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HOME NEWS



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FEDERAL.

WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Minister Stucki and Professor Bachmann, delegates to the World Economic Conference, have made a verbal report to the Federal Council, on the occasion of the latter's meeting on the 11th inst. The principal Swiss delegates will, for the time being, not return to London, and the Federal Council has decided to substitute them by the following Delegation: Director Rossi of the National Bank, Dr. W. Rüfenacht of the Swiss Legation in London, and M. Borel, from the Swiss Peasant Party.

SWISS ARMY PROMOTIONS.

Colonel Ulrich Wille, son of the late General Wille, has been promoted to the rank of Army-Corps Commander; it is rumoured that he will shortly be nominated Chief of the General Staff, the present holder of this post, Colonel Roost, will take over the command of the 1st Army-Corps, in succession to Colonel Sarasin, who will retire at the end of this year. Colonel Bardet has been made Chief of the military aviation.

SWISS PROFESSOR HONOURED.

Professor Emil Brunner of Zurich has been made an honorary doctor of Divinity of the Edinburgh University.

At the gathering of Graduands on the evening preceding the ceremony Professor Brunner made an important statement regarding the position of the Protestant Churches in Switzerland in view of the present crisis in European affairs. He suggested that, as Switzerland had played a decisive part in European affairs four hundred years ago by saving and establishing Protestantism, so it may be its destiny to save Europe again. But he was very emphatic in insisting that if this is done, the Church in Switzerland must become free from all entanglements in, and control by, the State. She must be free from every vestige of State connection so that she may follow with out hindrance the impulses derived from the Spirit of God. He seemed to see the struggle for freedom coming to a head in the near future. There was a ring of noble sincerity as well as a touch of mystic vision in his pronouncement, and, delivered in his steady impressive style and in perfect English, it made a very strong appeal, and was recognized on every hand as a weighty statement.

ACCIDENTS IN THE ALPS.

Two mountaineering accidents are reported from Switzerland.

In one 17 soldiers of the Swiss Mountain Forces had a heavy fall while operating in the Mont Blanc section of the Alps.

Two of the leaders slipped on a precipice, and the entire party, which was roped, was dragged several hundred feet. Several soldiers were severely injured. Rescue troops were immediately despatched to their assistance.

In the other accident seven Swiss mountaineers were very severely injured, as a result of a sudden change in the weather, while they were climbing the Aiguilles. The party numbering about ten in all, had divided into small groups, and the leading group had successfully climbed to within a quarter of an hour of Summit No. 63, when the weather suddenly changed. First fog and then rain came.

Dr. Wiegand, of Geneva, who was with the second group, persuaded those with him to start back for Chamonix. As they did so screams were heard from the party further up, and two young men and two girls fell down a narrow gully at an appalling speed. As they fell a fifth person, Mme. Steffen, was caught by the rope and dragged down with them.

About a thousand feet lower down two other climbers, M. Grobet and a girl from Lausanne, who had not had time to "anchor" themselves, were dragged down in their turn.

All seven persons are very seriously hurt. They have been taken to Chamonix by a specially organised rescue party.

SWISS LANDSLIDES.

The heat wave in Eastern Switzerland has been interrupted by a number of violent rain-storms, which have seriously damaged property and crops.

A series of landslides have taken place in the neighbourhood of Lucerne between the celebrated Alps Rigi and Rossberg. In parts, the road has been covered, and the railway between Goldan and Immensee is still threatened by further falls of earth and rock. The storm which caused these particular slides was one of the most violent in recent years.

It will be several weeks before normal car traffic can be resumed in the Goldan area, and at the moment motorists are obliged to make detours of something approaching forty miles to reach Lucerne.

SWISS SCHOLAR HONOURED.

Professor, Dr. Leon Asher, Professor of psychology at the University of Berne has been made an honorary member of the "Società italiana di Biologia sperimentale" in Naples.

THE SWISS EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY.

One of the branches of the textile industry in Switzerland which has suffered severely from the depression with its accompanying import restrictions and tariff barriers, is that concerned with the manufacture of embroidery, and this item again figures in the recent British tariff increases. Total exports, which in the immediate post-war period (1919) totalled 405,300,000 frs. (including 60,000,000 frs. to England), amounted for 1932 to only 24,000,000 frs. which represented a decrease of over 50 per cent. in comparison with the 1931 figure.

In the last twelve years the State has disbursed approximately 10,000,000 frs. (1932: 2,500,000 frs.) on behalf of the industry; a further million frs. has been placed at the disposal of the Trust Company for the embroidery industry for the purpose, among other things, of reducing output by taking machines out of production. The progress already made in this direction is indicated by the fact that the 5,000 power looms and 8,000 hand looms in existence in 1920 had diminished to 1,600 and 1,592 respectively by the beginning of this year. Even of this small number however, only about 30 per cent., and on occasion 10-15 per cent., have been in operation. (At current exchange, Swiss franc = 1s. 2d.)

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Otto Frey, Director of the "Bank für elektrische Unternehmungen" in Zurich, met with an accident when motoring in Hungary. He was taken to a nursing home at Budapest in a serious condition.

M. Diggelmann, head of the large Uga-Garage on the Utoquai in Zurich, has surrendered to the police, confessing to having falsified the balance-sheet of the company, which enabled him to get large Bankers credits. As far as can be ascertained at the moment the defalcation exceed 1 million francs.

The town Council of Winterthur has declared the 1st of August to be a half day holiday for all municipal employees.

LUCERNE.

The "Volksbank" in Reiden, has closed its doors, and an official receiver has been appointed.

Ugly scenes were witnessed at a Meeting of the "National Front" which took place at the Hotel Löwen in Lucerne. A Police officer who tried to restore order was attacked by a band of young hooligans. Colonel Sonderegger, who was to address the Meeting was unable to do so, as the majority of the audience declined to listen to him.

GLARUS.

The late Fridolin Zweifel, engineer, has left to the community of Linthal an amount of 25,000fr. for charitable purposes.

BASLE.

From Basle comes the news of the death of Dr. Fritz Boehringer, at the age of 50. Dr. Boehringer was a noted advocate, and enjoyed a great reputation in his profession. For some years he was a member of the Grand Council, of which he was one of the most active members. The deceased took a great interest in the social life of his native town, and being himself a fine musician, the various musical institutions received his wholehearted and untiring support. A promising and brilliant career has been cut short all too soon, and the town of Basle is poorer of one of its devoted sons.

FRIBOURG.

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of having occupied the chair of Italian Literature at the University at Fribourg, a banquet was offered to Professor Paolo Arcari. Federal Councillor Motta, the Italian Ambassador, Bishop Mgr. Besson, and members of the cantonal government were in attendance.

GENEVA.

The action against the directors of the "Banque de Genève" commenced last Monday. M. Louis Marino is the presiding Judge, he is assisted by the judges Kupfer and Mirbach. The Public Prosecutor, in his opening address, described the action as one of the most serious finance scandal which has ever been tried in a Geneva Court.

Emile Fillettaz, a notary from Nyon, was arrested at Moillesulaz, when trying to cross the French frontier by motor-car. On having been taken to the Police Station he was charged with embezzlement of money belonging to his clients to the amount of 50,000frs.

Dr. Théophile Dufresne, Doyen of the Geneva Bar, has died at the age of 82. M. Dufresne was until 1919 a member of the Grand Council.

AARGAU.

A great demonstration of Switzerland's Youth took place at the old Roman seat at Vindonissa, all the various "Fronten" sent their delegates to this great "Landsgemeinde" and well over 15,000 people were present when Federal Councillor Minger addressed the multitude in Swiss dialect. In his speech he urged the young generation to forget all party differences, and to work heart and soul for the unity amongst all those who have their country's welfare at heart.

NEUCHÂTEL.

The Commercial School at Neuchâtel has celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its existence, in the presence of several hundred of former students, some of whom have come from all over the world. M. Schulthess, President of the Swiss Confederation addressed the impressive gathering, he invited the students to have confidence in the destiny of our country, "although the crisis has hit us severely," he said, "we are still in a better position than most of the other countries, and if we show a united front, we shall yet succeed in weathering the storm."

ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Richard Wetter, a well-known lawyer, died at St. Gall at the age of 69. Dr. Wetter was, from 1913-1918, Grand Judge of the 6th division; for many years he was also a member of the Trade arbitration Court.

Surgeons here had a surprise when performing a stomach operation on an habitual thief who had escaped from the hospital at Constance. In his stomach they found two broken spoons; two trouser buckles; five pieces of iron; two window fasteners; an open safety pin; a wood screw 1½ins. long, and two nails.

But this was not all, An X-ray examination revealed that smaller pieces of iron had worked their way through to the intestine. The discoveries represent two handfuls, and what puzzles the surgeons is the man could have swallowed all these objects especially, the window fasteners.

FOOTBALL.

CLOSE OF PLAY.

We would fail in our duties as football reporter were we to retire for a well-earned (?) holiday without giving the more enthusiastic of our readers an opportunity to peruse the final league tables for the season 1932-33. M. G. sincerely trusts that he has "pulled legs"