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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Federal Council has decided to abolish as from April 15th next Swiss visas for passports of British subjects, other than those entering Switzerland in quest of employment.

\* \* \*

It is reported that the Federal Council will appoint Dr. Gaston Carlin as Swiss Minister in Berlin, in succession to Dr. von Planta. From 1902 till 1919 Dr. Carlin was Swiss Minister in London, from whence he proceeded to the Hague.

\* \* \*

The National Council have adopted the Railway Reform Bill with 80 against 17 dissentient votes.

With a view to economy and more centralised working of the entire system, the Bill provides, among other recommendations, a repartition of the Federal Railways into three sectors instead of five, as hitherto, whereby Basle and St. Gall will be suppressed as seats of district councils, and the sectors falling under the direction of the remaining district councils, viz., Lausanne, Lucerne and Zurich, will be enlarged accordingly.

\* \* \*

The Federal Treasury will ask the National and States Councils to agree that the members of these two governing bodies shall in future receive the daily fee of 35 frs. only for such days on which the Councils actually sit in session, excluding Saturdays and Sundays. It is estimated that the adoption of the motion will save the country annually 100,000 frs.

\* \* \*

The resignations of Dr. Calonder and Civil Engineer Gelpke from the International Rhine Commission have given rise to suspicion and anxiety in interested circles, particularly in Basle, whose Government sent a deputation to Berne, asking for explanations whether the Swiss Government has changed its attitude with regard to a free and navigable Rhine between Basle and Strasbourg.

Federal Councillor Chuard replied on behalf of the Government that Dr. Calonder's resignation is final, as he is overburdened with work in connection with the German-Polish Tribunal, that the Federal Council still adheres to its policy of a Free Rhine, and that it is hoped National Councillor Gelpke would put himself at the disposal of the Swiss Rhine Delegation as expert.

By 6,167 votes against 3,921 the Genevese citizens have decided that there is no need for a total revision of the Constitution.

Only about one-fourth of the electorate went to the poll, which fact enhances the defeat of the extreme left, the adherents of which went solid for a revision and imposition of a new Statute more in keeping with their revolutionary theories.

\* \* \*

The attendance at Zurich elementary and secondary schools has dropped from 26,000 to 23,000 scholars.

\* \* \*

During the year 1921 the petitions of 5,955 applicants for the grant of Swiss citizenship have been acceded to by the Swiss Government, in addition to 1,053 re-naturalizations which have mostly been sought by widows formerly of Swiss nationality who had married foreigners, for themselves and their children.

\* \* \*

A registered letter from Moscow recently reached an addressee in Zurich to which were affixed three Russian stamps of 10,000 roubles each, which at pre-war rate of exchange represent 178,000 frs.!

\* \* \*

The steamer "Neptun," belonging to the Schweizerische Dampfbootgesellschaft Schaffhausen, has sunk in the Constance dock, where the ship was undergoing repairs.

\* \* \*

Two directors of the Banque de Crédit Commercial et Agricole, Lausanne, have been arrested.

It is alleged that the bank has sold broadcast foreign shares and securities which have absolutely no real value. Preliminary investigation of the bank's books by the prosecution reveal a total loss of some 600,000 frs., which falls mostly on small traders and members of the lower middle class who have been duped.

\* \* \*

The International Football Match between Switzerland and Germany was played at Frankfort-on-Main on Sunday last before some 40,000 spectators.

The Swiss team was composed of: Dessibourg (Suisse), Gottenkienni (Grasshoppers), Siegrist (Bienne), Probst (Etoile), Schmiedlin (Berne), Osterwalder and Ramseyer (Young Boys), Sturzenegger (Zurich), Leiber (Young Fellows), Merkt (Old Boys), and Brand (Berne).

At half-time Germany led by 2 goals to nil, but after resumption of the game Merkt scored for Switzerland, and five minutes before close of play Sturzenegger succeeded in equalizing, so that the match resulted in a draw 2-2.

The first meeting between German and Swiss national teams took place in Basle in 1908, when the Swiss team proved victorious by 5 goals to 3, since then the German teams have been able to slightly forge ahead; to-day Germany leads by 19 goals to 18.