

Prepaid subscription rates

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1934)**

Heft 643

PDF erstellt am: **18.05.2024**

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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: FIEPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 13—No. 643

LONDON, FEBRUARY 17, 1934.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

NEW SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAY LOAN.

The Swiss Government is issuing on behalf of the Swiss Federal Railways a 4 per Cent. Loan for 100,000,000 francs. The issue will be known as the Federal Railway Loan of 1934. The loan has been purchased by a group of Swiss banks, and is now offered for public subscription at 99 per cent., plus Federal stamp duty of 0.60 per cent. The loan is finally redeemable on March 1, 1949, but the Government reserves the right to redeem on or after March 1, 1946.

GERMAN-SWISS TRANSFER AGREEMENT.

A German-Swiss transfer agreement has been signed at Berlin, whereby scrip belonging to Swiss creditors will be paid in full in return for additional German exports.

SWISS PILOT'S ACHIEVEMENT.

The "Office Aérien Fédéral" has presented M. F. Zimmermann with a cheque for 500 francs in recognition of services rendered. M. Zimmermann is on the staff of the "Swissair" and has up to now flown 500,000 kilometers (or twelve times round the world) without the slightest mishap.

In 1931 he accompanied the famous Swiss airman Mittelholzer on his flight over the Sahara and over the Tchad.

ALPINE CLIMBING FEAT.

The 13,000 feet high Alpine peak, the Eiger, was climbed for the first time in the winter by its eastern face yesterday. The ascent, which is extremely perilous at this time of the year, was made by the famous Alpine guide, Fritz Amatter, who is 60 years old, and who was accompanied by a young guide. Amatter made the first ascent of the eastern face in September, 1931, when he was accompanied by two other guides and a Japanese.

The Eiger is particularly dangerous in the winter, for it is the source of the famous Grindelwald glaciers. The ascent was made from the Mittellegi hut, and the summit was reached in under four hours.

ECONOMIC STATISTICS OF SWITZERLAND.

| | Sept. | 1933. Oct. | Nov. | 1932. Nov. |
|---|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Swiss National Bank | | | | |
| Gold (in million francs) | 1,846.0 | 1,930.7 | 1,998.1 | 2,552.7 |
| Notes in circulation (in million francs) | 1,419.4 | 1,408.4 | 1,436.5 | 1,534.6 |
| Gold Reserve (in percentage) | 130.04 | 137.07 | 139.09 | 166.34 |
| The Swiss franc in percentage of the French and Belgian francs and of the Fl. (monthly average) | 100.13 | 100.28 | 100.28 | *99.84 |
| Official discount rate (monthly average) | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Private discount rates (monthly average) | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Index of the Swiss Stock Exchanges (25th of the month) | | | | |
| Bonds (12) | 108.12 | 108.73 | 108.44 | 115.31 |
| Shares (103) (in % of the capital paid) | 115.29 | 114.72 | 113.32 | 103.01 |
| Industrial shares only (26) ditto | 160.01 | 157.91 | 156.18 | 127.22 |
| Swiss Federal Railways | | | | |
| Receipts from passenger traffic in 1,000 francs | 12,317 | 12,352 | — | 8,374 |
| Transportation of merchandises in 1,000 francs | 18,578 | 17,155 | — | 16,032 |
| Surplus of exploitation in 1,000 francs | 11,138 | 10,426 | — | 4,194 |
| Postal administration, Exploitation receipts in 1,000 francs | 11,846 | 12,007 | — | 11,596 |
| Port of Basle traffic | | | | |
| Up-river (in tons: 1,000 kg.) | 138,362 | 143,216 | 115,909 | 119,119 |
| Down-river (in tons: 1,000 kg.) | 8,151 | 6,552 | 9,380 | 119,119 |
| Stamped gold, silver, platinum watchcases (pieces) | 35,363 | 51,639 | 41,270 | 45,487 |
| Movement in the establishment for testing and conditioning of silk in Zurich, in kg. | 11,712 | 11,109 | 13,057 | 15,017 |
| Postal Clearing System (in million fr.) | 2,203.1 | 2,288 | 2,420.9 | 2,418.2 |
| Clearing turnover of the Swiss National Bank (in million fr.) | 3,613 | 3,788 | 3,737 | 3,223 |
| Foreign Trade (coins of precious metals excluded) | | | | |
| Imports (in million francs) | 136.2 | 144.5 | 139.6 | 153.0 |
| Exports ditto | 71.4 | 77.6 | 78.7 | 66.3 |
| Labour market, unemployed (at the end of month) | 49,140 | 56,399 | — | 68,286 |
| Index of wholesale trade (at the end of month) | 91.00 | 91.00 | — | 94.00 |
| Index of cost of living | 131.00 | 131.00 | — | 135.00 |

* The Swiss franc in % of the dollar.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. H. Billeter, President of the District Tribunal at Zurich, is shortly retiring from his post. He has been connected with the Bench for over 40 years, and has made a great reputation as one of the most able judges.

The 4 per Cent. Conversion Loan of the Town of Zurich has met with no success, according to the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," not even two-thirds of the 30 million francs issue having been subscribed.

LUCERNE.

Dr. D. Pometta, chief medical officer of the Suval (Schweizerische Unfallversicherungs-Anstalt) in Lucerne, has resigned for reasons of age.

BERNE.

M. Eduard v. Goumoëns, the former Proprietor of the "Schloss" Worb, has died in Gwatt at the age of 85.

BASLE.

As the result of an accident, Professor E. Dürr has died in Basle on Monday last. Dr. Dürr was born in 1883, and was since 1925 Professor of History at the University of Basle. He was the author of many works on historical subjects.

FRIBOURG.

M. Henri Buchs, member of the Grand Council and President of the Chamber of Commerce in Fribourg, has died at the age of 78.

AARGAU.

From Brugg comes the news of the death of National Councillor Mühlebach at the age of 62. The deceased was an expert on farming, and his opinion was often sought by the profession. He entered Parliament in 1930.

GLARUS.

M. H. Jenny, member of the Cantonal Government, has resigned from his post for reasons of health. He entered the Government in 1923 in succession to Dr. Spieler.

ZUG.

M. Franz Leder-Walser, a former well-known manufacturer in Zug (Platanenhof), has celebrated his diamond wedding anniversary.

TICINO.

The Congress of the Liberal Party of the Canton of Ticino took place on the 4th of this month at Bellinzona. It was decided to expell the following members from the party: de Filippis, Mayor of Lugano; G. B. Rusca, Mayor of Locarno; Gugliemetti, President of the Young Radicals, and Russi, Editor of the "Avanguardia," unless, within eight days, they comply with the decision as to the General Policy of the Party as expressed in their manifesto.

FOOTBALL.

11th February, 1934.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

| | | | |
|------------|---|----------------|---|
| Zurich | 0 | Chaux de Fonds | 2 |
| Blue Stars | 0 | Bern | 2 |
| Young Boys | 1 | Young Fellows | 2 |
| Servette | 4 | Nordstern | 0 |
| Biel | 0 | Grasshoppers | 6 |
| Lausanne | 2 | Urania | 4 |

Basel v. Locarno abandoned at 2—1.

No change of any consequence. Grasshoppers, Bern, Servette continue at the head of affairs. Young Fellows did well to defeat Young Boys in Bern; something must be wrong with the Y.B. Sixteen points from sixteen games is not at all in accord with their glorious traditions. Urania move up from thirteenth to tenth place by their rather unexpected success in Lausanne.

ICE HOCKEY.

It is strange to see what little enthusiasm the world championship competitions, decided in Milan, has produced in this country, if one is to judge by the total absence of comments in the more popular public Press. Yet England is represented, unfortunately by none too strong a team. Be that as it may, Switzerland has come right to the fore in this fastest of all sports. As to the events in Milan: A preliminary round was to settle who should join Canada and America's crack teams for the final honours. In Group 1 Hungary, Czechoslovakia and England finished with one win and one loss each, England being eliminated on goal average. In Group 2 Switzerland won their three games by 30—3 goals, the other three nations, France, Rumania and Belgium, winning each one game and losing two. France qualified on goal average. In Group 3 Germany, Italy and Austria finished all level, 2 points each and identical goal averages. This necessitated a new arrangement for the Finals and three groups were formed: No. 1, America, Austria, Czechoslovakia. No. 2, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary. No. 3, Canada, Germany, France. Should, in accordance with expectations, America and Canada be the winners in their respective groups, the two classified second would play a deciding match, the winner to join in the Finals with the three group leaders. On that basis, the last four proved to be: America, Switzerland, Canada and Germany (who qualified by defeating Czechoslovakia). In the semi-finals America beat Germany 3—0 and Canada beat Switzerland 2—1 after extra time. This was the only goal Canada had conceded so far. In the Final Canada beat America 2—1 and thereby became World Champions 1934.

Switzerland and Germany decided the European Championship. The result at the end of the three regulation periods was 1—1, and it required another two extra 15-minutes before the physically stronger team, Germany, scored the deciding goal.

The final classifications were: 1, Canada; 2, America; 3, Germany; 4, Switzerland; 5, Czechoslovakia and Hungary; 7, Austria; 8, England; 9, Italy; 10, Rumania; 11, Belgium and France.

The next Championship matches for 1935 will be played in Switzerland. M. G.

The Eighteenth Swiss Industries Fair

will be held at

BASLE

April 7th—17th, 1934.

for Information apply to:

THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF
THE SWISS LEGATION,
18, Montagu Place, Bryanston Square, W.1.

or to:

THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION,
99, Gresham Street, E.C.2; or at Basle.

Information regarding Travelling facilities may be obtained from:

THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS,
11b, Regent Street, S.W.1.