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GOOD TIDINGSINCREASE OF SWISS NATIONAL INCOME.

The total national income of Switzerland which was nine billion SFRS. in 1938 has attained now the figure of 17.4 billions.

SWISS TO OCCUPY HIGH POSTS IN E. A.

Professor O. Howald has been elected Vice President of the European Agricultural Association. As in the past Professor E. Laur will remain President of this organisation while Dr. A. Borel has been nominated permanent General Secretary.

SWISS PADRE IN HAARLEM.

The Geneva Padre, H.R. Bouvier, has been installed in the Church at Haarlem.

SWISS ARTISTS ABROAD.

The Swiss Pianist, Paul Baumgartner, is at present on a concert tour of Holland. His interpretation of Beethoven's Sonatas proved a great success.

A theatrical group directed by Leopold Biberti also received great acclamation in Holland with their production of Goethe's "Faust".

The enthusiasm of the Viennese people was aroused by Annemarie Dueringer from Berne, in her first appearance at the Burgtheater in Vienna in a piece from Maxim Gorki. She was previously a student of the Seminar Reinhardt in Vienna and Simone in Paris.

SUNDRY NEWSSUDDEN DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF LOCLE.

The sudden death occurred of Mr Rene Fallet who for many years was President of the City of Locle. The deceased played an important role in the Socialist Party which he represented for a long time in the Cantonal Parliament. Mr Rene Fallet, who retired on June 30th last, was a former President of the Cantonal Parliament of Neuchatel.

The Budget for 1950 for the Canton of Valais revealed expenses to the amount of 32,396,000 FRS. and receipts of 31,417,000 FRS.

POPULAR VOTE IN ZURICH

In Zurich, citizens approved with a large majority demands for credits for the installation of electricity supply plants. One of them amounting to 85 million for the building of a Power Station, Marmorera-Tinzen was accepted with 48,777 votes against 4821. The second concerned the participation of the City of Zurich with 6,000,000 on the Maggia-Kraftwerke AG and 1,750,000 FRS. for power transformers and was accepted with 46,643 votes to 6778.

EARLY ROMAN VILLAGE DISCOVERED.

Fifteen years ago excavations were made on a church hill of Oberwinterthur and remains of an old settlement from the Roman period was noticed. While excavating for a new community centre now it has been discovered that in the first century A.D. this was at that time totally destroyed by fire but immediately rebuilt. Remains were discovered of wooden buildings (Holzriegelbauten) with clay and lime floors. Quite a number of Roman utensils were also found, such as plates, pieces of glass, bronze coins and a small oil lamp. The excavations are directed by Professor Dr. Vogt of the Swiss National Museum.

GENEVA

On the 15th November the first foundation was laid for a new building for the Polyclinic in Geneva. High officials of the City and Country praised the efforts made by the Canton of Geneva in the transformation and modernisation of the Cantonal Hospital which was constructed almost 100 years ago and of which the larger parts of the building will be demolished soon.

The Government of the Canton of Geneva has decided not to agree to the demand of the State Personnel to include as from 1950 the cost of living bonuses into the basic salaries. It is considered too soon to make an irrevocable decision in this respect in view of the fact that the evolution of living costs has not stabilised yet.

LOWER WATER LEVEL ON THE RHINE REDUCES GOODS TRAFFIC IN BASEL.

On account of the very low level of the Rhine, tonnage of goods entering and leaving Switzerland through the Port of Basel is continuously diminishing. In October only 1666,664 tons were unloaded against 182817 in September and 181,539 tons in October 1948. Since January, 1940 the total traffic amounted to 1,933,258 tons against 2,469,323 for the same period last year, a deficiency of over 500,000 tons.

NEW RAILWAY STATION OPENED.

On November 7th, the official opening of the new railway building at Gronchen-Sud took place. Mr Walter Wachs, District Director of the Federal Railways and representatives of the authorities inspected the building which is the most modern Switzerland has at present. The City Mayor Adolf Furrer congratulated the authorities of the Confederation for the well accomplished task. The old building erected in 1857 could not cope with the necessities of the rapidly growing city of Watchmakers.

ALTERATIONS TO THE TOWN HALL OF ZUG.

The Citizens' Assembly of Zug refused a demand of credit from the Citizens' Council which aimed at making a Museum out of the Town Hall and placing the Assembly Chambers outside the building. A motion was carried unanimously to leave the Assembly Rooms within the building. Furthermore, it was agreed that the Council be requested to make proposals for the purchase of a neighbouring house where the Museum might eventually be placed.

INVESTMENT OF SWISS CONFEDERATION IN ITALY.

The Confederation in Italy has credits to the amount of 26 million Frs. which should be freed in way of investment. However, it appears that payment in lira cannot be effected by the Italian Government before the middle of 1950. It is planned by the Italian Authorities to use the money for national building reconstruction, in particular the erection of living quarters in those places which were hit hardest during the War. The repayment and payment of interest for these investments would be guaranteed by a well-known Italian Insurance Institute.

If the plans eventuate the Italians would build in Genoa, at cost price, a Swiss school planned by the Swiss authorities.

SWISS UNIVERSITIES' WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.

Under the Directorship of Dr. Alice Keller, this organization held its 26th meeting on November 12th / 13th in Basel. A speech was made by the Vice President of the International Federation of University Women concerning the enquiry of UNESCO into female education and the second day statutory business was discussed. The Congress of the International Federation of University Women will be held in 1950 from August 5th to 12th in Zurich and Basel. 500 to 600 delegates of the various National Organizations are expected to take part.