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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Budget of the League of Nations was subjected to some appropriate criticism by the Swiss delegate at last week's sitting of the budget commission. Prof. Rappard pointed out that many questions which demanded lengthy deliberations and the consideration by experts had little to do with the primary object of the League, namely the strengthening of international security and the preservation of Peace; Switzerland and the majority of the members of the League had little or no interest in such matters as the demarcation of the sea shores, the regulations of the whale fishery, etc. This also seemed to explain the tardiness with which some of the States settled their allotted contribution to the League as they "obtained no value for their money." As regards the administration and the staff, which swallowed 90% of the total expenses, a considerable saving could be affected especially in view of the fact that appointments were portioned out on the basis of nationality and not by reason of the efficiency of the individual applicants.

The 1932 budget of the League amounts to nearly 40 million francs in which are included four million expenses in connection with the proposed international disarmament conference, the latter is expected to last about six months and the printing expenses alone figure with two million francs.

### FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

After a lengthy discussion the Council has sanctioned a contribution of Frs. 800,000 (40% of the estimated cost) towards the cost of the correction of the "Kleine Emme" in the canton Lucerne.

### A UNIVERSITY IN THE TICINO.

As a result of an exchange of views between the Federal authorities and a delegation from the Ticino the sponsors of the suggested university in the Ticino have been invited to work out and submit to Berne a definite plan together with a budget.

### THE COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH GERMANY.

The German Foreign Minister Dr. Curtius had an interview last week with Federal Councillor Motta when the prolongation of the existing commercial treaty was discussed. In view of the fact that during the last five years the import from Germany has practically been doubled whilst the export from our country into Germany is steadily decreasing it is generally expected that the treaty will not be renewed in its present form after October 1st.

### A NEW INDUSTRY IN THE AARGAU.

It is reported that a syndicate has acquired for a quarter of a million francs a large plot of land in the Fricktal near Möhlin where a rubber factory is to be erected to give employment to about 4,000 hands.

### SWISS MORTGAGE BANK SCHEME APPROVED.

The Swiss National Council has approved the scheme for the formation of an International Agricultural Mortgage Bank.

Nearly a score of States, including Great Britain, have signed the convention to constitute such a bank. The Swiss Government would thereunder undertake to grant the company a constituent charter, and loans would only be accorded to mortgage or agricultural credit companies or institutions having registered offices in the territory of the contracting Governments.

### NEW ROADS.

A new road over the Passwang in the canton Solothurn is to be constructed at an estimated cost of 1.2 million francs. The Federal Council

is proposing to grant a subsidy of 40%, viz. Frs. 480,000.

### SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

The traffic returns for the month of August are still on the down grade as compared with the same period last year. As regards passengers, 7.8% less were carried and the value of freights shows a decrease of 5.12%. The total surplus of the revenues for the eight months to August this year is about nine million francs (10.5%) down compared with last year. It is, however, interesting to note that considering the returns of the other continental railway systems the S.F.R. are exhibiting the lowest reaction to the prevailing crisis.

### SWISS BANKING.

By common consent all the principal banking institutions have decided to publish monthly balance-sheets in a uniform manner.

### BANKING CONTROL.

The radical members of the Swiss Parliament have petitioned the Federal Council to report as to the advisability of enacting rigid regulations for the safeguarding of deposits in banks. It is further claimed that the remuneration (Tantième) of directors of limited companies should be regulated so as to represent the equivalent for actual services rendered and the measure of responsibility involved.

### UNION OF SWISS TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS.

The annual conference of the Union of Swiss Transport Undertakings took place in St. Gallen on September 11th and 13th. To this union belong nearly all the railway and tramway undertakings of Switzerland. In the opening speech of the conference Dr. Pilet, chief of the railway department in the Swiss Government, said that all railways, whether owned by the State or private companies, should work together not only in technical but also in administrative matters. Only by joint efforts would it be possible for them to overcome the existing economical crisis and the consequences of road competition.

### A NEW SWISS HIGH-PRESSURE TESTING LABORATORY.

A new high-pressure testing laboratory has recently been completed and put in operation at the works of the Brown-Boveri Co., at Baden, Switzerland. The building, which measures 137ft. in length by 75ft. in width, houses a 12-pole short-circuit generator for a closing and opening capacity of 8000,000 and 500,000 VA, respectively, a 2,200-kW driving motor with liquid starter, and a 85,000-kVA transformer which is intended to be connected between the generator and the oil-circuit breaker to be tested when a higher pressure than 11,000 V. is required. The actual test beds for the breakers are situated in the open air adjacent to the building.

### SECRÉTARIAT DES SUISSES A L'ÉTRANGER.

The Swiss Government has increased the Subvention for next Year from 15,000fr. to 18,000fr.

### OUR VICTORIOUS MARKSMEN.

The Federal Council has decided to present each member of the successful Swiss team, which took part in the International Shooting Competition at Lemberg, where they obtained the highest result, with a one hundred franc gold coin.

## LOCAL.

### ZÜRICH.

Prof. Johannes Spühler, for some years principal of the municipal Girls College died in Zurich at the age of 76. He was a well-known exponent and writer in the field of gymnastics and one of the Federal commissioners.

The late Jakob Ritter, who was cashier of the Maggi Company at Kempthal, left the whole of his fortune of Frs. 215,000 for the benefit of deaf, dumb and blind people. The estate is to be administered under the name "Jakob und Josephine Ritter-Müllhaupt" foundation.

After a three days' trial, the assizes at Pfäfers sentenced the Italian Lino Bassi to three years' imprisonment for the attempted murder in January last of the Italian Consul General Bianchi in Zurich. The crime has no political significance and was committed in a moment of desperation caused by the disappointment at the refusal of obviously justified claims against Italian officialdom.

A lady from Schaffhausen, who wishes to be unknown has presented the Zurich Zoo with a fine specimen of a male chimpanzee, this gift was very welcome, owing to the fact that the only female of this specie had become widowed a few months ago. It has been reported that the arrival has caused great joy in the ape family, and we hope that the honeymoon went off without a hitch.

\* \* \*

At the conclusion of the present term, M. Rudolf Stähli, Principal of the Commercial School of the Société Suisse des Commerçants in Zurich, for 40 years is retiring. For many years he was an editor of the "Fortschritt" a paper which was followed by the "Zentralblatt." M. Stähli is an honorary member of the Zurich Section of the S.K.V.

### BERNE.

A novel and most opportune suggestion was made in the Grosse Rat to the effect that the principle of unemployment insurance should also apply to those engaged in trade or business on their own account.

\* \* \*

The town of Burgdorf is in the happy position of closing its accounts with a surplus of 143,88fr., a remarkable achievement considering the crisis which is acutely felt in Switzerland.

\* \* \*

The death is reported of M. Louis Chappuis, for many years President of the cantonal tribunal, at the age of 67. The deceased enjoyed a great reputation as a judge. He was a member of the Grand Council.

### LUCERNE.

Some time ago the town of Lucerne had entered into an agreement to acquire the Richard Wagner estate in Tribschen for Frs. 275,000. As the publicity had attracted other interested parties who were willing to offer a larger figure, the town fathers have now offered another Frs. 75,000.

### GLARIS.

The cantonal authorities have made a presentation to Karl Burlet-Horner of Oberurnen, a former tree feller, on the occasion of his 100th birthday which he celebrated on the 17th inst.

### BASEL.

A fire at the Gas and Water-Works in Kleinhüningen caused damage amounting to 200,000fr.

### GENÈVE.

M. Alexandre Moriaud, a former President of the Government of Geneva, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with complicity in the failure of the Banque de Genève, whose liabilities total £2,000,000. For thirty years M. Moriaud has been in the forefront of Swiss politics and international arbitration.

\* \* \*

M. Eugène Miéville, former Manager of the Banque de Genève has also been arrested for fraudulent transactions.

### ST. GALL.

The net proceeds of the annual "Bratwürstlitag" which was held last Tuesday week amounted to about Frs. 9,000; the sum is devoted to a charitable purpose. Altogether about 30,000 sausages and 5,000 Bülri were sold.

### LAUSANNE.

The "Comptoir Suisse" was opened last Thursday at Lausanne. M. Haeblerlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, officially opened the "Comptoir" by making an important speech. Federal Councillor Schutthess, who was to be one of the guests, was unable to be present.

### FOOTBALL.

Throughout the country matches for the championship have been played these last three Sundays under the new classification of the football clubs. So far "Young Fellows" and "Zurich" are at the top of the National League with four points each, having beaten Berne and Chaux-de-Fonds and "Nordstern" and "St. Gall" respectively. In the First League Fribourg (against Monthey and Stade Lausanne) and Olten (against Monthey and Solothurn) have secured similar honours. Some surprise was caused in the National League II by the victory of Aarau over the much stronger Old Boys.