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HOME NEWS

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TUG O' WAR IN SWITZERLAND.

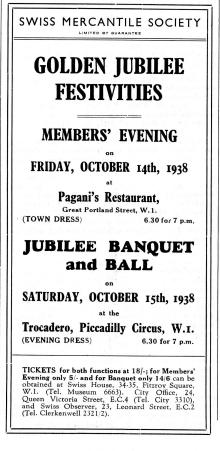
While the world's attention is focused upon the political struggle around the question of war and peace, Switzerland has been the scene of a minor tig o' war between the Federal authorities and the Swiss National Bank. Ever since the devaluation of the Swiss franc in 1936 there has devaluation of the Swiss franc in 1936 there has been spasmodic agitation in favour of the utilisa-tion of the bookkeeping profits of the National Bank on the gold reserve for the purpose of public works and rearmament. Suggestions to that end have repeatedly been put forward and pressed with much vigour, but until now the National Bank has always succeeded in resisting them At present however it is the Federal

SWISS WARNING TO REFUGEES.

The Swiss Federal Government decided that German subjects classed under the Nuremberg laws as "non-Aryans" should be prohibited from entering or travelling through Switzerland unless provided with a special visa from a Swiss Consultation of the Swiss from a Swiss Consulate.

This measure, which is to be enforced imme-diately, is a precaution against any renewed influx of German Jewish refugees. The Swiss Government emphasises that no

permanent right can be accorded to German Jewish refugees already in this country, and that during their temporary sojourn here they must not indulge in any profession, business or vocation.



NEW SWISS LAW TO "STUDY POLITICAL

CINEMATOGRAPHY. On October 12th a new film import law will come into force in Switzerland.

The Swiss Federal Council has decreed that the swiss rederal Council has decreed that cinematograph films must, in future, only be per-mitted to enter the country after having received the permission of the Home Office, which is given the power to fix the quota.

The chief object of this new law is to institute an exact control over all imports, without which it is impossible to study the problems of "poli-tical cinematograph."

The new law does not interfere with the question of censorship, which remains in the hands of the different cantonal authorities.

SWISS OFFICER'S HOLIDAY.

Lieut. Hans Schwarz, Swiss poet and jour-nalist, and super enthusiastic horseman, returns to Berne after eight weeks' holiday in Great Buitain and Index Britain and Ireland.

During the last two months he has ridden 1,400 miles through Ireland, Scotland, and the North of England. He started in Dublin where he bought "For Ever," a 7-year-old mare with a grand hunting record, although Lieut. Schwarz has never seen a fox hunt, and rather dislikes the idea of one. For a month he rode in Ireland and had a wonderful time.

"The people were marvellous," he said. "They all seem to be passionately fond of horses, and wherever I went they had heard of me and my ride. I have never met such friendly people."

Then he and "For Ever" crossed over to Glasgow and rode up Loch Lomond into Perth-shire and down from Loch Tay to Stirling, Edin-burgh, and Carlisle.

From Carlisle Lieut. Schwarz went south-ward on the main road through Lancaster and Preston to Liverpool, then on through Chester to Birmingham. From Birmingham he and "For Ever" returned to London by train for the con-tinuous hard surface of the big modern motor-roads was a terrible strain on the many loce and reads was a terrible strain on the mare's legs and feet, in spite of the patent Swiss type of non-slip shoe with which she was shod.

"I did not like the roads, and there was" very little grass on which to go," he said. "Motorists were not very considerate."

A big sunburnt man, Lieut. Schwarz weighs A big sumform main, Lieut. Schwarz weigns 16 stone and carried nearly 501b of luggage, so that the mare's total was about 270lb. He was able to cover about 35 to 40 miles a day. His holiday has cost him less than £100, including the £50 he paid for "For Ever."

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death has occurred in Kilchberg of M. A. Lüscher-Ruof, Manager of the Lindt-Sprüngli works in Kilchberg, at the age of 63.

Five persons lost their lives in a fire which broke out at premises at the Preiergasse in Zurich. The names of the victims are: Walter Staub, Ernest Grimm, Erich and Albert Oder-matt, 3 and 6 years old respectively and their uncle, Albert Odermatt. The causes of this disastrous fire have not yet been ascertained.

BERNE.

The newly erected municipal orphanage was inaugurated last week in Berne, the building, which cost 1,750 Mill. has room for 75 children. * * *

At a Shareholders Meeting of the "Spar und Leihkasse" in Berne, it was decided to accept the offer of the late Manager and the Directors of a sum of 1 million francs, there will be therefore no further Court actions instituted against these former Bank Officers.

SOLOTHURN.

The death is reported from Solothurn of Dr. E. Tatarinoff, Professor at the "Kantonsschule," and President of the "Schweiz. Gesellschaft für Urgeschichte."

M. Ferdinand von Arx, for twenty-two years a member of the cantonal government, has cele-brated his 70th birthday.

FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND

A MESSAGE OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL. During last week's crisis the Federal Council had addressed the following message to Hitler and President Bénès :

" Faisant écho aux messages de M. le pré-"Faisant écho aux messages de M. le pré-sident des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Conseil fédéral suisse adresse simultanément à S.E. le chancelier du Reich allemand et à S.E. le prési-dent de la République tchécoslovaque un appel ému en faveur de la paix. Fermement attachée à sa neutralité traditionnelle, qui répond à sa structure même, la Confédération est résolue à voctor vicourancement à l'émant de tout conflit scriterire mener, la Confederation est resolue a rester rigoureusement à l'écart de tout conflit. Le Conseil fédéral n'entend donc pas s'immiscer dans les questions controversées, ni même exprimer un avis sur la procédure qui permet-trait de les résoudre.

"Il ne peut taire, en revanche, son impres-sion que si une guerre entre la Tchécoslovaquie et l'Allemagne ne pouvait être évitée, plusieurs autres nations risqueraient d'être entraînées à y prendre part. Les dommages moraux et les ruines inimaginables qui en résulteraient pour la monde entier, pour les belligérants en première ligne et entier, pour les beingerants en première ingué et même pour ceux qui ne participeraient pas à la guerre, seraient si graves qu'aucune voix, si modeste soit celui qui l'élève, ne saurait renoncer à se faire entendre en faveur d'un règlement paci-fique du différend.

"Le Conseil fédéral est certain que cette démarche sera comprise par les deux parties dans son vrai sens de profonde amitié. Elle est sontenue par les vœux ardents de toutes les mères et de tout le peuple suisse unanime."

SWISS TRIBUTE TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN

The people of the canton of Neuchâtel have decided to present Mr. Chamberlain with a gold chronometer.

The "Journal de Genève" has opened a book in which all the inhabitants of Geneva may inscribe their names testifying to their gratitude to the British Prime Minister. The newspaper states :-

"We invite all the inhabitants of Geneva, which is the city of the Red Cross and the city of the League and of the International Red Cross, to sign an address which will be submitted to Mr. Chamberlain and which will give him the grate-ful homage of our city.

"We know that if our soldiers have not had to leave for the frontier it is mainly due to the persistent efforts of this noble Englishman. Geneva will not forget."

RE-UNION OF BASLE TOWN WITH BASLE

COUNTRY.

By a popular vote the electorate of the two by a popular vote the electorate of the two cantons of Basle City and Basle Country accepted by 25,719 ayes to 14,654 noes the reunification of the two into one canton proposed by the two councils. The division of the territories which incluse a dial division of the territories which is thus ended dates from 1833.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR TO A BLACKOUT.

Airmen who flew over Switzerland on Tues-day night, when there was a complete blackout over the whole country, stated that the experi-ment was a success. The train service was main-tained as usual and no delays were recorded.

The police had, however, to fine a few per-sons who had not taken the necessary precautions. This was the case with two retired clergymen in Zürich who left their windows open and their rooms fully lighted, the one for reasons of con-science, the other on the ground that the Con-

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contem-poraries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

fence.

them. At present, however, it is the Federal Council which has put forward a suggestion for the utilisation of the gold profit. Undaunted by the utilisation of the gold profit. Undaunted by this growth of pressure, the Board of the Swiss National Bank continues to resist. At a recent meeting the Board of the National Bank put for-ward a formidable array of arguments against the proposals. At the same time, however, it is prepared to meet the proposals half way by offer-ing the Federal Government and the Cantonal Governments exceptional credits on very favour-oble tomme for the purpose for which they would able terms for the purpose for which they would like to utilise the profit on the gold reserve.

15 GENEVA. Burglars entered the premises of the firm "La Samaritaine" in Geneva, and rifled the contents of a safe containing 15,000frs.

M. Julien Flegenheimer, the Geneva archi-tect who was one of the designers of the League of Nations building, died at Geneva on Saturday at the age of 58. He was well known also as a water-colour painter and his works were much appreciated in Paris, where he had terminated his art studies after having successfully com-pleted his studies in law, as he at first intended to be called to the Bar.

TICINO.

On the occasion of the official day of the "Foire Suisse" in Lugano, M. Motta, head of the Federal Political Dept., was the principal guest; during the Banquet he made a patriotic speech.

NEUCHATEL.

The "Feuille d'Avis" in Neuchâtel has issued a special number on the occasion of its 200th Anniversary.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH. (By Leu & Co.'s Bank, Ltd., Zurich.)

The trading on our Swiss Exchanges during the whole month of September was dominated entirely by political events, which followed each other on a very rapid scale. Whereas a week or two ago, war all over Europe seemed imminent and unavoidable, the mere announcement of the Munich conference of the four principal Euro-pean Nations gave hope again for a peaceful settlement at the eleventh hour.

It was logical therefore, that the public over It was togical therefore, that the public over here was very nervous during all these times. It so happened that one day stocks and bonds were thrown overboard at big losses, the same to be repurchased on the following day with substantial premiums, whenever political news seemed more optimistic.

Violent price variations took place on several violent price variations took place of several occasions and the declines were generally more pronounced that the gains. The following quo-tations may give a picture of the extreme optimism and pessimism reigning these last days : October 1st, 1938.

	August 31st	lowest during the month	September 30th
Schweiz. Kreditanstalt	672	550	674.—
Elektrobank	558	430.—	525
Motor-Columbus	294	215.—	278
Elektrizitäts-& Verkehrs-			
Ges.	168	110.—	154
Italo-Suisse	152	110	148
Schweiz. Rückversicherung	3970.—	3500	3850
Ad. Saurer	275	210.—	265
Aluminium	2710	2500	2735
Lonza	539	450	535.—
Nestlé	1240	1120	1240
Sulzer	710	610	710.—

SOME FACTS ABOUT SWISS HISTORY.

By Prof Dr. ERNST GAGLIARDI.

The Swiss Confederation, as a State, belongs to the historically more recent political forma-tions of the Continent. Whilst its cultural for-mation goes back to pre-historic times, it was only at the middle of the 13th century that the evolution commenced which, shortly before the Reformation, led to the separation of the southern Alemanic territory from the German Empire. This separation resulted less from a logically developed, deliberate movement towards independence, for at the outset this hardly existed, than in consequence of a chain of mani-fold circumstances. It can only be suggested here that since the middle of the 13th century the struggle waged by the Central Swiss Cantons (Waldstätte) — Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden — against the Royal House of Hapsburg which menaced their administrative independence and was, moreover, since 1440 practically in hereditary possession of Imperial power. From an early date the democratically organised rural districts in Central Switzerland had exercised a magnetic attraction over an ever increasing radius. In 1332 Lucerne, which was formerly Austrian, associated itself with its neighbours across the lake. In 1351 the City of Zurich joined them. In 1352/1353 Zug, Glaris, and above all Berne, who just previously, with tenacious energy, had gained the leadership in the realm of Burgundy, also united themselves to the nucleus. Whilst elsewhere towns-people and peasants remained separate, in the domain of present-day Switzerland they organised them-selves for joint action. This phenomenon does not merely exist in the unparalleled energy of such democratic tendencies as were cradled in the The Swiss Confederation, as a State, belongs

valley districts of Central Switzerland and above all in Schwyz, which had obtained only half-privileges with sovereign liberty from Emperor Friedrich II. Even more astounding is the rare political talent of the local leaders. They cast about everywhere for confederates, were clever enough to gather communities of similar views or to create movements fully in agreement with their own their own.

The construction of the second second

In the history of warfare, the triumphs of the Federal infantry run parallel with these victories gained by the Flemish infantry over the French nobles near Courtray (1302), or the "Dithmarschen" in northern Holstein (at Oldenwöhrden, 1319). But whilst no political results followed such events, the Confederates, after concluding a 20 years' peace pact with Hapsburg (1394), began to look beyond their mountains. At the beginning of the 15th century, Schwz organised a campaign to deliver the dis-Schwyz organised a campaign to deliver the dis-trict of Appenzell. A closer relationship between various places and the Valais and Grisons began various places and the Valais and Grisons began to develop about 1400, for there democratic ideas on the Central Swiss model had become apparent. The people of Uri advanced across the Gotthard. And regardless of the language and racial differ-ences, the whole Central Alpine districts entered into mutual relationship. North, south, east and west — the inhabitants of all the Alpine slopes felt the common bond of their interests. Natural obstacles, which to day would have the effect of complete separation, were swept away before the elementary urge of common needs. While recg-nising the social differences which characterised the Middle Ages, the Confederation came to em-body the principle of reciprocity.

The Federal Union encountered an ever in-creasing amount of success and admiration. Its Alpine population was possessed of more indi-vidual privileges and influence as citizens than elsewhere. Growing defiance led to public prosperity.

perity. Even though the political combinations of townspeople and peasants represented perhaps the decisive moment of power of the Federation, there was certainly no lack of far-reaching quarrels between its two basic elements. The "Old Zurich War" ("Alter Zürichkrieg") from 1436—1450 — which was fought for territorial claims between the Imperial City of Zurich and the Schwyz district — threatened to destroy everything attained. For fifteen years either party was bent on exterminating the other. Only a complete rout of the Zurich army owing to bad leadership finally freed the way to that new development which definitely eliminated every possibility of conciliation with the House of Hapsburg, which suported Zurich. It paved the way for political and military relations with France, i.e. decisively weakened the link with the German Empire.

All subversive factors which hitherto had seriously threatened the internal health of the Federal states were eliminated during the bloody crisis. After Argovia, the home of the Austrian Dynasty, was conquered in 1415 by a daring breach of peace, Thurgovia was also taken in 1460. It became more and more evident that the Rhine was to be the northern frontier — although Waldshut Rheinfelden. Säckingen and Lau-Rhine was to be the northern frontier — although Waldshut, Rheinfelden, Säckingen and Lau-fenburg, as well as the Black Forest, unexpec-tedly escaped the absorption threatening them at that time. The "Great Old Federation of Upper German Countries" ("Grosse alte Bund ober-deutscher Lande") as the Confederation was called by its neighbours — waged from 1476 to L477 a victorious war of existence against the most dreaded Prince in Europe, Duke Charles the Bold of Burgundy. At the battles of Grand-son, Murten and Nancy, the Swiss, without properly realising it, decided the course of a chapter of European history. For the extensive

Central Empire, which the dead Duke had con-Central Empire, which the dead Duke had con-quered by means of his strong material power, was split up between France and Hapsburg, thereby establishing an opposition of interests which lasted over centuries, nearly up to the time of the Durach Barghting of the French Revolution.

of the French Revolution. Owing to seriously conflicting interests among members of the Federation these military successes could not be exploited politically. However, the Confederates enjoyed unique fame in Europe as warriors. Their infantry tactics were imitated as far off as Spain. The German mercenary infantrymen may be considered as a copy of the Swiss prototype. When, in 1499, King Maximilian tried to restore on a firmer basis those districts of the German Empire which had become nearly independent, he met with one de-feat after another in the so-called "Swabian War." Active association with the closely related mother-race north of the Rhine has since then practically ceased to exist. The two opposites were, in fact, full of real hatred for each other. The bridge-heads of Basle and Schafthouse, whose military importance had just been clearly recognised, united themselves with the "Magna liga altae Alemanniae." the first named specially adding to this league a cultural centre of international importance. On the other hand, the original cantons — especially Uri urged for an extension of their possessions south of the Gotthard, whilst the Grisons for their part also occupied the valleys on the other side of the water-shed. also occupied the valleys on the other side of the water-shed.

(To be continued).

