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# The Swiss Observer

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## FEDERAL.

### THE MILITARY TAX.

An interesting decision has been made by the Federal Tribunal at Lausanne with reference to the paying of military tax. A recruit who has done his first service at a later date than the appointed time is entitled to reimbursement of the military tax paid for the year in which his own class had been recruited. The request for the refund must be made within five years of his military services as a recruit. *N.Z.Z.*

### THE NEXT "TIR FEDERAL."

The next Federal Rifle Competition (Eidgen. Schützenfest) which will take place in 1934, will probably be held in Basle.

### SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR AT BASLE.

An official reception was held at Basle of the Swiss diplomatic and consular representatives abroad. Amongst the many distinguished compatriots was Monsieur Paravicini, our Minister, who as a Balois was naturally singled out; in the local papers his photo appears surrounded by a group of attractive "Baslermaithi". In a humorous speech delivered after the traditional "Imbiss" Monsieur Paravicini admitted that this was his first visit to the Basle Fair; a Basle manufacturer had recently drawn his attention to the enormity of that omission and he hoped that he had now atoned for this unheard-of crime.

### OUR ADMINISTRATION.

According to official statistics published last month 67,400 civil servants and workmen were in the service of the Swiss Confederation at the end of 1929. Of this number 35,300 belonged to the Swiss Federal Railways whilst the remainder were distributed in the general administration, the postal and customs departments.

### THE LOCARNO PENHOLDER.

The Swiss and Dutch police authorities are straining all their resources to discover the whereabouts of the golden penholder used during the signing of the Locarno Pact. Along with another dozen of historic mementoes it was despatched to the Hague for exhibition.

### THE FREE ZONES.

The clerk to the Permanent International Court at The Hague has informed the press that according to official communications received both from the French and Swiss Governments the direct negotiations have not led to a satisfactory settlement of this long outstanding dispute. The International Court has now fixed July 31st as the date by which the respective documents with comments have to be lodged; counter proposals and legal arguments have to be submitted by September 30th, 1930. It is anticipated that judgement will be delivered some time in October.

### BOYCOTT OF AMERICAN GOODS.

The Federal Council has received numerous protests against the proposed increases in the United States tariff. The Federal Council is giving this matter full attention.

As a reply to the arbitrary raising of import duties by the U.S.A. on watches, in some instances by over 300 per cent, Swiss Watch interests are appealing to offices, factories and garages to refrain from buying or dealing in any goods of American origin.

### FOOTBALL.

At the international match played on the ground of the Grasshopper F.C. in Zurich between Germany and Switzerland last Saturday the visitors scored with five goals to nil. The match was favoured by beautiful weather and witnessed by a record attendance of about 25,000.

### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

The Federal Tribunal in Lausanne has upheld a decision of the Zurich authorities by which a local business firm was debarred from making use for propaganda purposes of medical degrees granted by spurious American universities. The decision affects the principal of the well-known Scholl concern which specializes in Orthopedic products.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

Farmer Rudolf Schneider at Othmarsingen, returning late at night from a meeting, heard suspicious noises in the hay loft. He grabbed a florbet pistol and investigated. In the dark he saw a human being move about and he challenged. Not getting any reply and fearing an attack, he fired. He had the misfortune of hitting the main artery of the intruder Robert Bolliger, aged 25, from Eglisau. Bolliger was killed instantly.

*N.Z.Z.*

### BERNE.

There are 224 seats in the Bern Grand Council and the candidates number 578. Of these 196 have previously been members. The representation of the various parties so far was as follows: 104 Bauern, Gewerbe and Bürger, 63 Social Democrats, 43 Liberal Democrats, 13 Catholics, 1 Independent. The candidates belong to the various parties as follows: 183 Bauern, Gewerbe and Bürger, 175 Social Democrats, 136 Liberals, 54 Catholics and 7 Communists. This is the first time that the Communists have prepared a list, and they propose the same seven candidates in Bern, Biel and Interlaken.

\* \* \*

In Rossemaison near Delsberg the homestead belonging to Mrs. Amstutz, a widow, was totally destroyed by fire. Stock and feed were burned as well. Salvage was very difficult owing to a shortage of water. The origin of the fire is believed to be a criminal one. *N.Z.Z.*

### UNTERWALDEN.

The Obwalden Landsgemeinde elected Stattthalter C. Stockmann as Landamann, in succession to Mr. Bussinger, to whom thanks were rendered for his valuable services. The two Executive Councillors Odermatt (Alpnach) and Rothlin (Kerns), who were retiring in accordance with rotation, were re-elected. The official candidate of the Progressive Party, Talamanian Engfanger (Engelberg) was duly elected to the Executive Council. *St. G.T.*

The Nidwalden Landsgemeinde elected National Councillor von Matt as Landamann, in succession to Mr. Zgraggen. *St. G.T.*

### GLARUS.

The Société Fermière Astra Ltd. was registered in Glarus in 1923. Having gone into Liquidation in the autumn of 1929, it was declared bankrupt last February; fraudulent bankruptcy is alleged, and the chairman, an industrialist from Bern, has been arrested. He was allowed bail in 50,000 Frs. The business of this company was the manufacturing abroad of oils and fats.

According to the "Neue Glarner Zeitung" the assets totalled more than 750,000 Frs., the paid up Share Capital amounting to 250,000 Frs. Although another company's claim against the Fermière Astra Ltd. of more than 400,000 Frs. was not satisfied, the members of the Board received twice the value of the shares as profits; the remaining assets were also disposed of. Now they show a deficiency of about 460,000 Frs. including the unsatisfied claim. *St. G.T.*

### BASLE.

The continued good attendance at the Basel Samples Fair justifies the expectation, that the Fair will be a success in every way. One day last week, taken as a test day, the number of paying visitors exceeded by 500 the number of the same day last year. The number of foreign visitors is so far 30 per cent, above those of 1929. *\* \* \**

Burglars! Robbery! sounded the shouts one night last week in a street in Klein-Basel. A room in disorder, and the tenant lying on the floor in a dead faint. Blood is running off his head. The sum of 100 Frs. is missing. When the man came to, he explained that he was attacked by a hefty fellow, who hit him over the head, after which he remembered nothing more. When the police had another look at the victim, they were greatly astonished, because, in spite of all the blood, they could not find a wound. Finally, the man owned up, that he had stolen the money and faked the attack to cover up his deed. The Blood was Red Paint! *N.*

### APPENZELL.

The Ausser-Roden Landsgemeinde elected as new Landamann Executive Councillor Gustav Altherr (Speicher) in succession to Dr. Baumann. The latter, having served three years, could not accept re-election in accordance with the terms of the Constitution.

The Inner-Rhoden Landsgemeinde elected State Councillor Dr. Rusch as "regierender Landamann." *St. G.T.*

### GRAUBUENDEN.

The Rhätische Werke had approached Splügen with a request for a concession to build a dam in connection with planned Hinterrhein power station. The effect of this dam would have been to convert the whole village of Splügen into a lake. At the same time a plan was submitted for the construction of New Splügen above its present site. The citizens have decided against the request and have thus followed the example of Nufenen. *N.Z.Z.*

### AARAU.

A 5½-year-old boy, on holiday at Aarau, walked along the Aare with a sheep-dog. Near the gasworks the boy fell into the water. The dog immediately followed the boy, grabbed his clothes and held him above water until help arrived. *N.Z.Z.*

### THURGAU.

During exercises of a military preparation class in Berg, a boy named Oettli, aged 19 years, failed to see a low crossbar and ran full tilt into it. The bar caught him in the abdomen and caused a tear in the liver, which resulted in the boy's death. *N.Z.Z.*

\* \* \*

A training school for butchers will be opened at Frauenfeld and at Romanshorn by the Cantonal Education Board. This is in reply to a request from the master butchers, who have undertaken to encourage their apprentices to attend. *St. G.T.*

### VAUD.

On the occasion of the annual military manoeuvres of the Swiss Flying Corps held at Lausanne, an aeroplane, piloted by Lieutenant Collet, carrying as observer Lieutenant Bucher, collided with a tree whilst making a forced landing necessitated by some engine trouble. The occupants were removed to the Cantonal Hospital at Lausanne where it was found that Lt. Collet was suffering from a fractured leg, whilst Lt. Bucher fortunately escaped with slight concussion. *T.G.*

\* \* \*

The State Council submitted a proposal to the Cantonal Council to create a Fund to be used for the purpose of widely advertising "Vaudois" wines. This Fund will be raised by a tax levelled on the various vineyard proprietors and the administration of the said Fund will be undertaken by the State Council at their expense. *T.G.*

### GENEVA.

The organisation committee of the International Music Festival which will be held at Alger on June 7th has invited the Musique Municipale of Geneva, together with the Harmonie Municipale of Zurich to open the festival by giving a combined concert. The performance will be honoured by the attendance of high French officials and Mr. Leuba, Swiss Consul at Alger. *T.G.*

\* \* \*

Some time ago a special Committee was appointed to study the question of erecting a Zoological Garden at Geneva. After having consulted various prominent international experts, the authorities are calling a public Meeting in order to put this proposition to the inhabitants of the town. The Bois Cayla is proposed as a site for this purpose. A local paper suggests that the League of Nation authorities might be able to supply this institution with some of its "bêtes noires." *T.G.*

### SAINT OURS.

An inhabitant of Saint Ours has discovered the disappearance of two savings books, involving deposits amounting to Frs. 35,018. and Frs. 2,675. with the Caisse d'épargne de la Singine at Tavel. Investigations as to the theft of these books have proved to be so far unsuccessful.

*T.G.*

### TICINO.

Andrea de Micheli, the well-known Ticino painter has died at the age of 70 at his villa Lugano-Paradiso. The deceased had studied at Brera, Rome, Florence and Paris and specialised in portrait painting and religious subjects. Many of his portraits were sold to America, Belgium and Germany. *T.G.*

\* \* \*

Aldo Seurio, an inmate of the orphanage at Lugano was seriously hurt whilst trying to escape from the Home. He was picked up in the street after having jumped out of a second floor window and was removed to the hospital. *T.G.*