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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### SWISS PRESIDENT AS ARBITRATOR.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation has been asked by the Government of Sweden and Turkey to act as arbitrator, concerning some outstanding disputes between the two countries. M. Motta has accepted to act in this capacity.

### GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The following Swiss balloons will take part in the Gordon-Bennett balloon race on the 25th of this month at Basle :

"Basel" piloted by Lieutenant-Colonel L. Schmid and Dr. E. Dietrich (Bâle).

"Victor de Beauclair" piloted by captain Huber (Zug) and Lieutenant Lochinger (Zug).

"Zurich" piloted by Lieutenant-Colonel Walo Gerber (Zurich) and Dr. Tilgenkamp (Zurich).

### 100 ALPINE DEATHS THIS YEAR.

Five fatal accidents have occurred in the Alps during the past two days.

On the Belledone range, Dauphiné, three young men from Lyons fell, and two were killed. A German industrialist, Herr Bolle, fell 100 feet on the Kleiner Wehlturn, and was killed. A Swiss climber was killed after a fall of 300 feet on the Elbenalp, and a Swiss girl who was gathering flowers in the Rosegg Valley fell and died from her injuries. An accident befell a Geneva party on the Gran Paradiso, and M. de Mirbach was killed.

This brings to 100 the number of persons killed in the Alps since the beginning of the year.

### SWISS BANKING FIGURES.

A quarterly statement of the position as at the end of June last, of eight of the principal commercial banks in Switzerland has just been issued. The total assets of the eight institutions are 6,747,516,000 francs. Of this amount 3,054,688,000 francs is represented by savings and fixed deposits and current accounts. Cash is held to the extent of 1,076,518,000 francs, while 2,480,359,000 francs is absorbed by advances on current accounts. It is proposed to issue similar statements every three months in future.

### SWISS POSTAL ELECTRICS.

One of the largest fleets of electric vehicles on the Continent is that operated by the Swiss Post and Telegraph authorities in Zurich, where a large new General Post Office known as the Sihlpost has recently been erected.

The fleet at present consists of thirty-four vehicles, constructed by the Elektrische Fahrzeuge Gesellschaft, of Oerlikon. Seven of the vehicles are four-wheel 2-ton vans, fitted with 250 amp-hour batteries, enabling a distance of from 30 to 37½ miles to be run on one charge; ten are 3-tonners, eight of these having 500 amp-hour batteries giving from 50 to 60 miles on one charge and two 350 amp-hour batteries; three are four-wheel tractors capable of hauling trailers with 5-8 ton loads, while the remainder are three-wheel 6-cwt. vans adapted to run about 37½ miles on a single charge of the 200 amp-hour batteries with which they are fitted.

The batteries used on the vehicles are mainly of the Swiss-made lead type — although one of the 3-tonners is provided with a 350 amp-hour Exide battery made by the Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd. — and a feature of the installation is that provision has been made for recharging to be automatically performed, it only being necessary for the driver on bringing his vehicle to connect the charging plug to the battery. The electricity supply in Zurich being alternating, a special a.c. to d.c. convertor room has been equipped by the Brown-Boveri Co., of Baden.

Fleet extensions are contemplated as the battery-charging equipment installed is provided with a total of 62 control boards and charging plugs.

### GOLF AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

Although the Lucerne meeting, held recently on the mountain course of the "Dietschiberg," was more of local interest (the Swiss Amateur Championships will be held this year at Lausanne), the popularity of the sporting course, which is one of the best in Switzerland, produced a large entry.

The greens and fairways were in excellent condition and some keen competition resulted in the various rounds played throughout the week.

Qualifying for the finals, after well-fought matches against C. Rontgen and V. Oswald, H. Schweizer completed the morning round three holes down to his opponent, Dr. Ryner.

Play in the afternoon resulted in an exciting finish. Squaring the match on the thirty-fourth and leading at the next, to lose the advantage on the home green by a misjudged putt, Schweizer, on the thirty-seventh, with the best drive of the day, edged the green (254 yards), and although here again a missed putt jeopardised his chances, won the match with a bogey four.

The father of last year's Swiss Amateur Champion, Schweizer's victory lends added credence to the adage that golfing prowess runs in families.

### 600TH CENTENARY OF THE CANTON OF LUCERNE.

The official representatives of the Government to the 600th centenary celebrations of the canton of Lucerne, which will take place on September 11th at Lucerne, will be: M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillors Schultess and Musy.

### STATE HELP FOR SWISS FARMERS.

The Federal Council propose a yearly credit amounting to 3 million francs for the next 3 years, in order to help the Swiss farmers, who have been severely hit by the crisis. This proposal will be put before the chambers at the next session.

### NEW SWISS MINISTER IN MADRID.

Dr. Karl Egger, at present Swiss Minister in Buenos-Aires, has been appointed Minister at Madrid, in succession to Monsieur de Stoutz, who is going to Berne as chief of the Federal Political Dept.

### DEFILEE OF THE 6TH DIVISION.

The Defilee of the 6th division will take place on the 8th inst., on the Breitfeld near St. Gallen; in the presence of Federal Councillor Minger, chief of the Federal Military Dept., and the foreign military missions.

### LOCAL.

#### BERNE.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of M. G. Gafner, Manager of the National Bank in Berne. M. Gafner, on retiring from his post, which he has held for many years, has received the thanks of the Swiss Government for the services he has rendered.

#### LUCERNE.

The "Glider" competition which started on the Rigi-Kulm on Thursday of last week, was marred by a fatal accident.

M. Reutemann from Zurich, one of the pilots, who started on the Rigi-Kulm met with death.

### SWISS LEGATION, LONDON

32, QUEEN ANNE STREET, W.1.

The Swiss Legation have the honour to announce that on and after the 19th of August, 1932, the address of the Chancery of the Legation will be:

### 18, MONTAGU PLACE, BRYANSTON SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

Telephone: PADDINGTON 0701.

one of the wings of his machine broke away, and the machine crashed from a considerable height, the pilot was killed instantaneously.

#### URI.

M. Josef Dobler, the well-known composer and conductor of several male choirs, has died at Altdorf at the age of 57. M. Dobler was also a teacher at the academy of music in Zurich.

#### BASLE.

Dr. Franz Welti, the communist Member of Parliament has tendered his resignation on account of ill health. Dr. Welti has been a member of Parliament since 1925; he is, however, still representing his party in the cantonal parliament.

\* \* \*

A large fire completely destroyed various store houses belonging to the following firms: Braun-Büning, Schiffahrts A.G. Roba, Stromeyer, etc., at the Dreispitzgelände. The damage is considered to be a few millions francs.

#### BASLE-COUNTY.

M. Emil Rudin, (liberal) a former Landrat has been elected a member of the States Council.

#### FRIBOURG.

A barn belonging to the Fribourg Penitentiary was struck by lightning and burst into flames, and in the general confusion three prisoners escaped.

#### GENEVA.

The heat-wave which has continued in Switzerland since the beginning of the month was broken at 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon by one of the most violent storms in living memory.

The storm burst with cyclonic force, and in a few minutes the rain had reached such a density that day was turned into a semblance of night.

For 40 minutes the thunder never ceased its terrifying din, being augmented by the salvos of the anti-hail high explosives rockets fired from the vineyards along the lakeside in a desperate effort to save the wine crop.

In some areas, however, between Montreux and Lausanne, the greater part of the crop was wiped out.

Meteorological experts state that the severity of the storm was due to the fact that three storm converged over Lake Geneva together and were merged into one.

#### AARAU.

From Suhr comes the news of a terrible murder. The 72 years old farmer Peter and his wife were found dead in a wood adjoining their home. One of the farmhands was arrested, and after having been questioned by the police, confessed to the murder, robbery being the object of this terrible deed.

#### NEUCHATEL.

Federal Councillor Schultess opened on the 27th of last month, the Exhibition of Watch Manufacturers at La Chaux-de-Fonds. M. Schultess, in his opening speech paid a high tribute to the tenacity and efficiency of the watch Industry, which in spite of the critical times, has refused to take a gloomy view of the situation. He pointed out that there are sure signs of a revival of this world famous industry, and by a healthy collaboration between employers and employees the hard tried trade will yet be able to master the difficulties under which they have smarted so long.

#### ST. GALLEN.

Lieutenant-Colonel Allenspach has died at Gossau at the age of 49.

### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

#### A Possible League Secretary.

Christian World 11th August.

Now that the Secretaryship of the International Labour Office at Geneva has been conceded to an Englishman it is improbable that Sir Eric Drummond will be followed by another Englishman as Secretary of the League of Nations. And I am told that at Geneva — Calvin's city — it is thought necessary that the Secretary of the League should be a Roman Catholic. That being so, M. Giuseppe Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, is being confidently mentioned for Sir Eric Drummond's post. M. Motta is sixty. The woman