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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

CHANGES IN THE SWISS ARMY COMMAND.

The Federal Council has made the following appointments:

As successor of Colonel Bridler, Commandant of the 2nd Army Corps, who is retiring at the end of the year: Colonel Heinrich Scheibl, at present commander of the 3rd Division. Colonel Scheibl is a citizen of Zurich and entered in 1898 in the General Staff with the rank of captain; since then he has occupied several high commands such as regimental, brigade and divisional leader. His successor, as head of the 3rd division, will be Colonel J. Prisi, from Uebisch, (Ct. Berne), formerly chief of staff of the 3rd Division, and commandant of the 9th Mountain Brigade.

The high commands in the Swiss Army are now occupied as follows:

1st Army Corps: Colonel Sarasin, born 1870.
2nd Army Corps: Colonel Scheibl, born 1868.
3rd Army Corps: Colonel Biberstein, born 1865.
1st Division: Colonel Guisan, born 1874.
2nd Division: Colonel von Diesbach, born 1876.
3rd Division: Colonel Prisi, born 1875.
4th Division: Colonel Miescher, born 1880.
5th Division: Colonel Lardelli, born 1876.
6th Division: Colonel Frey, born 1873.
Gotthard Fortress: Colonel von Salis, born 1873.

SAFEGUARDING THE SWISS BOOT INDUSTRY.

For some time past the Swiss footwear manufacturers have been trying to obtain Customs protection in order to stem the increasing influx of cheap foreign boots and shoes, the greater portion of which come from Czechoslovakia and, in a lesser degree, from Italy and Germany. Imports of foreign footwear have more than doubled since 1925, and in 1930 they amounted to over 3,000,000 pairs, to the value of 17,000,000f.

It is now considered probable that an increase in Swiss duties on footwear will be introduced in the near future, should Germany be willing to waive their rights to the existing consolidated rates, as set forth in the Swiss-German Commercial Treaty. Satisfactory arrangements in this respect have already been arrived at with Czechoslovakia and Italy. The Swiss footwear industry is stated to be actively engaged in reorganizing its methods of production and publicity in order to be better armed for the keen contest on foreign markets.

SWISS HOTELIERS BID FOR BRITISH CUSTOM.

A plan to enable patriotic Englishmen to visit Switzerland without actually spending any money there, has been put into effect by a Swiss hotel company.

One of the managers of the company has visited London and opened a special account with Lloyds Bank headquarters into which winter sports visitors may pay their bills by cheque in sterling. It is a condition of the arrangement with the bank that this account shall be reserved entirely and solely for direct payment to British firms for goods supplied to Switzerland. To make the plan work, the company has arranged with the Swiss houses to use the money so credited for their purchases in this country. There are indications that other hotel groups are likely to follow suit, and throughout the Alpine sports resorts the usual terms have been reduced by 10 to 20 per cent, in order to overcome the handicap of the depreciated pound.

SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The Winter Session of the two Chambers will begin on the 7th of this month.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

A fire destroyed a part of the works of A. G. Bachmann & Kleiner at Oerlikon, the damage caused is estimated at 30-40 thousand francs.

* * *

Dr. phil. Jakob Job has been appointed leader of the Principal Radio Studio in Zurich. Dr. Job has been, for the last two years, head of the "Ausland Schweizer Sekretariat" of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

* * *

One of the oldest Swiss firms of engineers and boilermakers, Escher, Wyss and Co., at Zurich, is now in difficulties in consequence of the general economic crisis. The company finds it impossible to pay the coupons of its securities due on November 30 and it has asked the court for a delay which will enable the continuation of work in the factories and the preparation of a reorganization scheme.

BASLE.

M. A. Ph. Largiadèr, a former rector of the "Töchterschule" in Basle has celebrated his 100th birthday last week.

* * *

Dr. Rudolf Speich, General Secretary of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has been appointed one of the General Managers of the aforesaid institution.

(Dr. Speich is the brother of our popular compatriot Mr. J. H. Speich.)

* * *

The world-drug traffic trial came to an end last Monday, and the following sentences were passed: Dr. Fritz Müller, nine months imprisonment and a fine of 20,000f.; E. Ballinari, six weeks imprisonment and a fine of 1,000f.; Dr. H. Rauch, four months imprisonment and a fine of 10,000f. The three women, Mrs. Müller, Wirz and Weidmann, who were arrested at the time in connection with this case have been acquitted. The costs of the trial, amounting to 20,000f. will have to be born by those who have been convicted.

GRAUBUENDEN.

Dr. Georgius Schmid von Grüneck, Bishop of Coire has celebrated his 80th birthday.

LAUSANNE.

A landslide occurred at Lausanne last Sunday in the middle of the night. The inhabitants of two large tenement houses, where there were twenty-three families, left their beds, fearing that their dwellings were about to be swept into the river by the landslide, which happened in the immediate vicinity, and which, to add to the panic, had destroyed the electric light plant.

In pitch darkness they saved whatever clothes they could lay hands on and made their way into the streets, the children being almost naked in their mothers' arms.

The landslide blocked the entrances to various garages, houses, and factories, and when attempts were made to break through there was a sudden explosion, with tongues of flame as the result of bursting gaspiles. Over 200,000 cubic feet of ground were hurled into the river, and it was feared that the whole quarter, which is situated on a slope, might meet the same fate, for it was not until break of day that the extent of the danger could be estimated.

VALAIS.

M. J. Escher, Solicitor in Brigue has been elected member of the Government of the Canton of Valais, in succession of the late M. Oscar Walpen. M. Escher was born at Simplon-Village and is 46 years of age. He was a member of the Grand Council since 1915 and has represented his canton in the National Council since 1923.

FOOTBALL.

Switzerland 1 Austria 8, in Basel.
France 3 Holland 4, in Paris.

The great match of the year took place last Sunday in Basel before 25,000 spectators, with the expected result. Austria did Switzerland the honour to place in the field their strongest eleven, that team which trounced Germany away 6—0, in Vienna 5—0, and beat a good Scottish team 5—0 last May, also in Vienna. In the first half the game went more evenly, the score being 2—1 in Austria's favour. Trello Abegglen (Grasshoppers) was the Swiss marksman, no mean achievement to get the ball past Hiden (W.A.C.). This is the goalkeeper who brought about the ban on foreign professional footballers in England, when Arsenal were thinking of engaging him for Highbury! In the second half, listening in on the wireless to an excellent broadcast, both from Beromünster and Sottens, it was almost like playing on one goal. The two Swiss Backs, Minelli and particularly Weiler II, were always in the thick of it and did extremely well under the heavy pressure exerted by these Austrian giants of the game. Pasche, too, saved many awkward situations. Of the Halfbacks, Fasson (Young Boys) was most in the picture. The Forwards had to fight an unequal battle; no support from the Halfbacks was possible and that tells the whole tale. Beaten, decisively beaten, but not disgraced! Why, even Newcastle lost 8—1 against Everton and one week later beat the Champions, the Arsenal 3—2. So, never say die!

The international match in Paris, was also broadcast, but what a difference. The unknown broadcaster could talk faster almost than he could see. Holland were leading 4—1 and it was my good fortune or misfortune to listen in at the moment when France scored their second and third goal. The good man became frantic and judging by the roar, so did the crowd. Well, the third goal was greeted with three rousing Hip, Hip Hip Hurrah's by the announcer! Still, it was great fun.

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP.

In the National League Zurich maintained their unbeaten record 4—1 against Young Fellows and so displace their opponents at the head of the table with 14 points from 7 games, goals for 22, against 6, some record! Chaux-de-Fonds beat St. Gall 10—2 in the return match. Pauvre petit St. Gall! Carodge and Old Boys drew 3—3. All fixtures affecting Clubs depleted through International calls on players, were postponed.

The First League results were:

Racing 3, Ofen 5.
Fribourg 2, Grenchen 0.
Monthey 0, Solothurn 1.
Black Stars 0, Locarno 0.
Wohlen 0, Chiasso 1.
Brühl 3, Winterthur 1.

Lausanne Sports played a friendly match with Aarau and won 6—1, although two of their best players were engaged in the International in Basel. You may book Lausanne Sports for the National League, definitely.

Since jutting down the above, I have had the misfortune to run across the Editor who, although in his private capacity had not yet recovered from a severe liver attack, contracted whilst endeavouring to concoct a speech worthy of an important occasion and yet supposedly impromptu.

So, naturally, he was in a combative mood, flatly refused to pay my long overdue fees and telling me, that my articles had not brought him a single new subscriber and attributing to me the defection of all numerous supporters who are not paying their subscriptions. So I stood on my hindlegs, challenged one after another of those present in a tactful and judicious way to give me their views on Swiss Football. And poor me, although they all claimed to be subscribers to the S.O., none had even heard of Swiss Football, leave alone my articles! Well, I have lost and the Editor has won. Either my articles or his paper or both must be rubbish.

Who will come to my aid now?

M.G.