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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

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

### FEDERAL.

#### LARGE DONATION FOR UNEMPLOYED.

The Board of Directors of the "Schweizerische Mobiliarversicherung" in Berne have put an amount of 100,000 frs. at the disposal of the Federal Council to assist the unemployed.

#### TAX ON WINES SUPPRESSED.

The Federal Council has decided to discontinue the tax on wines after 1938.

#### GOLD SMUGGLING.

Two travellers were arrested by the French Police when £4,000 worth of gold was found in a false accumulator case on their car on the Franco-Swiss frontier. The gold consisted of one kilogramme of ingots and 19 kilogrammes of French and foreign gold pieces.

#### ROMANSCH.

It may be of interest to recall that the first complete translation of the Bible into that branch of the Romansch language known as Rhaeto-Romansch (spoken in the Upper Rhine valley) published at Chur in 1718 was dedicated to George I, who acknowledged the compliment with a gift of 50 guineas. Archdeacon Coxie relates that this sum was seized by the printer, Andrea Pfeffer, and that the editors of the work received none of it. It is a matter for great satisfaction that this remarkable language, for the preservation and development of which the name of Zaccaria Pallioppi deserves not to be forgotten, should now be assured of its future.

#### SWISS MOTOR SHOW.

The annual Swiss Motor Exhibition is to be held in Geneva from March 12th to 21st.

#### SWISS APPEAL FOR NEUTRAL ZONE.

The Swiss Federal Government, deploring the effects of the bombardment of Madrid, have instructed M. Motta, chief of the Political Department, to approach the International Red Cross Committee with a view to asking them to negotiate with both sides for the creation in Madrid of a neutral zone where the women, children, and other non-combatants may seek shelter.

#### LEU & CO.'S BANK.

At a recent meeting of bondholders of Leu and Co.'s Bank, full particulars were announced pertaining to the reorganisation.

It will be recalled that at the beginning of January last the bank was granted a three months' moratorium on its liabilities. Since the directors were unable to reorganise the bank while the moratorium was in force, a new moratorium had to be granted by the authorities which expired at the end of last month. In accordance with the new Swiss banking legislation, however, the moratorium is automatically extended until the final stage of the reorganisation has been reached.

The reorganisation measures, which have to be approved by the authorities, provide for the reduction of the share capital, at present amounting to 40,000,000 Swiss francs, to 6,000,000 Sw.f., later to be increased to 7,000,000 Sw.f. by the issue of new shares.

Creditors' claims are reduced by 35 per cent. As a compensation, creditors will receive 10 per cent. in Preference shares of the reorganised bank, and 25 per cent. in the form of a holding in a company which will be specially formed for the purpose of taking over Leu and Co.'s frozen assets which amount to 64,000,000 Swiss francs.

Moreover, holders of the bank's bonds are expected to agree to a postponement of the date of maturity and a reduction of the rate of interest to 4 per cent.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The Technical University in Zurich has conferred the titles of *doctor honoris causa* on M. Walther G. Noack, chief engineer at the Brown-Boveri Works in Baden, and on M. Emil Scheitlin, Director of the Sulzer works at Winterthur.

A Charity Ball was held at the Tonhalle in Zurich, for the Swiss in Spain; M. Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation, was present.

The death is reported from Zurich, of M. E. Baechi, General-Manager of the "Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft," at the age of 61; he was born in 1875 at Embrach, and after a few years' stay in London, Paris and Italy he entered in 1900 the Zurich branch of the Bank in Baden. In 1918 he was appointed Manager, and in 1934 General-Manager of the "Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft."

#### BERNE.

The firm of Carba A.G. in Berne, has put an amount of 20,000 frs. at the disposal of the Federal Council, in order to help the unemployed during the coming winter.

#### GLARUS.

The couple Henri Hefti-Blumer, aged 81 and 80 respectively, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at Luchsingen.

#### BASLE.

Doctor Peter Ryhiner, a noted specialist for children's ailments, has died in Basle at the age of 48 through blood poisoning. The deceased reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army.

On the occasion of the *dies academicus* of the University in Basle, the following have received the title of *doctor honoris causa*: M. Christoph Bollinger, secretary of the Swiss "Metall-Arbeiter Verband"; M. G. Bohny, President of the "Basler Gewerbe-Verband"; Dr. E. Barell, Director of the Chemical Works, Hoffmann-La-Roche & Cie, Dr. J. Brodbeck, President of the Board of the "Gesellschaft für Chemische Industrie" in Basle.

Professor Gerlach, head of the Pathological Institute of the University of Basle, who recently was dismissed on account of Nazi Propaganda (Professor Gerlach is of German nationality), has been reinstated.

#### GRISONS.

The trial of David Frankfurter for the murder of Wilhelm Gustloff, the Nazi agent in Switzerland, is to begin on December 9th, it is officially announced, in the hall of the Cantonal Council of Chur. The trial will last three days. The Swiss lawyer, M. Eugen Curti, is to appear on Frankfurter's behalf.

#### VAUD.

In Lausanne, died at the age of 66, M. Paul Ketterer, the founder and editor of the *Messageur des aveugles*, and Manager of the Braille Printing Works.

Doctor Eugène Grec, a medical practitioner in L'Isle, was killed when his motor-car ran into a wall, his wife who was a passenger had her arm fractured.

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

National-Councillor, René Robert, from Neuchâtel, has been appointed a member of the Board of the "Société Générale de l'Horlogerie Suisse" in succession to the late National-Councillor Achille Gropspierre.

#### AARGAU.

The death is reported from Aarau of M. Hans Hässig, late "Stadtammann," at the age of 77.

After having concluded his studies of theology, he was for many years an active worker in the philanthropic sphere. The deceased was for several years President of the "Schulpflege." He entered the Municipal Council in 1889 and for over 25 years he officiated as "Stadtammann." M. Hässig was also for a considerable time a member of the Grand Council of the Canton of Aargau. He retired in 1932.

The Manager of a tannery in Zofingen, called Schwarz, was condemned to three and a half years' imprisonment for having embezzled an amount of over 600,000 frs.

### GENEVA.

A bronze bust, executed by Jules Trembley, sculptor, was unveiled at the University of Geneva in memory of the late Professor and rector of the University, M. Robert Chodat.

Mr. John G. McNaughten, correspondent of the British United Press in Geneva, was killed on the Rochers-de-Nay.

Mr. McNaughten, who went to Caux on Thursday for a few days' holiday, started off alone to go on the Rochers de Naye, the ascent of which is not at all a mountain climb in the true sense of the term, but only a steep walk. As he did not return to his hotel last night a search was made this morning, and his body was found about 1,300 feet below the place where he appeared to have lost his footing. The nails in his boots were clogged with frozen snow, and it is supposed he lost his way and slipped, perhaps because the night had overtaken him. His injuries were so severe that it is thought death must have been instantaneous.

Mr. McNaughten, who was only 27 years old, was a Canadian and a son of Dr. Francis McNaughten, of West Mount, near Montreal. He had been in Geneva for about seven years. He had a post, first, in connection with the International Students' Service and then on the staff of the permanent Canadian Delegation to the League of Nations. About a year ago he was appointed assistant to Mr. Wallace Carroll, Geneva correspondent of the United Press of America.

Mr. McNaughten was a young man of remarkably attractive character and keen intelligence, who had already, short as his journalistic career had been, shown himself to be an excellent journalist, as careful and scrupulous as he was able.

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE 21st SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR.

The extremely wide-spread industrial activities of Switzerland are presented to the public in a concrete and exemplary form in the spring of each year, and the fine fair buildings, together with the exhibits displayed, are a mirror of industry and progress. The preparations for the 21st Swiss Industries Fair, held at Basle from April 3rd to 13th, are now in full swing. The programme provides for 21 industrial groups (repeated regularly every year), a number of special fairs which have also been held regularly year by year, and some quite new special sections. Buyers from other countries will be particularly interested in the Watch Fair, the pretty Textile Group with the Fashion Salon, as well as in the big Electrical Group, Gas and Heating Apparatus, Machine Tools, Machinery and Tools, Means of Transport, Office Equipment, Technical Supplies. The other groups, too, exhibit a number of articles for exportation.

## L'ESCALADE DE 1602!

Les mânes de la Mère Royaume et des héros des ramparts veillent sur vous citoyens du "bon bout du lac," venez donc chanter leurs louanges et briser la marmite, — surtout n'hésitez pas! soyez fidèles et ponctuels au rendez-vous chez Pagani, où Ceux de Genève, s'y retrouveront ce fameux onze décembre, à un modeste dîner.

MM. C. Campart, 32, Theobald's Road, W.C.1. (Holborn 3832), et H. Charnaux, 31, Stanhope Road, Streatham, S.W.16, sont aux écoutes et prêts à vous renseigner.

Cec.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu mardi 1 décembre au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1, et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.  
Admissions.

Divers.  
Démissions.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)