| Zeitschrift: | The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK |
|--------------|---|
| Herausgeber: | Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom                             |
| Band:        | - (1931)  |
| Heft:        | 521   |
|              |   |
| Artikel:     | A travers la Suisse   |
| Autor:       | [.n.]   |
| DOI:         | https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695465  |

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# **Che Swiss Observer**

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY. Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephone : CLERKENWELL 9595

Vol. 11-No. 521

### LONDON, OCTOBER 17, 1931.

PRICE 3d.

# PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM  $\begin{cases} 3 \text{ Months (13 issues, post free)} \\ 6 & (26) \\ 12 & (52) \\ 12 & (52) \\ \end{cases}$ 3/6 6/6 12/-{ 6 Months (26 issues, post free) - Frs. 7.50 12 , (52 , ) - , 14.-SWITZERLAND (Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).

HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contem-Joraries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

### FEDERAL.

### SWITZERLAND AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

The Swiss Federal Council discussed at some length the present financial and economic situa-tion, and though no definite decision was arrived at it may be said that the Government has resolved at it may be said that the Government has resolved to maintain the gold standard. It is possible that the rise in the adverse trade balance may compel the Government to set up some import limitation. On the other hand, the decrease in the revenue derived from Customs duties, from the tax on coupons, and from the stamp duty make it neces-sary to make some drastic reduction in next year's expenditure. expenditure.

### NEW GENERAL MANAGER OF THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

As foreshadowed in our number of the 3rd inst., the Federal Council has appointed M. Maurice Paschoud, a member of the Government of the Canton of Vaud, General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways in succession to the late M. Arsène Niquille.

M. Arsène Niquille. M. Paschoud was born in 1882 in Lutry, he studied in Lausanne, Berlin and Paris and is a Lic. ès sc. math. of the University of Paris and Dr. ès. sc. math. of the Sorbonne in Paris. He was also a National Councillor from 1928 until his election as member of the "Vaudois" Govern-ment. For some time he occupied the post of Pro-fessor of Mathematics at the University at Lausanne. Lausanne.

### ZONE DISPUTE.

The last act in this protracted dispute will take place shortly. The Swiss delegate, Professor Logoz has already left for the Hague.

### SWISS CUSTOM'S RECEIPTS.

The Swiss Custom's Receipts for the 3rd quarter 1931, amount to 72,265,357f., against 68,163,467f. during the equivalent quarter in 1930. The increase therefore amounts to 4,101,890f.

### FEDERAL GYMNASTIC FESTIVAL 1932.

The Federal Council has voted a credit amounting to 20,000f, towards the cost of the Federal Gymnastic Festival which will take place during next year at Aarau.

### THE NEW FEDERAL LIBRARY.

The official inauguration of the Federal Library in Berne, has been fixed for the 31st of this month. The Federal Government will be officially represented at this function.

### RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION IN SWITZERLAND.

In view of the fact that the Swiss Federal Railways have decided to electrify 504km, more of their system during the next five years, and in order to cover their growing requirements in power, a new power station is to be erected at Etzel, on the River Shil. The project involves harnessing the Shil by means of a dam near Einstedeln at an altitude of 892 metres and the diversion of its course by a pressure funnel and diversion of its course by a pressure tunnel and pipe line to the power house situated at Altendorf, at the upper end of the Lake of Zärich. The catchment area is estimated at approximately 156 sq. km.? and the reservoir, consisting of an arti-ficial lake 9km. in length and 1.3km. in width, will cover an area of 11 sq. km. and will have an effective storage capacity of 91,500,000 cubic metroe metres. The Swiss Federal Railways are to construct

The Swiss Federal Railways are to construct and work the new Etzel Station in conjunction with the North-Eastern Swiss Power Supply Company. The railways will have a right to 55 per cent. and the Power Supply Company to 45 per cent. of the output, calculated at 156,000,000 kw. hours. The railways will install single-phase

units rated at 60,000 h.p., and the Power Supply Company three-phase units, also of 60,000 h.p. Building is to be begun during next autumn, and it is expected that the work will be finished io 1025 in 1935.

### NEW SWISS ALPINE CLUB HUT.

The "Dr. Rossier Hut" (10,800ft.), built by the "Jaman" section of the Swiss Alpine Club to accommodate 30 persons and to facilitate the ascent of the Dent Blanche, was opened on that mountain early this month.

### MOUNTAIN RESCUES.

During the past three years some interesting experiments have been made by the Swiss Alpine Club and the Federal Military Department with a view to testing the value of aeroplane co-operation in the case of mountain accidents. A further experiment took place this year in the upper Turt-mann Valley, based on the supposition that a party of climbers had met with an accident in an unknown place.

A search party was waiting for instructions at the Turtmann hut. A military aeroplane sum-moned from Berne circled over the region between the Turtmann and Topali huts, and in spite of adverse weather it found the "victims" after a search of 15 minutes, dropped food parcels and blankets for them, and flew back to the hut. In another for minutes it drouwed a man indicating managers for them, and new back to the hut. In another five minutes it dropped a map indicating to the search party the situation of the stranded party. One hour and a half later the search party reached the indicated spot and the "tourists" were all "saved."

were all "saved." Within the next few days a real rescue was effected with the help of an aeroplane. Four tourists of Sion were marooned on the Aiguilles Rouges d'Arolla and unable to move from a small rock ledge they had reached. Abundant snow and thick mist had made the task of finding them ex-tremely difficult for the search parties, and the stranded alpinists, who had no food left and no warm clothing, had already spent four days and three nights in the snow before a search party came and rescued them. The value of aeroplane co-operation was

came and rescued them. The value of aeropiane co-operation was clearly proved on this occasion. The aircraft, summoned by telephone at 6.30 a.m., left Lau-sanne at 7; within half an hour it discovered the marooned alpinists and dropped several parcels. Shortly after, the airmen saw that a search party had arrived on the spot. They flew back to Sion, where they reported their news five hours before they could have reached that town by usual means. The task of the airmen was difficult, as they

they could have reached that town by usual means. The task of the airmen was difficult, as they had to drop their parcels on a snow-covered rock ledge of an area of about 50 square yards hanging over a precipice. They could not use the ordinary 50b, parcels employed during previous experi-ments, but they managed to use small bags attached in couples at the end of ropes 12 yards long, and all their bags landed safely on the rock platform. But, on the other hand, it was noticed that, owing to the lack of proper signals, the air-men and search parties could not communicate men and search parties could not communicate. It will therefore be necessary to set up a special code of signals for such cases, and it is expected that further experiments will be made next year both with a new model for parcels and a code.

### LUCKY WINNER IN THE "HYSPA" LOTTERY.

The first prize (25,000f.) in the "Hyspa" Exhibition Lottery went to a young out-of-work man Gottfried Hodler.

### THE RHEIN-BRIDGES.

The following statistical figures have lately been published. In the Middle Ages only two solid bridges

In the Middle Ages only two solid bridges over the Rhein were in existance, namely at Konstanz and Basle. Up to 1859 not a single solid bridge from Basle to the mouth of the river was built. To-day 117 bridges are leading over the Rhein, 55 road, 46 Railway and 16 Ferry bridges. From the source down to Reichenbach there are 16, and from the latter place to the "Bodensee"



21, and from this Lake to Basle 22 bridges are in existance. From Basle downwards to the month 58 bridges span the river. LOCAL.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

### ZURICH.

A legacy amounting to 200,000f. was left to the Kranken und Diakonissen-Anstalt Neumün-ster by the executors of the late Miss Ida Muller. \*

An anti-fascist "Kampftag," organised by the Swiss Communist Party took place last Sun-day at Zurich.

day at Zurich. A procession through the town was arranged, and over 50 flags and posters were carried along. The participants were then addressed on the Fraumünsterplatz by various speakers, amongst them the notorious agitator Fritz Platten. The latter eulogized conditions in Russia, mentioning that the difference of the capitalist States are causing immense anusement in Soviet Russia, a country, where unemployment was an unknown factor.

unknown factor. Russia, he said, has an army of millions ready

to march at any moment to defend their country, and if necessary would not hesitate to cross their borders to fight those who are opposed to the Soviet Government.

### BERNE.

M. Otto Boss, a member of the well-known family of Hoteliers has died at Grindelwald at the age of 44.

### GLARIS.

On the occasion of his 70th birthday Anni-versary, M. Jacques Ruch-Müller, a resident of Zurich has made bequests totalling at 100,000f. to his home community Mitlödi.

### BASLE.

A Swiss scientist returning from an expedi-tion to Australia brought in his luggage the skeleton of an aborigine.

Customs officials were unable to find "skele-tons" listed in the tariff schedule, so they ad-mitted the bones, duty free, under the category "Articles already worn."

### \*

The work on the " Dreirosenbrücke," the fifth

The work of the "Dierrosenorucke," the first Rhein Bridge at Basle started last week. From Basle comes the news of the death of M. Adolf Siegrist, a well-known painter and former collaborator of the late Franz Baur, decorative painter of the famous town Hall.

### GENEVA.

M. Martin Naef, a member of the Geneva Government has resigned from his post for reasons of health. M. Naef had been in poor health for some considerable time.

### \*

Through the failure of the Banque de Genève, the canton of Geneva suffers a loss of 15,000,000f.

### AARGAU.

The late Wilhelm Meier, from Kappelerhof, near Baden, has left an amount of 50,000f. to be distributed amongst various charitable institutions

### APPENZELL A.Rh.

Only a few days after the death of his brother. M. Taîmer-Fritsch, the other partner in the well-known Embroidery firm of E. Tanner and Co., Eugen Tanner-Heer has died in Heerisau at the age of 63.

### THURGAU.

Dr. Eugen Dünnenberger of Weinfelden, who had died last February has left his whole fortune of nearly 900,000f. to various Institutions.

### OBWALDEN.

The oldest female inhabitant of the Canton of Owalden has died at Lungern. Katharina Imfeld would have celebrated her 100th birthday on the 19th of November. For fully 80 years the deceased was in constant service with the same family.

### A TRAVERS LA SUISSE.

The first Film Show of the Season arranged by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group) took place last Saturday afternoon, at King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road. A full report will appear in next week's issue.