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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

SWISS MONEY IN LIECHTENSTEIN.

Liechtenstein has accepted the Swiss proposal for a reorganisation of the monetary system; the existing silver coins totalling in value Frs. 250,000 will be gradually withdrawn from circulation and substituted by coins of Swiss denomination.

CIVIL AVIATION.

The Basle Aviation Company "Balair" has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year 1929 against 4 per cent. for the previous period. Though the mileage down and the number of passengers carried is considerably less than in 1928 the revenue shows an increase, due to the large amount of goods carried, the respective figure being nearly 50 per cent. up. The Company receives subsidies to the tune of over Frs. 311,000 whilst the paid-up share capital is Frs. 330,000; at the beginning of this year the latter was increased to half a million.

FIRE STATISTICS.

According to figures just published for the year 1928 by the Association of Cantonal Fire Insurance Offices the claims paid out amounted to 9.2 million francs on a total insurance of 22,074 million francs, or 0.042 per cent. The fire risk seems to be the lowest in the cantons of Glaris, Zug, Schaffhausen, Appenzell A.Rh., and Grisons where the above percentage is below 0.02 per cent and highest in Fribourg where it exceeds 0.1 per cent. Lightning was the cause of fire in 498 cases, carelessness in 451 and arson has been proved in 69 cases.

FOOTBALL.

In the second round for the Swiss championship Servette scored another victory by beating the Zurich Grasshoppers on their own ground by one to nil. The Bernese Young Boys who lost the previous Sunday to Servette found some consolation by scoring two goals to one against Lugano; the same luck favoured Basle who emerged victors against Biel with one to nil. The position as regards points is now as follows: Servette 4, Basle 2, Lugano 2, Young Boys 2, Grasshoppers 1, and Biel 1.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

The board of the Swiss National Bank is proposing to an extraordinary meeting of its shareholders which takes place on the 28th inst to have the articles of association modified so as to enable the National Bank to participate in the establishment of the B.I.S. The participation is limited to ten million francs.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

A brother and sister, both in the seventies, living at 9 Gerberweg in Zurich were found unconscious in their flat. It appears that the brother suffers from asthma and, to give him relief, his sister was in the habit of brewing a concoction of licorice and strong tobacco. On the day they were found, they had both drunk of that "tea"; the tobacco used was so strong, that they both contracted nicotine poisoning. N.Z.Z.

BERNE.

The election of the Executive Council shows the following composition of the new Council: Bauern-, Gewerbe- und Bürgerpartei 101 (previously 104), Socialdemocrats 69 (63), Liberals 41 (43), Catholics 12 (13), Independent 1 (1). The Socialdemocrats have won an additional seat in each of the following Amtsbezirke: Erlach, Oberhasli, Fraubrunnen, Pruntrut, Frutigen, Aarberg and Burgdorf, and they have lost one at

Schwarzenburg. The Bauern-, Gewerbe- und Bürgerpartei won one seat each in Schwarzenburg, Courtelary, Interlaken and Montier, and lost one seat each in Erlach, Neuenstadt, Oberhasli, Fraubrunnen, Aarberg and Burgdorf. The Liberals have won a seat each in Neuenstadt, Konolfingen, and lost one each in Frutigen, Montier, Courtelary and Interlaken. The Catholics have lost one seat at Pruntrut. Slightly more than 50 per cent. of the electors went to the poll. N.Z.Z.

Owing to recent abnormal rains, floods are reported from the Goldey near Unterseen, where the fields have suffered great damage. The Stampbach has overflowed above Matten. Between Grindelwald and Zweiflischne the railway track has been rendered impassable over a stretch of 600 metres. The ill-famed Spreitlawine has descended twice and has interrupted all traffic over the Grimsel. In the Stockhorn area the rains have swelled the Fallbach to such an extent, that the bridges had to be removed at Blumenstein, as they dammed up the water. Two houses had to be evacuated, and in others the ground floor is under water. Troops were called out to help the local fire brigade, and 100 men were sent from the Säumerrekutenschule at Thun. N.

GLARUS.

Loosened by the heavy rain, a landslide has once more endangered Fäthal by a heavy fall from the Kilehenstock. The valley above the village has been transformed into a lake with two outlets village-wards. The fire brigade is at work; but it is feared that troops will have to be called to bring relief. N.

BASLE.

The mystery surrounding the disappearance some months ago of 13-year-old Rösly Waldmeier, of Basel, has been solved by the finding of her body hidden on the border of the Wiese. A fisherman from Kleinhüningen, made suspicious by a strong smell of decaying matter, investigated and found her in a hut beneath some boards and stones. Appearances tend to show that the girl fell a victim to a libertine. N.Z.Z.

The dockers' strike at the Basle Rhine port continues. Only about 100 hands are working, against the usual 200-250. Although flood water in the Rhine has stopped traffic, there are still a good many lighters to be unloaded. Strong police detachments prevent molestation of workers by strikers. The strike is of communistic origin, and the pretext serving as cause is utterly ridiculous. About 4 weeks ago, a workman belonging to the Socialist party missed a shirt and his purse. He informed his Union and the Port Authorities, but no information was given to the police. A few days ago, this workman was side by side with another docker (belonging to the Communist Party) who wore the stolen shirt. Naturally he claimed his property, but in vain, and finally declared his intention of complaining to the police. Thereupon the leaders of the Communists demanded the discharge of the victim and, this demand being refused, they declared the strike. N.

BASELSTADT.

The Cantonal accounts for 1929 show a surplus of 400,000 Frs., against a budgetted deficit of 600,000 Frs. N.

AARGAU.

The Aarau Town Council has, subject to ratification by the citizens, concluded an agreement with Colonel Emil Rothpletz, owner of the Schlössli, whereby the Schlossbesitzung and gardens will become the property of the town, by way of gift, on July 1st next. N.Z.Z.

APPENZELL.

About 400 Innerrhoder men assembled at 5 a.m. on May 14th for the traditional Stossfahrt. Fine weather usually sees a cortege of about 1,000 persons. The band and the colours of the Infanterierekrutenschule II/6, from Appenzell and Weissbad, accompanied the muster. The usual address was forseen, to be given by Landammann Dr. Rusch. Owing to heavy rain, this had to be left out, as well as the sermon at the Stoskapelle. A mass was read by Kaplan Peterer. The men returned one hour earlier than usual, having to hurry home to change their soaked clothes. This is the first time within memory, that the ceremony had to be shortened in such a manner. St. G.T.

GRAUBÜNDEN.

The loud barking of a dog saved the lives of Modest Maissen-Cagenard, his wife and their seven children, when their house at Rabins was destroyed by fire. They just managed to escape in their night attire, and no attempt at salvage of anything whatever could be made. N.Z.Z.

VAUD.

The Federal Tribunal at Lausanne has had rather an unusual and knotty case to try. An engaged couple, after some considerable time of wooing and cooing came to the conclusion that temperamentally they were not fitted to enter into holy matrimony and to risk the adventure into the "great unknown." Wishing to soften the parting and as a "beau geste" the former admirer of his lady love proposed to indemnify her for any purchase which she might have made for her trousseau and an amount of Frs. 6,500. was agreed on. The payment was to be made in instalments spread over a year. The debtor now wishes to be released from the obligations entered into owing to the fact that his former fiancée was married soon after the arrangement was made.

The Tribunal held that the debtor is liable for the full amount to be paid in view that no special stipulation was made at the time and that the contract is to be considered as a commercial transaction "pure et simple."

FRIBOURG.

Prof. Dr. Albert Büchi, the well-known lecturer at the University of Fribourg, died suddenly of heart failure on the way to the University. The deceased was not only a great Historian but also a man of charming personality, who had a great circle of admirers both at home and abroad. V.

TICINO.

Mr. Auguste Nizzola, a resident of Baden, has given a legacy amounting to Frs. 200,000, in order to create a Fund in aid of the inhabitants of the canton of Ticino, who might at some time be sufferers in the event of disasters caused through inundations, earthquakes, forest fires, etc. The Fund will be administered by a member of the Ticino Government, a member of the family Nizzola and the "Société d'utilité publique Suisse." T.G.

GENEVA.

The voting took place last Sunday with regard to the proposal to unite the three suburbs of Plainpalais, Eaux-Vives and Petit Saconnex with the town of Geneva. The proposition, in spite of considerable opposition from the liberals and liberal-conservatives was passed with a great majority (13,497 for and 7,301 against). The poll was a very feeble one, more than 20,000 voters abstained from recording their vote. A curious fact is, that the socialists and Undeists voted for the fusion, whilst the conservatives gave the vote free. In the year 1888 the town of Geneva had a population of about 52,000 inhabitants; in 1927 one of only 49,000, whilst Plainpalais with a former number of 12,000 souls has now a population of 34,000, an increase of nearly 200 per cent. Eaux-Vives has to-day 19,000 inhabitants against 8,000 in 1888. Petit Saconnex counts now 16,000 souls against 4,000 some years ago.

Our next week's number which will be an enlarged issue, will contain a special article dealing with Monsieur Paravinci's 10 years' activity as Minister for Switzerland in London.