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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 aviatic.

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 gulley 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 rainstorms, 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 Goldau 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 Goldau 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 25,000f. 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 attendnace.

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.

NEUCHATEL.

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"

impartially, fairly and squarely and should any reader have found some or all of his quips unpalatable, just put it down to what some of his friends call " Max's nasty tongue!" Cheerio till next Season!

M.G.

CUPWINNERS 1933: F.C. BASEL.
CHAMPIONS 1933: SERVETTE.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Group 1.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Grasshoppers	14	10	3	1	56	24	23
Basel	14	7	4	3	42	29	18
Lugano	14	6	4	4	18	16	16
Chaux-de-Fonds	14	7	1	6	19	15	15
Young Fellows	14	5	2	7	27	27	12
Urania	14	5	2	7	32	35	12
Biel	14	6	—	8	29	41	12
Carouge	14	1	2	11	15	43	4

Relegated to League I: F.C. Carouge.

Group 2.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Young Boys	14	10	3	1	40	17	23
Servette	14	10	3	1	46	15	23
Lausanne	14	8	4	2	33	17	20
Concordia	14	6	3	5	30	22	15
Zurich	14	4	5	5	30	26	13
Blue Stars	14	3	2	9	20	33	8
Nordstern	14	3	2	9	28	49	8
Aarau	14	—	2	12	12	59	2

Young Boys beat Servette 2:1 in the deciding match for the group-championship.

Relegated to League I: F.C. Aarau.

LEAGUE I.

Group 1.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Bern	16	14	1	1	52	14	29
Grenchen	16	12	1	3	47	19	25
Etoile Ch. d. F.	16	8	2	6	22	25	18
Racing	16	8	1	7	43	40	17
Cantonal	16	5	5	6	25	29	15
Solothurn	16	6	2	8	32	41	14
Bözingen	16	4	2	10	27	45	10
Olten	16	3	2	11	27	40	8
Montreux	16	3	2	11	27	43	8

Promoted to National League: F.C. Bern.
Relegated to League II:
F.C. Montreux and F.C. Olten.

Group 2

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals F.	A.	Pts.
Locarno	16	12	2	2	58	20	26
Brühl	16	11	3	2	34	17	25
Seebach	16	7	4	5	37	33	18
St. Gallen	16	7	4	5	33	33	18
Bellinzona	16	6	3	7	38	36	15
Luzern	16	4	5	7	26	33	13
Winterthur	16	5	3	8	27	35	13
Old Boys	16	3	5	8	22	36	11
Oerlikon	16	1	3	12	18	50	5

Promoted to National League: F.C. Locarno.
Relegated to League II:
F.C. Oerlikon and F.C. Old Boys.
Promoted from League II to League I:
F.C. Juventus, Kreuzlingen, Fribourg and Monthey.

MAGIC TRIP TO SWITZERLAND.

From Britain to Switzerland and back in three days was recently the pleasant experience of a young Scotswoman. The time factor made a journey by air compulsory. Her impressions make interesting reading.

At Croydon there is no time for dallying (she says). I have my secret suspicions that the courteous officials speed the parting traveller across the space from 'bus to aeroplane in case among them there should be a latent craven who may elect to change her (or his — it has been known) mind at the eleventh hour, and decide to go to the Continent by the more prosaic surface route. Our floating hotel — for it is scarcely less in its sumptuousness — is straining at the leash. It is the Hengist, one of the " H " class, and the last word in luxury, efficiency and comfort.

We troop in, shepherded by a steward with an ambassadorial manner, and settle down in our roomy armchairs upholstered in cool blue. We do not tip our porters, for the good and simple reason that we did not require to engage any. Our luggage, for which we receive a counterfoil, is looked after for us from the moment it is weighed until we arrive at our destination, and we travel carefree of the worry of what often turns out to be a troublesome encumbrance.

Before I have spread my papers on my ample table the air express claps spurs to its side, so to speak, and with a majestic dignity it taxies off, and almost immediately with no unpleasant sensation of speed we find ourselves climbing gently into the air while the aerodrome and huge hangars sink beneath us. Though I have on several occasions flown the Channel, the quietness and the smoothness of the giant liners come each time as a fresh revelation.

Speeding on Velvet Air.

Flying about 5,000 feet high, we come to the sea between Hastings and Bexhill, reaching the French side at Le Tréport and not Le Touquet, as I have hitherto done. The Channel is in turns a sheet of quicksilver and a great sapphire, satin cushion encrusted with diamonds. The sky is an azure canopy, and soon the water becomes a blended mosaic of gentian, turquoise and tourmaline indicolite.

There is little shipping to be seen on this route, and we are left unchallenged monarchs of a blue infinitude. It is magic — white magic — the very soul of the poetry of motion — to be skimming up there on velvet air speeding so easily and lightly to foreign lands. I feel a glad exhilaration and warm rush of gratitude that I have lived in this wonderful age of sky travel. I am no engineer, and to see the great wings cleaving the heavens is to me nothing short of a miracle which can never become ordinary and commonplace.

Now we see France, *La belle France*, indeed this smiling morning, with its sands " glistening like gold." A white battalion of tufted clouds sail serenely out to greet us.

Casinos, hotels and golf courses catch the eye as the aeroplane heads south on the remaining one hundred miles to Paris. Past the mud-banks of the Somme, past the historic forest of Crecy, we go and quickly overtop the railway junction at Abbeville. Soon the advance guard of Paris, the red-roofed suburbs, come out to meet us, and the Eiffel Tower points its great finger at us as we bend down to the large hangars of Le Bourget.

" Bang Goes Saxpence."

Here the real adventure of my flight begins. I leave the good ship Hengist with a feeling of regret, mixed with a pleasant thrill of anticipation for the new and greater enterprise in front of me.

I enter the restaurant of Le Bourget to buy some fruit. My marketing is not extensive, for my Scottish sense of thrift is outraged when "bang goes a saxpence" for a small orange. I am disappointed in our old ally, and trading negotiations are abruptly terminatel.

The aeroplane into which I now step is an entirely different type of machine from the cross-Channel giant. It belongs to the " Atalanta " class, which is being used this summer on the Paris-Basle-Zürich route before going on tropical service in Africa, India, or somewhere else " East of the Suez."

Instead of the blue and cream upholstery of the Hengist, here are cool wicker chairs which can, by a simple contrivance, be adjusted to fit one's somnolence or alertness, as the case may be.

The " H " class has accommodation for 38 voyagers; the " Atalanta " takes nine souls only, for its primary function is to carry mails, but it has also been designed for the comfort and security of passengers. Like a featherweight it mounts, spreading its wings over the boulevards and gardens of the French capital until we soar over the Marne, where " le boating " is in full swing.

Over secluded and exclusive châteaux we float, surmounting the well timbered district around Romilly; over the Valley of the Aube where it meets the Seine, until we look down on Brienne, with its white château dominating the country on the central hill.

After Luxeuil we sight the Vosges. The clouds commune with the mountain tops, but we climb higher. At this altitude the lakes are mere " dewdrops in the hollow of a leaf." Still we mount, and now we are above a cloudland like a great snowfield, with peepholes revealing dolls' towns with roads like bits of string linking them together.

Over strange, white pastures I ride, " like Arion on the dolphin's back." The clouds thicken and assume fantastic shapes. Some take on the semblance of monster mushrooms, while others have the appearance of a thousand tents in a military encampment. There are clouds like horseshoes, others white bushes or snow-laden trees — now it seems as if we were on a golf course with snow-covered hummocks and winding alleys, with here and there the dark earth showing through like a sable bunker.

Soon the world is entirely hidden; there is no hint of it. It the people of Mars are looking down on this part of our planet, I cogitate, they must believe it is enveloped in impenetrable snows. Streamers of vapour glide past us like a procession of ghosts to some white Inferno. But always there is the blue canopy above — " blue as Our Lady's gown."

Bathos.

Through vaporous clouds we fall. Has anything happened? My face perhaps registers perturbation.

The captain emerges from the cockpit. Has he come to tell me of some mishap? He stoops over me. " Blow your nose," he advises unromantically. " That will relieve any air-pressure on your ears," and at the same moment as he makes this prosaic remark I espy below me the green water of the Rhine and the well-built town of Basle springing up to us. Like a swallow we skim the river, circle over roofs and tree-tops, and glissade gradually to the ground.

There is a clean and airy restaurant at Basle aerodrome where a pot of good tea may be obtained — the qualifying adjective is not one that can be universally employed on the Continent to the cup that cheers. More potent beverages may also be had along with a substantial meal if the inner man has not been fortified on the cross-Channel 'plane, where one can breakfast, lunch or dine as in a first-class hotel. We wait, if my memory serves me correctly, about three-quarters of an hour at Basle, then mount again our aerial Pegasus.

Over happy-looking villages fringing the Rhine we fly. There is a delicate and almost impalpable breeze, and the sweet-scented air seems vibrant and living. There are a thousand fragrant exhalations and a potent fresh odour of green things. Everywhere the witch Spring has flung out her rich tapestries. The fertile domains seem limitless. Trees foam into a milliard specks and flecks of colour. Quivering lights come and go on the river, and the secret hiding places of Beauty are revealed. On we go — past pretty little Brugg on the Aare, with its islets round her, like a swan with its cygnets, near where is the Castle of Hapsburg, the ancestral residence of the late Austrian Royal Family.

As we head up the Valley of the Rhine with the mountains of Germany on one hand, the Juras loom up on the other. The Bernese Alps and the Engadine can be glimpsed on the right with their amber streams and their swift-running, blanched waterfalls.

Gracious Switzerland.

It is a lyric flight. The aeroplane is drumming out an exultant song of triumph for victory achieved. We are at our journey's end. We have reached Dubendorf Aerodrome.

Switzerland is in her most gracious mood. The translucent Zurich See smiles at us, and the River Limmat, which helps to feed it, sparkles at our approach. Entering a foreign country is often something of an ordeal by surface transport, but everything is made easy for the air traveller. The Custom House officials are considerate, and do not stir my belongings round like porridge, as has so often happened when I have arrived by a more commonplace mode of transport. I am escorted by genial and polite officials to the waiting 'bus, which runs us into Zürich, with its blue and white tramcars, and its policemen directing the traffic in blue and white enclosures to match.

Some people there are who assert that air travel is monotonous. For the seeing eye this is not so, for there is an everlasting variousness in light, in cloud, and in shade.

On my return journey when I lunched at Zürich, had tea at Le Bourget, dined in the air liner crossing the Channel in a terrific thunderstorm (but outside the danger zone), and arrived in London with an ample margin of time to catch the Scottish express, my experiences were totally dissimilar to the outward bound trip, but equally delightful.

From both journeys I have brought back a rich treasury of memories of beauty and space never before conceived.

Irish Times.

PERSONAL.

We have much pleasure to inform our readers, that the wedding of Miss Ruth Bertschinger, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Bertschinger of " Lyme Regis " 77, Wood Vale, N.10, with M. Marcel Pradervand of Payerne will take place on July 19th, at the Temple de Ressudens, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland. We extend to the young couple our best wishes.

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