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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS GOVERNMENTS AND BANKS.

As a result of a conference between six of the principal Swiss banks, the directors of the Swiss National Bank and representatives of the Government, an agreement has been arrived at regarding the principles of the relations of the banks and the State, that is, that the banks will every month send a report of their situation to the Swiss National Bank.

SWISS AIR FORCE.

From so far back as 1928 the Swiss Army Air Service has been conducting extensive trials with a number of different types of reconnaissance aeroplanes with a view to determining the most suitable type for use in service units. These experimental machines were formed into a group based at the Dübendorf aerodrome and were flown regularly under all conditions.

As a result of these protracted tests the Fokker C.V.E. two-seat reconnaissance biplane (650 h.p. Hispano-Suiza engine) was found to meet the highest requirements of the Swiss authorities, and this type has been adopted as the standard reconnaissance machine in the Swiss Army. Two machines of this type were originally supplied for test, two more have been ordered from the Fokker company, and the Swiss Kriegstechnische Abteilung, or War Technical Department, has confirmed a contract for the construction of Fokker C.V.E. biplanes in Switzerland.

A factory is being fitted for this purpose. The Hispano-Suiza engine is already being built under licence in Switzerland by the Winterthur Locomotive Works and the Saurer motor company.

The guaranteed design-figures for the C.V.E. showed a maximum speed of 152 m.p.h. (245 km.h.) and a climb to 16,400 ft. (5,000 m.) in 18½ mins. The Fokker test figures on the C.V.E. as built to the requirements of the Swiss Government showed a maximum speed of 161 m.p.h. (259 km.h.) and a climb of 16,400 ft. (5,000 m.) in 16.2 mins. This same machine over the Swiss military speed course showed an officially checked maximum speed of 165 m.p.h. (265 km.h.).

NEW SWISS COMPANY.

A new company with the title of the Escher Wyss Maschinenfabrik Gesellschaft has been formed in Zurich to take over and carry on the Swiss engineering business hitherto known as Escher Wyss & Co.

INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICIANS TO MEET AT ZURICH.

The International Congress of mathematicians will take place from the 4th to the 12th of September next, at Zurich. M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation will act as "Président d'Honneur" of the congress. Federal Councillor Meyer, will also attend the deliberations of this International Assembly.

WATCH FACTORY CLOSED.

It is announced that the "Movado" watch-making factory at La Chaux-de-Fonds has been compelled to close down. The factory, which usually employs about 500 workers, had already given notice to half of their staff in December.

DUTY ON EXPORTING EMBROIDERY MACHINES.

The Federal Government has been compelled to enforce a prohibitive duty of 800 francs a quintal on the exportation of all machines for the embroidery industry. This measure was taken with the object of stopping the purchase by foreigners of the plant of Swiss embroidery works which are now closed.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK TO PREACH AT GENEVA.

The Archbishop of York, Dr. Temple, is to preach at Geneva on January 31st. It so happens that the day after the Archbishop preaches the Disarmament Conference will open. Dr. Temple is preaching in the Cathedral at Geneva at the request of the Swiss Church. The sermon is to be broadcast by the B.B.C.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Hermann Maag, an insurance agent living in Zurich was attacked at his home during the night and severely wounded. After some exhaustive investigations by the police, his wife, from whom he is separated has been arrested. She has in the meantime confessed to being the aggressor of her husband. M. Maag is at present out of danger.

Noisy demonstrations took place during a lecture given by Count Keyserling the well-known German writer. Tear and stink bombs were hurled at the platform, and the lecturer was unable to proceed with his lecture until the police restored order. On leaving the building trouble started again, and a dense crowd assembled outside the Hotel Baur au Lac where the count was staying, booing and making cat-calls. Count Keyserling, who, in some of his writings treated Switzerland very contemptuously, had a similar experience during his lecture tour at Lausanne, where he was prevented from addressing his audience.

Professor Dr. Fritz Fleiner has been elected Rector of the University in Zurich for the period of 1932/34. Professor Fleiner was born at Aarau in 1867 and after having studied at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig, Tübingen and Berlin, received a University appointment at Heidelberg. In 1915 he returned to Zurich where he lectured on public and ecclesiastical law. Professor Fleiner is "doctor honoris causa" of the Universities of Geneva and Zurich.

Last Saturday, a communist demonstration took place outside the military barracks. The police were obliged to make use of their arms, after the demonstrators had tried to storm the barracks by force. Four persons were more or less seriously injured. The cause of the trouble is related to be as follows: A few days ago, on the occasion of a communist demonstration, two soldiers in uniform took part in a procession, wherefore these soldiers were condemned to 10 days confinement, as according to rules and regulations no soldier in uniform is allowed to take part in any political demonstration. The communist party therefore invited their adherents by handbills to assemble outside the barracks in order to show their sympathy with their imprisoned comrades, who, in the meantime went on hunger strike.

For some considerable time, a crowd numbering about two thousand people, of whom the greater part were only onlookers, remained outside the barracks, and were addressed in turn by various speakers. The police, who appeared in the meantime, showed great forbearance, which seemed to encourage some members of the mob to show their enthusiasm for the cause, by getting violent. Various sentry boxes were overturned and revolutionary songs were sung. Then suddenly a number of young men and women rushed towards the main gate, trying to force their entry, in order to liberate their comrades. The police then were obliged to make use of their arms, and several shots were fired, wounding altogether 4 persons, one of them seriously; they were taken to the cantonal hospital. Unfortunately all of the injured ones were only onlookers, and had no connection with the communist party. An appeal to the population has been made, not to assemble, nor to take part in any demonstration as the

police have received strict orders to prevent any further communist gatherings, if necessary, by force.

BERNE.

A motor car travelling at high speed fell into the lake of Thoun between Spiez and Leissigen. The driver, who was fortunately the sole occupant of the vehicle managed to extract himself and swam to the shore. The car, which was later on salvaged was seriously damaged.

LUCERNE.

Cashier Hodel of the "Schappfabrik" in Reussbühl has been arrested on suspicion of having embezzled various amounts totalling about 12,000fr.

GLARUS.

Landammann Edwin Hauser has resigned from his position as head of the cantonal Government. M. Hauser, who is in his 68th year, has been a member of the Government since 1902, and for the last six years, he has occupied the post as "Landammann." M. Alfred Tschudy, who is also a member of the local government has intimated his early retirement from his position.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of Lieutenant-colonel Mégevet, central-president of the Swiss Automobile Association. At the beginning of the Great war, colonel Mégevet was in charge of the Swiss Military Automobile corps.

AARGAU.

The decision of the Bally Shoe works at Schoenenwerd, to close down their Branch factories at Reitnau and Kirchleerau has caused great consternation in these communities. It is hoped that the authorities will be able to come to some understanding with the Bally concern, as a closing down of these factories, would cause considerable hardship to the communities concerned.

Hans Hässig, Gemeindevammann of Aarau has celebrated his 25th Jubilee as head of the town administration.

The well-known engineering firm of Brown, Boveri and Co., at Baden has decided to reduce by 10 per cent. the number of working hours for the whole staff as from March 1 next. At the same time all salaries will be reduced by 5 per cent. The reduction in the number of working hours will bring down the working days to five, and the workshops will be closed on Saturdays.

NEUCHÂTEL.

M. George Ditisheim, a partner in the well-known Watch firm Paul Ditisheim has died at La Chaux-de-Fonds.

ST. GALLEN.

The Senate of the Commercial University at St. Gallen has appointed Dr. Walter Hug of Affeltranger (Thurgau) at present Professor at the Harvard Law School in Cambridge (Mass. U.S.A.) as Professor of Law.

GRISONS.

Searchlights from the mountain fortress at Dailly, above St. Maurice, whose guns, concealed in the cliffs, command the Rhone Valley, have been used in one of the most thrilling Alpine rescues in Switzerland for many years.

A military patrol of five skiers was crossing an icy gully when a soldier named Dutoit slipped and fell 500 feet on to a ledge, from which he rolled down another 500 feet on to a rock overhanging a precipice.

One of the party went to the fortress for help, while the others, at the risk of their lives, worked their way down the cliff, urged on by the cries of the injured man, who begged them to hurry as he was slipping over the brink.

Night had fallen when the rescue party reached him, and his position was located by the aid of the search-lights from the fort several miles away. He was lowered to a ridge, where one of the party, held by ropes from above, took him on his back and carried him to safety.

The mountain track was flooded with light as the party made its way, with great difficulty, to the fortress.

VAUD.

A serious fire broke out at the furniture depository of the S. A. Francy at Clarens. About half of the furniture stored could be saved, but the damage caused is estimated at over 50,000fr. which is covered by insurance.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th

for the

DINNER AND DANCE.

at the

May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.