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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

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IMMATRICULATION OF SWISS CITIZENS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

In accordance with the Consular regulations passed by the Federal Council, all Swiss citizens residing in foreign countries, regardless of age, sex or status, are required to register at the Legation or Consulate in whose district they reside. This registration is the first condition to which is attached their right to diplomatic and consular protection.

Application for registration at the Legation or Consulate must be made not later than one month after arrival in the consular district. Furthermore every change of address as well as all changes in the civil or family status must be reported to the competent Swiss representation. When reporting such changes, the respective legal documents must be sent in together with the matriculation card.

A family is registered as a unit. The head is responsible for the registration of all members of his family. He is also compelled to report any changes in the family status.

The matriculation card is valid for a period of three years; it is to be renewed every three years. After nine years from date of issuance a new card must be obtained.

On December 31st, 1929, the validity of all matriculation cards expired, unless issued or prolonged in the second half of 1929.

HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

HOTEL BUILDING RESTRICTIONS TO CONTINUE.

The Federal Government recommends Parliament to grant a three years' extension of the hotel building restrictions as laid down in the regulations of 1925. In effect the restrictions have been in force for fully 15 years. They were introduced at the beginning of the war by the Government on the strength of its "extraordinary powers for emergencies." In 1925 the matter was regularised by a bill passed by Parliament in the ordinary way. It confirmed the restrictions for five years ending on the 31st of December 1930. The Government now proposes a final extension for three years as it considers that the hotel industry has not yet had sufficient time to overcome its financial difficulties created by the war and post-war period and to sufficiently consolidate its position. The restrictions do not represent an absolute prohibition to build new hotels, but make the establishment of new hotels dependent on a permission given by the Cantonal Governments if they are satisfied that a "need" for further hotel accommodation in the district concerned exists. In many Cantons where the hotel industry is no longer in difficulties permissions for new establishments are freely granted.

LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS.

The annual congress of the Liberal-Democratic Party delegates which took place at Berne on Sunday the 23rd inst. was in the main a demonstration of enthusiastic support for the "Alcohol-Reform," the fate of which will be decided by plebiscite on the 6th of April. It was announced by the president of the party, National Councillor Schipbach, that efforts will be made to establish a closer contact between the party and its parliamentary representatives. At the next congress the new party programme will be finally discussed and settled.

THE PETROL DUTY RECEIPTS.

The receipts in 1929 from the petrol importation duty amounted to 32.2 million francs. As is known, the Federal Government is only entitled to keep three-quarters of these receipts for its own purposes while the other quarter must be distributed to the Cantons for the upkeep of the

roads. This year they will receive 7,677,000 francs to be distributed according to a most complicated apportioning method which takes into consideration both the actual cantonal expenditure on the roads and the total length of the roads in each canton. Berne receives just over a million, Zurich just under and Vaud about 900,000 francs, to name the three biggest participants.

EXHIBITIONS.

During the next three years, according to provisional plans, three important national and international exhibitions should take place in Switzerland, the "Hypsia" (Swiss Exhibition for Hygiene and Sport) in 1931 at Berne, the "International Exhibition for the Peoples' Arts" under the auspices of the League of Nations, to be held in 1934 also at Berne, and the Swiss National Exhibition, to be held at Zürich in 1933. In view of a certain tiredness amongst possible exhibitors and having regard to the high costs to the Federal Government and local authorities, it seems desirable to avoid having so many important exhibitions in such a short period. At a conference between the Federal Government and representatives of local authorities it has been decided that the Swiss National Exhibition should be postponed till 1935 or 1936. A postponement of the Hypsia presents more difficulties as the preparations for it are already in a fairly advanced state. Nevertheless negotiations are on foot for its postponement. Thus only the League of Nations International Exhibition is certain to be held at the appointed date.

A PARACHUTE ESCAPE.

A serious accident was averted by the presence of mind of Lieutenant Suhner, pilot of a military aeroplane, making a practice flight over the lake of Sursee. At a height of between 300 and 500 metres the motor suddenly became detached. The pilot jumped clear and with the aid of a parachute landed safely in a meadow near Sursee.

The aeroplane, without pilot and motor, flew another couple of hundred yards, struck the roof of a house and finally was smashed to matchwood about three hundred yards away from the spot where the engine was found.

It is stated that this is the first time a parachute has helped to save the life of a Swiss military aviator. T.G.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Mountain-railway engineer H. Peter, lecturer at the Federal Polytechnic, has received a call from the Government of Guatemala to act as expert adviser in the building of the San Felipe-Quetzaltenago mountain railway. The track will rise from 600 metres to 2,500 metres above sea-level. N.Z.Z.

BERNE.

The Executive Council of the Canton has decided, on the recommendation of the direction of police, to introduce the one-way system on various streets in the town of Bern.

BERNE.

After a lengthy discussion the Town Council has sanctioned the proposal for a new elementary school at Bern-Bümpliz. This school will be built in the so-called pavilion style and is expected to become one of the models of school architecture for the whole country. The cost is estimated at 1,111,000 Frs.

BERNE.

Colonel Römer-Schwab, solicitor, died at Biel aged 66 years. He was President and Councillor of the Biel branch of the Schweizerische Volksbank. He was in turn commandant of the Infantry Bat. 27, 9th Regiment, 4th and 5th Brigade.

BERNE.

Biel had to appoint a new rector of the town's Gewerbeschule, as the previous, highly successful, rector has retired. Naturally it was expected, that the new man would be chosen for his theoretical and practical knowledge of the subjects taught. Several such qualified men applied. But this was not the idea of the socialist majority on the school committee. They have elected a militant member of their party, up to now employed as school secretary at Biel. He is a former office clerk! N.Z.Z.

SOLEURE.

The Cantonal Accounts for 1929 show a surplus of 686,160 Frs. It is proposed to allocate 400,000 Frs. to the cantonal fund for the old-age and dependents' insurance and 200,000 Frs. to the amortisation fund. N.Z.Z.

During excavations in the courtyard of the post office in Olten a Roman bronze coin in an excellent state of preservation was found. Such a find is very exceptional on the right hand border of the Aare and seems to confirm the belief, that in early Roman times the Aare crossing was between the post office and the Römerstrasse a short distance above the Bahnhofbrücke. N.

APPENZELL.

The voters of Herisau have accepted the proposal to create an Old-Age, Invalidity, Widows and Orphans' Fund for the employees and workmen of the Council. The maximum pensions for old age and invalidity are to amount to 1,500 to 1,900 Frs. in the first years. The "Ayes" polled 1,397 votes and the "Noes" 1,070. N.Z.Z.

BASLE.

A controller of the Federal Railways, named Thommen, returned home after night duty and apparently was preparing a cup of tea in the kitchen, when he fell asleep. The overboiling water extinguished the gas, and Thommen was found dead the following morning. N.Z.Z.

* * *

Joiner Rasmussen, of Birsfelden, was supervising the work on a new building near the botanical gardens, when he felt so annoyed by the presence of strikers, that he pulled out a revolver and started shooting. Fortunately nobody was hurt. All the workmen immediately downed their tools, until the police had removed Rasmussen.

St. G.T.

SCHAFFHOUSE.

The Grand Council has sanctioned a credit of 81,000 Frs. for enlarging the station at Schaffhausen and has declared as of public importance a motion for the improvement of some of the unhealthy flats in the old town. N.Z.Z.

GRÄUBUENDEN.

Avalanches have caused the death of skiers on the Parpaner Rothorn and on the Flesspass. It is the usual story of adventurous excursions without guides or proper experience of the conditions. N.Z.Z.

AARAU.

About 20 of the strawhat factories at Wohlen are working the clock round in three shifts, employing altogether over 4,500 hands. Similar establishments at Villmergen and Fahrwangen-Meisterschwanden are also working full pressure. N.Z.Z.

BERNE.

With reference to some pictures which were recently stolen from a museum in Berne, a painter living at Basle has informed the authorities of the Musée des Beaux-arts in Berne of having received a canvas of Erasmus which was sent to him from London for an opinion as to its genuineness. A thorough examination has revealed that the painting was one of those stolen and represents in fact Erasmus of Rotterdam. T.G.

LUCERNE.

The oldest resident in the canton, Jost Balmer, has died at the age of 99. He spent most of his life as a farmer's labourer, was a bachelor and played the violin until quite recently. T.G.

VAUD.

The strike of the Lausanne taxi drivers has started. The town is without taxis between the hours of 10 p.m. and midnight on account of a dispute with the police authorities, who have refused the demand of the taxi drivers, although their counter-proposal has also been rejected. T.G.

N.Z.Z.

NEUCHATEL.

The wife of a farmer, living near Chaux-d'Abel (Bernese Jura) was attacked by a dog and its four young ones and terribly mauled. Her piercing cries could be heard at a mile's distance and a farmer came to her assistance on horseback. The woman had to be transported to the hospital at La Chaux-de-Fonds and the dogs were destroyed. Their heads have been sent to Berne to be examined. T.G.

TICINO.

A N.C.O. on his way to Monte Ceneri with a portefeuille containing 7,000 francs was attacked by an unknown individual on a bicycle. He received several blows and was momentarily dazed. He had, however, the presence of mind to throw his portefeuille into a ravine and afterwards fought the assailant. He was knocked unconscious, but the money was later found intact. The would-be-robbber has not yet been found. T.G.

N.Z.Z.