Home news

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

BRITISH TRADE WITH SWITZERLAND.

During October Switzerland's imports amount to 203,000,000 francs (£8,120,000 at par), while exports were 113,000,000 francs (£4,520,000). This indicates an adverse trade balance on the month of 90,000,000 francs (£3,600,000).

Switzerland imported British goods to a value of 9,636,000 francs (£385,440) in October, as compared with 7,545,000 francs (£301,800) in September. Exports to Britain in October totalled 26,778,000 francs (£1,071,120), compared with 23,330,000, francs (£1,066,400) in September.

Included in the Swiss imports from Britain is a quantity of "unworked" gold, valued at 2,432,000 francs (£97,280). If this amount is deducted, there is a slight decrease in Swiss imports from Britain.

Swiss exports to Britain, on the other hand, show an increase of 3,400,000 francs (£136,000), which is regarded as curious in view of the depreciation in sterling having made Swiss goods dearer to British purchasers.

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR MOTTA IN PARIS.

M. A. Briand, the French foreign Minister, has received M. Motta, who was accompanied by M. Dunant, Swiss Minister in Paris, at his official residence.

BIRTHDAYS AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

Federal Councillor Minger, chief of the Military Dept., has celebrated his 50th birthday anniversary. M. Minger entered the Government on December 12th, 1929 as successor of the late M. Scheurer; during this relatively short lapse of time he has introduced far reaching changes for greater efficiency in the Swiss Army.

Dr. Kaeslin, who has been since 1925 Federal Chancellor, has reached the age of 60.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES IN BERNE.

The Hungarian Minister, Felix von Parcher von Terjesalva will leave Berne at the end of this year, in order to take up his post as Hungarian Minister at Angora. Minister von Parcher will not be replaced, as the Hungarian Minister in Vienna will be accredited at the same time in Berne. M. von Parcher was from 1921-1925 Chargé d'Affaires and from 1925 until now, Minister Plenipotentiary.

SWISS EXPORTS TO POLAND.

The export of goods from Switzerland to Poland during the months from January to September amounts to 42,860,000f.; it exceeds the imports from Poland into Switzerland by about half a million francs.

PROFESSOR PICCARD'S PUPIL TO "GO UP."

A pupil of Professor Piccard, the Swiss scientist who ascended to a height of ten miles in a steel gondola attached to a ballon, is to make a similar attempt.

This is Herr Max Cosyns, whose trip will be undertaken in a new and improved type of gondola.

He hopes to extend the study of the cosmic rays.

Professor Piccard and Herr Kipfer, who made the former ascent, will not go up, as their families object. Herr Kipfer, however, hopes to retrieve the gondola abandoned on the glacier of Mount Gurgler last May when he and Professor Piccard reached an altitude of nearly ten miles.

A NEW ALPINE RAILWAY.

Next month will see the inauguration of yet another railway in the Swiss Alps, the "Davos-Parsenn Funicular Railway." The line has been constructed for the special benefit of skiers, who, in fifteen minutes, will be conveyed from Davos-Dorf Station (5,100 ft. above sea level), on the Rhaetian Railway, to the classic Parsenn ski-ing region (Höhenweg Station, 7,232 ft.).

The line will be completed in 1932 by an extension from Höhenweg to the Weissfluh-Joch (8,870 ft.). No less than seven downhill ski runs, each terminating at a station of the Rhaetian Railway whence sports people may quickly return to Klosters and Davos, are to be made from Parsenn. The best-known run is that down to Küblis, taking three hours on ski.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Owing to the crisis in the Textile Industry, the firm of Baumann sen. & Co., Silk manufacturers in Höngg, which was in existence for over 100 years, has closed down.

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The death is reported at the age of 85 of Dr. W. Züblin. The deceased was for many years one of the chief engineers of Gebr. Sulzer at Winterthur.

* * *

M. H. Peter, one of the best known mountain Railway engineers has died in Zurich at the age of 56. He was a lecturer at the Zurich Technical University since 1923. He was the builder of the Seelisberg-Chantarella-Corviglia and Passenn railways.

* * *

A bank clerk employed in a private bank in Zurich, has been condemned to 2 years imprisonment for having robbed his employer of an amount of 46,000f. This man, who was employed at a monthly salary of 450f., speculated very heavily at the Stock Exchange and his commitments at one time reached the respectable sum of 600,000f. it is reported that his employer was aware that he speculated, but no check was put on his activities.

* * *

Edmond Wixler, a partner of the firm Gaston Wixler & Co., in Zurich, met with a fatal accident on the road from Mulhausen-Neu-Breisach, owing to a bad skid the car overturned and M. Wixler was killed, his brother-in-law, M. Martin Kurz received serious injuries and has been taken to the Bürgerspital in Basel, in a critical condition.

* * *

Professor Dr. von Cleric, who was missing since the 16th of October, has been found dead at a lonely spot on the Greifensee. A letter was found on the body in which he intimated that he voluntary parted from this life owing to ill health.

Prof. von Cleric was 46 years of age, and the descendant of an old Grison family, he was for many years Professor of Criminal Law at the Zurich University. His disappearance at the time caused a great sensation.

BASLE.

The Grand Council has voted a credit amounting to 250,000f. for the Municipal Theatre.

* * *

A sensational trial has begun this week before the Tribunal, investigations will be made into a world-wide secret society which is engaged in the illicit drug traffic.

A German chemist is accused and agents from many countries are also involved. The drugs dealt with are worth millions of Swiss francs and nearly every capital in the world is said to have received quantities of them.

Investigations began in October, 1929, when the Egyptian Customs authorities at Alexandria found cases of heroin in an Italian steamer which was carrying "Glue."

After investigations which lasted many months and which had to be carried on in the utmost secrecy against combines with vast capital and resources, the cargo of "glue" was traced back to Basle.

The deadly narcotics distributed included opium, heroin, cocaine, and morphium. They were handed to professional dancers, waiters, or street-loungers, who then handed on the sinister little packets at 100 per cent. profit.

The head of the Basle centre is alleged to be Dr. Fritz Muller.

Sensational evidence, it is certain, will be given.

SOLOTHURN.

A furniture dealer named Wyss, aged 32, and a native of Derendingen invited two sisters—who attended the evening classes with him in Solothurn,—into his car, in order to take them to their home. It appears that for some time he had paid great attention to one of the sisters, but without any response from the young woman. About half way home he stopped the car and requested the girl to walk with him for a few yards in order to talk things over, to which she agreed. No sooner had the girl descended from the car than the disappointed lover drew his revolver and fired point blank at her, fortunately inflicting only a slight wound; the girl who was now joined by her sister, fled from the spot where the attack had taken place, and informed the police; when the latter arrived they found the aggressor lying in a pool of blood, he had shot himself through the head.

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From Solothurn comes the news of the death of Th. Allemann-Isler for many years Manager of the Electricity Works Olten-Aarburg.

GENEVA.

The two minutes silence on Armistice day was observed in Geneva; previous to the silence the bells of all the churches were ringing.

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Defalcations amounting to 47,000f. were discovered in the accounts of a Building Society. The cashier, Adrien Vallotton, has been arrested.

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The Budget for 1932 predicts a deficit of 3,000,000f.

ST. GALLEN.

M. F. Zogg-Dorner, who was for over 53 years in the service of the Federal Post, has celebrated his 80th birthday in the best of health.

(M. Zogg is the father of Mr. F. Zogg, a popular member of the Swiss Colony, Ed.)

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The affairs of the Cantonal Bank in St. Gallen were discussed during the sitting of the Grand Council. The chief of the Finance Dept., Dr. Maeder, informed the members that the Banks granted various credits to different Banking institutions, *f. i.*, the Banque de Genève (500,000f); Oesterr. Kredit Anstalt (500,000f); Deutsche Diskonto Gesellschaft (7000,000f.); Dresdner Bank (700,000f.). As far as can be ascertained losses are only to be expected with the Banque de Genève and the Oesterreichische Kredit Anstalt. After further details were given the members of the Council declared themselves satisfied with the explanation given by the chief of the Finance Dept.

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The 75th Jubilee of the "Kontonsschule" was celebrated last week at St. Gallen. A special performance of Sophokles "Antigone" was given at the Municipal Theatre by the students of the "Kantonsschule." A great Banquet took place at the Tonhalle, at which the Cantonal Government appeared in corpore.

VALAIS.

Three men working on the Loetschberg railway, near Goppenstein, were electrocuted through the snapping of a cable. Eighteen children were thus rendered fatherless.

VAUD.

As successor of M. M. Paschoud, late member of the Cantonal Government, who was lately appointed General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, M. Paul Perret, National Councillor and Town President of Lausanne, is proposed. The election has been fixed for December 6th.

TICINO.

The topographical service on Motto Arbino, the moving mountain in Canton Ticino, reports that a new movement may take place at any time. The cracks and crevasses have increased, and they now extend over areas which were not touched by the landslip of 1928. The sliding movement of the mountain has not much increased in velocity, but in some parts the horizontal movement reached 7in. and the vertical movement 10in., while in others the maximum displacement recorded was 18in. within the past 12 months.

The collapse of another part of the mountain may be hastened by the rainfall in December.