

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1932)

**Heft:** 548

**Rubrik:** Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO. LONDON.

VOL. 12—No. 548

LONDON, APRIL 23, 1932.

PRICE 3d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3s. 6d.
	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	6s. 12d.
SWITZERLAND	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	Fr. 7.50
	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Fr. 14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postcheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



## HOME NEWS



(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

### FEDERAL.

#### THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

At a meeting of the board of the Bank for International Settlements, held on April 11th, Dr. Bachmann was unanimously re-elected president for a period of three years. It was decided to invite the seven founder banks to subscribe, on May 31st, 26,400 unissued shares of the authorised capital of the Bank, 25 per cent. of the shares to be paid up. It will be recalled that upon foundation it was decided that the authorised capital should be 500 million Swiss francs in 200,000 shares of 2,500 gold francs, but only 173,600 shares were subscribed and only 25 per cent. was paid up. The statement of accounts shows a total of 1,126 million Swiss francs, including 608 million deposits by the Central Banks, as compared with 1,011 million on February 29th. The board approved certain recommendations relating to payment of dividend, transfer of reserve, etc., for submission to the general meeting on May 10th next.

#### FEDERAL COUNCILLOR SCHULTHESS AT GENEVA.

Federal Councillor Schulthess had an interview at Geneva with the French Premier, M. Tardieu, when current affairs, concerning the two countries, were discussed.

#### ZONE DISPUTE BEFORE THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL.

For the third time, the Zone Dispute between Switzerland and France will occupy the judges at the International Tribunal at the Hague. The first Meeting was opened on Tuesday last, and the case will occupy the Tribunal for about 10 days.

#### CIVIL AVIATION IN SWITZERLAND.

The development of civil aviation in Switzerland is progressing steadily owing largely to the encouragement and assistance afforded by federal, cantonal, and municipal authorities, and to the keenness of the general public. In 1931 the federal grant in favour of air navigation amounted to 466,000fr., while cantonal and municipal subventions totalled some 316,000fr.

There were 82 civil aeroplanes registered in the country at the beginning of the year, of which 26 were commercial and 56 light aircraft for touring and sports purposes. The commercial machines are almost exclusively of Swiss, Dutch, or German origin. In the course of 1931, however, 25 new machines were registered, of which 21 were light aircraft, and no fewer than 14 of the latter were of British manufacture.

It is averred that the Swiss aircraft industry is unable to meet the demand for light aircraft which exists in this country, and United Kingdom manufacturers should be able to maintain their leading position in this respect, provided they show the necessary keenness.

The commercial machines are owned by six companies, of which the most important is the "Swissair," which was formed last spring by the fusion of the "Ad Astra," of Zurich, and the "Balair," of Basle, in consequence of which all the international traffic in Switzerland is now entirely under the control of this undertaking. The "Swissair" possesses 15 machines, operates over a distance of 4,775km., and in 1931, accomplished 724,476km. of flights, carrying 10,282 passengers, over 170 tons of freight, 84 tons of mail, and 102 tons of luggage. The entire fleet of the "Swissair" is stationed at Zürich-Dübendorf.

The activities of Swiss air navigation companies in 1931 were as follows:—

Route mileage	5,537km.
Mileage flown	3,016,700km.
Passengers carried	51,080
Freight	474,157kg.
Mail	251,410kg.
Number of flights	41,181
Number of hours flown	21,001

As a result of the present economic crisis, the Federal Post Office have decided to decrease the sum allocated by them for the transportation of mail by air by gradual stages until it reaches the figure of 6 centimes per 100 grammes and per 100km. flown as agreed at the Universal Postal Conference in London. The figure for 1932 has been fixed at 80 centimes per km. flown, as compared with 1fr. in former years. The sum expended in payment for transportation of postal matter by air last year totalled 1,300,000fr., while that budgeted for 1932 is 1,000,000fr.

### PEACE STAMPS.

Switzerland has issued a special set of stamps to commemorate this year's Peace Conference at Geneva. They would add an historical interest to any collection.

Three of the stamps are for air-mail use. These have a design which at first sight looks a little queer, but is intended to signify an aeroplane with three propellers. In a corner is a badge showing the arms of Geneva.

There are six values for ordinary postage; the five lower values depict a dove bearing in its beak an olive leaf, perched on a broken sword. The one franc stamp shows an angel holding in one hand an olive branch and in the other a torch, whilst in one corner is a ball of light bearing Latin words which mean "After Darkness, Light." All the stamps are inscribed in French "Disarmament Conference, Geneva, 1932."

### SWISS TYPEWRITER INVENTION.

A Geneva watchmaker has just patented in Switzerland an electric typewriting machine. It is very light and takes up but little room, its outstanding feature being the extraordinary simplicity of the machine. The ordinary typewriter is said to have over two thousand separate parts; this new electric machine has only twenty parts, and the inventor affirms it can be put on the market at about one-fifth the price of the average typewriter of to-day. The baby model, which the inventor is now completing, should, he says, cost the public only 10s. to 15s.

The consumption of electric current necessary for running the machine regularly is so small as not to be worth reckoning. The typist operates the new machine with the aid of a special pointer or pencil. There is no ordinary keyboard to the machine. The typist merely touches the letter signs with the pointer, and everything else, carriage return, spacing, sheet turning, &c., is worked automatically.

Another typewriting innovation placed on the market by a Swiss firm is an apparatus which can be adapted to any kind of typewriter for producing six originals at one time, thus doing away with the use of carbon papers. When the gadget is adjusted, the pressing of a button will bring the ink ribbon between the sheets of paper. Three lengths of ribbon are required for producing six originals, two for typing four originals, and one only for two originals.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The Zurich Jewish Community is celebrating the seventieth anniversary of its existence. It was formed in 1862 by ten notable Jews.

A bomb, which exploded outside the new Meeting place of the Italian Colony at Zurich, (Italienhaus) caused damage which is estimated at 2,000fr. The police have opened an investigation, but so far no clues as to the originators of this plot have been located.

The elections for the cantonal Government took place last Sunday, all the previous members were re-elected.

#### BERNE.

Prof. Dr. P. Kohler, at present Professor at the Technical University at Zurich, has been nominated Professor of French language and literature at the University of Berne.

#### LUCERNE.

A dwelling house and barn at Escholzmatt, belonging to Franz Portmann, was completely destroyed by fire; the son and a daughter of the occupant, Ebersold, were trapped and lost their lives, a further daughter was badly injured and had to be taken to the cantonal hospital. The damage caused is considerable.

### URI.

Landammann Isidor Meyer has resigned from the cantonal government for reasons of health.

### SCHWYZ.

M. A. Stadelin, a former criminal Judge and President of the "Kantonsrat," died at Brunnen at the age of 76.

### GLARUS.

Owing to the crisis no school journeys nor children's festivals will take place during 1932.

From Glarus comes the news of the death of M. Jaques Heer, Master and Headmaster of the "Primarschule" in Glarus for many years. M. Heer was also Editor of the "Glarner Fremdenblatt."

### ZUG.

M. Karl Bütler, a former President of the "Kantonsrat" and of the conservative party celebrated his golden wedding day.

### BASLE.

Mr. Norman C. Haag, for the last twelve years, H.M. Consul at Basle, has retired from his post; Mr. John Elliott Bell has been appointed in his stead.

The final result of the elections for the Grand Council is as follows:—

Radicals	25	(formerly 20)
Liberals	17	( " 19)
Bourgeois Party	14	( " 16)
Cath. Popular Party	14	( " 13)
Evangelical	3	( " 3)
Socialists	38	( " 34)
Communists	19	( " 25)

A credit of 300,000fr. has been voted for the acquirement of pictures for the new picture gallery.

Dr. Oscar Wälterlin, Manager of the Municipal Theatre at Basle, has tendered his resignation, which was accepted. Dr. Wälterlin was since 1819 connected with this institution, to which he has rendered great services. The press is unanimously praising Dr. Wälterlin for having succeeded in making the Municipal Theatre known as one of the finest in Switzerland.

Greiner and Müller, who were accused of having murdered and then robbed a man Stöcklin, were condemned at the Basle Assizes. Greiner to imprisonment for life, and Müller to 15 years rigorous penal servitude.

The directors of the Chemical Works Sandoz, propose a dividend of 18 per cent for 1931. (1930 — 20%).

### AARGAU.

The branch factory of Messrs. Bally, Shoe manufacturers, at Frick, will close down on June the 1st, 180 work hands have received notice.

A further batch of 200 workmen, amongst them some with 20 years service, have been dismissed from the engineering works, Brown Boveri & Co., in Baden, owing to the crisis.

### ST. GALLEN.

The death is reported from St. Gallen of Prof. Hagmann, at the age of 76. Prof. Hagmann entered the Kantonsschule in the year of 1884, and has for many years been a member of the teaching staff, he was also the author of many literary works.

### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Ruh, a member of the Government of the canton Schaffhausen, has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to the late M. Rahm. The new member of Parliament sat some years ago in the Chamber.

### GRISONS.

National Councillor Dr. Hartmann, has died suddenly last Saturday of heart failure. The deceased was born in 1873, and was a well-known advocate in his home town. In 1915 he presided over the town council, and from 1926 until March the 1st, 1932, he was a member of the cantonal government, which office he left after having been elected as a member of Parliament.