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FEDERAL.

SWISS BUDGET.

The Budget of the Swiss Confederation for 1931, just passed by Parliament, estimates expenditure at £16,128,000, and receipts at £15,820,000, thus leaving an estimated deficit of £308,000, while it had been expected that the Budget would record a surplus. The estimated deficit is not due to a drop in receipts, but to an increase in expenditure, which is £840,000 higher than last year in consequence of various extraordinary subsidies. For example, £170,000 has been granted for the regularization of the Rhine, £56,000 for the Federal Polytechnical High School in Zurich, £80,000 for primary schools, £112,000 for unemployed insurance, and £30,000 for professional education. Moreover, and despite a certain opposition on the part of the Socialists, Parliament agreed to grant £160,000 for the reorganization and re-equipment of the Air Corps, and £112,000 for national defence and the purchase of military material and equipment.

SWISS CENSUS, 1930.

The following official figures regarding the Swiss Census taken last month have been published:

Cantons	1930	1920
Zurich	616,961	538,602
Berne	686,400	674,394
Lucerne	189,455	177,073
Uri	23,017	23,973
Schwyz	63,002	59,731
Obwalden	19,386	17,567
Nidwalden	15,100	13,956
Glarus	35,666	33,843
Zug	34,406	31,569
Fribourg	143,393	143,055
Soleure	144,578	130,671
Baselstadt	153,624	140,708
Baselland	92,643	82,390
Schaffhausen	51,227	50,428
Appenzell A. Rh.	48,927	55,354
Appenzell I. Rh.	13,981	14,614
St. Gallen	285,893	295,543
Graubünden	126,459	119,854
Aargau	260,002	240,776
Thurgau	135,706	135,933
Vaud	331,323	317,498
Valiens	137,741	128,246
Neuchâtel	124,704	131,349
Genève	173,308	171,000

The figures for the Canton of Ticino are not yet available. It is estimated that the population of Switzerland per 1st December, 1930, will be about 4,056,000 compared with 3,887,000 in 1920, an increase of 169,000.

RECEPTION AT THE PALAIS FEDERAL.

M. Häberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, received a visit of the diplomatic corps *in corpore* on New Year's day.

OPPOSITION TO TOBACCO DUTY.

The Central Committee of the Communist party has decided to initiate a Referendum against the tobacco and cigarette tax which has been passed by Parliament.

A SUBVENTION FOR THE PRESS.

The Federal Council has granted an amount of 5,000 francs towards the cost of erecting and maintaining a permanent home for Journalists accredited to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

MITTELHOLZER'S AFRICAN FLIGHT.

The Swiss Aviator Mittelholzer arrived at Thies near Dakar on his return flight from Africa. N.Z.Z.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Emile Zuber, a bank clerk, who met with an accident when skiing on the Flums mountain, has succumbed to his injuries. N.Z.Z.

* * *

A burglary took place at the premises of Messrs. Halder, Sports Outfitters, at Mühlegasse, where large quantities of goods were stolen. N.Z.Z.

BERNE.

King Albert of Belgium and his Queen have arrived at Murren, where they intend to make a prolonged stay.

* * *

Miss Beatrice Marbach, daughter of the proprietor of the Hotel Bären in Berne, has lost her life on the Männlichen, having been overtaken and buried by an avalanche when on a ski-ing expedition.

* * *

The "Burgdorfer Tagblatt" has celebrated its 100th anniversary.

N.Z.Z.

GLARUS.

A party consisting of fifteen Germans who were on a ski-ing tour on the Wichenalp, fell into a crevasse and were buried by a mass of snow. Twelve members of the expedition managed to free themselves, but the other three, Dr. H. Clare and the Misses E. Klöttner and H. Gelpke, all from Berlin, lost their lives.

N.Z.Z.

SLT.

V.

BASLE.

The Senate of the University of Basle has conferred on M. H. Haeberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, the degree of "doctor honoris causa" in recognition of his eminent works on Federal law.

N.Z.Z.

AARAU.

M. A. Roniger-Hurliman, Manager of the Feldschloessli Brewery at Rheinfelden, has made several bequests to public and private institutions, amounting to 32,500 frs., on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

A.T.

NEUCHATEL.

A fatal accident has occurred in a train travelling between Vaudreuil and Saint-Aubin. A passenger, M. J. Schmid, 64 years old, tried to pass from one carriage to another, when he slipped on the platform, which was covered with ice. He fell underneath the train and was killed instantaneously.

N.Z.Z.

ST. GALL.

On New Year's Eve, a fire destroyed four homesteads with two stables at Gretschins, depriving seven families, numbering 23 persons, of their homes. The houses being insufficiently insured, heavy losses will be sustained by those who have been already so sorely tried.

N.Z.Z.

J.S.P.

SCHAFFHOUSE.

The death is reported of M. Traugott Waldvogel, National Councillor, who played a prominent part in the affairs of his canton. M. A. Rahm, a member of the Grand Council and adherent to the Peasant party, will succeed to the seat in the National Council.

J.S.P.

GRAUBUENDEN.

A native of St. Gallen, who spent his Christmas holiday at St. Moritz, presented a sum of 10,000 frs. to the Mairie as a gift for the poor of the parish.

J.S.P.

* * *

The Cantonal Government has sent an exposé to the Federal Dept. of Post and Railways in Berne setting forth the reason why they oppose the project of the Piz-Bernina Railway, proposed by the Communities of Samaden and Pontresina.

GRINDELWALD.

Johann Baumann, the veteran peasant of Grindelwald, well known to many visitors to that Alpine resort, died on January 3rd at the age of 91 years. Baumann, in his younger days, was one of the most famous guides.

J.G.

ADVERTISE in the "SWISS OBSERVER"

It's Patriotic and it Pays!

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17th
for the

FIRST CINDERELLA DANCE
at the
MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

1931—1931=14.

Seven being a holy or lucky number, 1931 is going to be doubly lucky for all of us! q.e.d.

A good friend of Switzerland.

The Times, 3rd January, 1931:

Mr. J. A. B. Bruce, whose death is recorded in *The Times* of January 1, was a very well-known figure in mountaineering circles both here and in Switzerland. No one in this country did so much as he in bringing together British and Swiss climbers. He realized many years ago that British climbers in the Alps did not as a rule belong to the Swiss Alpine Club, and that there was in consequence a feeling in Switzerland that we took advantage of the mountain huts without playing our part in their upkeep by joining that club which builds most of them. Bruce set to work in 1909 to rectify this state of affairs, and amid great difficulties he got together a strong body of British climbers who were already members of the Swiss Alpine Club, and formed what is now known as the Association of British Members of the S.A.C., an association which is now one of the largest British climbing clubs. In order to show the estimation in which our countrymen hold Switzerland, he put his remarkable energy into the work of collecting funds to build and present to the Swiss Alpine Club a completely equipped mountain hut as a permanent token of this esteem. This hut, which cost over £800, was built near Saas Fee, and was opened in 1912. Nothing in the way of an international gesture could have been so well timed, and from that moment the hitherto merely satisfactory relations between climbers in the two countries became definitely cordial.

In international gatherings in the Alps since that time Bruce's name has always been received with enthusiasm, and he was particularly well known in Geneva. His personal popularity with the Swiss and his friendships with them were most useful during the late War, when it became necessary to put the British point of view in Switzerland. Bruce, without being in any way a great mountaineer, had done a great deal of climbing and the mountains were a passion with him, so that he came to regard anything which made for close relations between this country and Switzerland as the chief thing in his life, and the association which he founded kept his interest to the end. Only six weeks ago he was present at its annual dinner, probably his last public appearance.

World Rover Moot.

Next Summer there will be a *World Rover Moot* at Kandersteg, anent which I find the *Bulletin & Scots Pictorial* writing as follows:

The youth of Scotland's Scout movement are on tiptoe with eagerness already for the first great *World Rover Moot* in Switzerland next July-August.

About 200 Rovers scattered throughout the country have made application to attend. Edinburgh heads the list with 74, Glasgow, is next with 42. The others are—Ayrshire, 15; Stirlingshire, 12; Perthshire, 11; Angus, 10; Kincardine, Dumfries, Morayshire, Wigtownshire, 5 each; Galashiels, 4; Fauldhouse, 3; Strathaven, 2; Selkirk, 1; and Dunoon, 1.

"The request for applications was more or less a 'feeler' to see how the lads would respond to this great opportunity, and our expectations have been fully realised," Captain E. McIntyre, Scottish Headquarters' secretary of the Boy Scouts' Association, told "The Bulletin."

"The enthusiasm shown at the Auchengillan Moot a few months ago is evidently being maintained in Scotland.

"This is the first *World Rover Moot*. The venue is Kandersteg, Switzerland, and the dates are from July 30 to August 7, inclusive. The Rovers will come from everywhere. I have just heard of one in America who hopes to be there. It will be one of the best things we have ever done for our own fellows. They will get a grasp of the other fellows' points of view that will be a good influence on the peace of the world."

I heartily welcome these meetings, where boys of different countries get to know each other, to appreciate each other and above all to learn that they are all boys. These meetings, be they Boy