

The "Swiss Observer" thirty years ago

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THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

On 7th October 1933 the "Swiss Observer" reported that the National Council was told of the serious state of the federal finances which was worse than ever before in the history of our country. Rigid economies and fresh taxation were needed. In the same issue, and in several following ones, long instalments in French appeared on the revolutionary troubles in Switzerland from 1916 to 1919.

A week later we were told that at that time there were 406 Swiss daily newspapers, 416 periodicals and 414 trade journals. It would be interesting what figures a census would produce to-day. There was also an article on "Nationale Erneuerung" by a man active in the "Fronten" Movement, Walter Vogel. In London, Mr. A. Steinmann had been elected the new President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and the Swiss Gymnastic Society announced regular training.

On 21st October we learned that the famous panther had escaped from the Zurich Zoo without leaving any trace. It was also announced that the Bally Shoe Company had been able to re-open after having been forced to close down on account of lack of orders. There was an article by the President of the Confederation Federal Councillor Schulthess on the role of Switzerland in European economics and politics (in French). At the S.M.S., Mr. Carlo Chapuis had given a talk on his impressions of South Africa.

The next week it was reported that the Roman Catholic "Basler Volksblatt" had been prohibited in Germany. Much space was donated to questions of the Gold Standard, specially by Dr. Schindler, Chairman of the Oerlikon Company, who, in a later issue, also wrote a reply to Mr. Lloyd George on the subject. In the issue of 28th October appeared a "Frontenbrief" which was published as a warning. It makes one shiver at its contents. It was an appeal by a man called Hans Vonwyl which had appeared in Swiss dailies and contained phrases like the following:

"Wir jungen Deutschschweizer fordern heute das, was wohl unser heiligstes Recht ist: die Wiedervereinigung aller deutschschweizerischen Stämme mit dem Heiligen Deutschen Reiche . . .", "die Aufteilung der künstlich zusammengekitteten Schweiz", ". . . nehmen wir uns jetzt das Recht heraus, Deutsche zu sein und noch mehr, stolz zu sein auf unser Volk, und auf seinen Erretter Adolf Hitler, zu dem wir als deutsche Volksgenossen in unwandelbarer Treue stehen und kämpfen, bis unser grosses Ziel erreicht ist: Grossdeutschland mit einer Südgrenze von den Walliser Alpen . . .". It seems unbelievable.

There was an article by Albert MacKinnon, D.D., on the similarities between Scots and Swiss, dealing with history and legend, love, liberty, fidelity and thrift. There was an announcement that the two communities of the Swiss Church in London had been accepted as a member of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland.

On the 11th November 1933 we read of the reorganisation of the Swiss Radio Stations. Correspondence by Dr. H. Egli to the "Financial News" was published, the latter having made some unwarranted accusations against Switzerland which Dr. Egli valiantly refuted. The same issue had an article by the Editor "St." in which he referred to the suggestion that in such troublesome times no social events, dinners, etc., should be held. Quite rightly he maintained that the Colony should go on holding social gatherings for they provided happy occasions to meet old

and make new friends. They should not prevent anybody from doing good where it was needed. This, I firmly believe, still applies today.

The same issue reported that the Czechs celebrated the anniversary of the resurgence of their nation in the Swiss Church, not only because they had no church of their own, but also because it was in Geneva on 28th October 1915 that President Masaryk declared the nation of Bohemia reborn.

On 18th November we read that Schaffhausen had expelled fifty-five undesirable aliens, mostly Germans, and at the end of the month we were informed of the "Volksbank" difficulties. The Union Helvetia Club had been holding their "Olde Friends Evening" for about 120 members and guests. From the "Leeds Mercury" a flattering appreciation of Dr. Edwin Fischer was reprinted. He had given a piano recital, a "newcomer who enjoyed a remarkable triumph". And more about the "Nationale Front", more of the revolutionary troubles of 1916-1918 and all the time long reports on Swiss football. . .

A NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN LAUSANNE

The European Congress of Hotel Schools recently selected Lausanne to be the site of a new international hotel school. This new establishment will train instructors for the various European hotel and restaurant schools. The new institute will be opened next year, to begin with within the framework of the Hotel School run by the Swiss Hotel-Keepers Association in Lausanne.

[O.S.E.C.]

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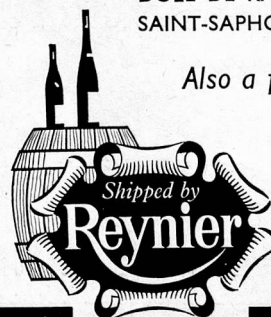
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