz im Schweizerbanner, das ist des Vaterlandes Schild und Zeichen. Wo immer Schweizer sind in aller Welt, da tragen sie der Heimat schlichtes Kreuz im Herzen.

Das rote Kreuz im weissen Feld, das ist der Nächstenliebe bestes Zeichen. Wo immer auch das rote Kreuz ersehnt, zeugt es von Schweizerinn und Schweizergeist und ruff: Barmherzigkeit und Friede!

Und über beiden, gleichsam in den ewigen Fels gehauen, steht das Christuskreuz, das Kreuz vom Sieg auf Golgatha, der beiden ersten Kreuze Sinn und Ursprung. In ihm hat uns der Schöpfer seine Treu' erwiesen. — Dort hat der Eine einst für uns sein Blut vergossen. — Dort liegt des Rütlichsweires heilige Treu verankert. — Von dort her hat ein kleiner Haufe Sempackkrieger einst im Angesicht der Wucht des Feindes auf den Knien Hilf' erfleht. — Von dort her hat ein Winkelried die Kraft zum Opfertod empfangen. — Von dort her hat ein Bruder Klaus getrennten Eidgenossen Rat und Heil gewiesen. — Von dort erhielt ein Zwingli Mut und Tapferkeit. — Von dort her schling ein Herz des Henry Dumant für den Nächsten.

Mag wer da will, Hufeisen oder andere Zeichen Götter nennen: das Schweizerkreuz ist uns Symbol des Einen Herren, dessen Tod, für uns erlitten, uns Gewissheit treuer Vaterliebe unseres Schöpfers gibt. Ein Volk, das restlos ihm vertraut, kann nicht zu Schanden werden.

Wir wollen trauen auf den Höchsten, Gott, und uns nicht fürchten vor der Macht der Menschen.

I think it would have been a great pity to withhold this from our readers.

Switzerland's mission of mercy found a splendid way of showing itself when those children from the Special Areas of Great Britain were invited to Adelboden and I doubt whether any of you can read the following article taken from "The Times," Educational Supplement, 29th July, without feeling very deeply moved:

Four Weeks in Fairyland: (This article was especially written by one of the teachers who went to Adelboden last month in charge of a party of twenty-five children from the Special Areas).

From the dull, drab-grey surroundings and monotony of the Special Areas to the majestic Alpine grandeur of the Bernese Oberland; this was the experience of 25 boys and girls from homes of unemployed parents in Tyneside, Cumberland, Durham, and South Wales, when they spent a month as guests of the Mayor and people of Adelboden.

How excited they all were leaving Victoria on June 13th! Uncle Mac of the B.B.C., with representatives of the National Council of Social Service (which had found the necessary funds towards the cost of travel, clothing, and pocket money), saw them off, and already their senses were overcome with the wonder of it all. It was a dream come true! The Channel crossing, a motor tour around Paris, and a train ride through the night across France — little wonder their comprehension was numbed when the only holiday they had ever had before was a Sunday School treat or an occasional day visit to the seaside.

* * *

The party arrived at the end of their train journey in the early morning, tired but eager, and were thrilled by their coach ride up a winding Alpine road, with huge snowcapped peaks towering overhead. At Adelboden they were greeted by the cheers of hundreds of villagers, who had been waiting to meet them, and the Mayor received the little visitors and placed them in the safe keeping of their respective Swiss parents. Each child was adopted by a Swiss family, one member of which at least could speak English. Since this was the first time any of them had been away from home, it was natural that one or two of the girls felt a little homesick. The food was excellent, but some of the children were apt to view anything new, whether tasted or not, with suspicion. The situation may be summed up with the Cumberland boy's "We had chicken for dinner but it wasn't cooked properly" (it had been served in a casserole), and the Welsh boy's description of spaghetti as "stuff like strings"! Their lack of appetite, however, was soon dispelled by the wonderful hospitality of their adopted parents and brothers and sisters, the glorious Alpine air, and the new and interesting things which surrounded them. It was as if they were in fairyland. Not only were picture-postcard surroundings becoming real, but the warm, loving care of some of the most delightful and charming of people was showered upon them.

* * *

What excitement and delight there was on the children's first all-day mountain excursion! Armed with rucksacks and sticks they set off for Engstligenalp, the great plateau that lies 6,500ft. above sea level. After a walk through Alpine meadows, ablaze with millions of flowers, through fragrant pinewoods and alongside rushing torrents of snow water, they reached the cable railway. How amazingly delighted they were at being slung over precipices and gorges in a ride which frightens many grown-up people! On reaching the top they found they had been transported in six minutes from summer to spring. Snow lay in huge patches on the plateau, and snowballing and sliding were soon in full swing. A pleasant surprise awaited them, for behind a huge boulder their Swiss brothers and sisters had prepared a huge cauldron of soup, and after luncheon together they played games, danced, and amused themselves for the rest of the day.