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# The Swiss Observer

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## FEDERAL.

### A NEW FRONTIER INCIDENT.

Another serious Frontier Violation by the Nazi's has occurred during the night from Saturday to Sunday at Ramsen (Ct. Schaffhausen).

Hermann Weber, a Tschecoslovakian, who was in a barn about 100 m. inside Swiss territory, was taken by three German subjects and forcibly removed to German territory. A Swiss customs official who arrived, pointed out to the raiders, that their action was illegal, and when he went to summon some help, the unfortunate man was carried over the borders. It is learned that Weber was a member of a smuggling band, and that he had just escaped the German customs officers. There is widespread indignation throughout the canton of Schaffhausen about this flagrant violation of the frontier. A report of the happening has been forwarded to Berne, and the entire Swiss Press expresses its indignation about these frequent frontier incidents; the Federal Council is requested to lodge a strong protest, and to ask for an explanation. It has now been reported that Weber has been taken back to the Swiss authorities as a result of the formal complaint of the Swiss Minister in Berlin. The affair is not yet closed, however, as it is understood that the Swiss Government will ask for the punishment of the raiders.

### WHO PAYS THE COSTS OF THE GENEVA INTERVENTION?

The intervention of troops on the occasion of the riots of the 9th of November of last year, which took place by request of the Geneva government, caused expenses amounting to 112,191.57 frs.

The canton of Geneva was presented therefore with the bill amounting to the above-mentioned amount. The cantonal government now requests the Federal Council to let them off, and to debit the Federal accounts with this item.

The Federal Council will, on the occasion of the next session of the Chambers recommend to the canton of Geneva of its obligation.

### SWISS OFFICERS AT ITALIAN MANOEUVRES.

The following Swiss officers are at present witnessing the large Italian Army manoeuvres:

Colonel Biberstein, Commander of the 3rd Army Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel Jacob, Staff Officer of the 3rd Army Corps, & Major Nager of the Instruction Corps, at present on mission with the Italian Army.

### SWISS AVIATOR'S FATE.

The mystery surrounding the fate of Mr. Carl Nauer, the Swiss aviator, who disappeared on a flight from Capetown to England, has been solved.

Mr. Nauer, who left Capetown on August 4th, took off from Mossamedes, Portuguese West Africa, the following day for Duala, but failed to arrive, and no further news of him was received.

Mr. John Williamson, the South African aviator, on August 15th began an air search for the missing man, and he has now received a report from a Swiss woman, Mme. Schneider, who lives at Banana, a port in the Belgian Congo, that on August 6th she saw an aeroplane come down on the sea three miles out from the shore.

Mme. Schneider declared that she saw it afloat for some time and then she noticed that it had disappeared.

The Belgian Administration on the Congo accepts the view that the machine seen by Mme. Schneider was that of M. Nauer, and their view is shared by the authorities here.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Swiss Press Association, which was celebrated in Zurich, M. Schulthess, President of the Swiss Confederation and Federal Councillor Dr. Meyer, made two speeches, referring to the importance which the Press enjoys. Dr. M. Feldmann (Berne) was elected President of the Zentralvorstand. Director Rietmann from the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung," Dr. Karl Weber and F. von Ernst were elected Honorary members with acclamation.

### BERNE.

The new Persian Minister, Abol Hassan Khan Foroughi presented his credentials to Federal Councillors Motta and Pilet.

\* \* \*

A woman at Biel, who for years was helped by various charitable institutions and by relations, died lately apparently penniless. It has now been found that she had an account at a bank exceeding 100,000 frs.

\* \* \*

Professor Otto von Greyerz, a well-known Bernese dialect writer has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

\* \* \*

Dr. Ernst Schwarz, a noted veterinary surgeon, has died in Berne at the age of 66. Dr. Schwarz was a member of the Grand Council from 1922-29, and was a Colonel in the Swiss Army.

### LUCERNE.

The death is reported at the age of 71 of M. Jost Segesser - von Brumegg, "Staatsschreiber" of the canton of Lucerne.

### GLARUS.

M. Andreas Hefti of Luchsingen was attacked by a mad bull, and seriously injured.

### BASLE.

A woman who occupied a flat at the Dornacherstrasse, had an unwelcome visitor in the person of a snake, measuring 2½ m. The police was advised, and the animal was removed to the Zoological gardens, where it died. The snake belonged to a very dangerous species, and it is at present a mystery how it arrived in the above-mentioned quarters.

\* \* \*

Dr. B. Jaeggi, President of the Administration Commission of the Verband Schweizerischer Konsumvereine is retiring from his post. Dr. Jaeggi has been nearly 35 years connected with this institution.

\* \* \*

M. Emil R. Seiler-La Roche, the well-known Silk ribbon manufacturer died in Basle at the age of 69.

\* \* \*

The "National Zeitung" in Basle has been prohibited in Germany until September 10th.

### GENEVA.

M. Henri Mercier from Carouge, was seriously injured, when an aeroplane, which he was piloting, crashed from a height of 20 m. He was taken to the cantonal Hospital in a serious condition.

### NEUCHATEL.

The "1er Salon Suisse de l'horlogerie" was opened on the 25th of August at La Chaux-de-Fonds. M. Schulthess, President of the Swiss Confederation congratulated the promoters on their initiative, and their courage to find new ways and means to bring the watch industry, which had terribly suffered during the last few years, on to a more prosperous basis. "The authorities" he said, "are watching your endeavours, with great interest, and are willing to lend a hand which will allow, this at one time so prosperous industry, to gain again a footing in the world markets. "State help" he continued "must be, owing to the crisis, limited, but we shall endeavour to make our purchases only from foreign countries which are buying on the Swiss markets. M. Beguin, member of the cantonal government, and M. Perret, member of the government of the canton of Vandœuvres both expressed their thanks to the representative of the Federal Government, for the support which was promised.

## ST. GALLEN.

M. Rudolf Knie, a member of the famous family Knie of circus fame has died at Rapperswil from cancer. The deceased, who was a celebrated rope dancer, and clown was the idol of thousands of children and grown ups throughout Switzerland.

## SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Bringolf, the Communist town-President of Schaffhausen has returned from his 9 days imprisonment at Baden. A large crowd welcomed him at the station; he later on addressed a large gathering.

## VALAIS.

A number of members of the Alpine Club and several guides assembled at Zermatt last week to congratulate Sir Felix Schuster, who first visited Zermatt 60 years ago, and has since every year been a guest at Zermatt or at the Riffelalp.

## WORLD HONOURS SWISS.

### Prof. Laur at Wheat Conference.

The successful issue of the World Wheat Conference, which was held in London last week at the invitation of the League of Nations, is largely the achievement of the Swiss chief delegate Prof. Laur. He played an extremely important, and on one very critical occasion a decisive role at this gathering of 31 nations which resulted in the conclusion of the first world agreement ensuring an enlightened policy of economic co-operation.

Prof. Laur speaks of this event as "the finest achievement of his life." For over 40 years the organiser and still active leader of the Swiss Farmers' Union, Prof. Laur has gained renown as the foremost agricultural expert far beyond the confines of our country. Years ago our countryman has recognised the absolute necessity of international action for dealing with the agricultural problem, especially with the crisis of the wheat growers. On several occasions he has submitted concrete proposals to international bodies such as the Agricultural Bureau at Rome, the Economic Section of the League of Nations and two years ago to a first Wheat Conference also held in London. The agreement just concluded not only embodies the principles for which Prof. Laur has been agitating so long, but several of the most important paragraphs have actually been suggested and drafted by him. But for his expert and tactful intervention it is doubtful whether the agreement could have been concluded at all.

Although the practical effects of the pact remain yet to be seen, its importance as a matter of principle can hardly be overestimated. The wheat importing nations are actually and deliberately assisting the exporting interests in an endeavour to make the imported article dearer by artificially restricting the supply. They do this because they have recognised that the restoration of remunerative prices to the primary producers is the indispensable condition for world recovery and for increased industrial orders. The world has at last learned to look ahead, to put the common interests before the sectional ones.

Although the English press reports have not sufficiently acknowledged the part Prof. Laur played in the negotiations, the Conference itself has not failed to express its gratitude to the representative of our country. As he signed the agreement he received a spontaneous ovation alone among all the delegates. The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Bennett, singled Prof. Laur out for the warmest personal compliments in his concluding speech as president of the Conference. So did the Australian representative, Mr. Bruce, as well as several others. It is particularly gratifying to record the honourable and active part played by Prof. Laur, because it constitutes a positive and constructive contribution to the solution of one of the severest world problems, a contribution that reflects honour upon our country as well. All his countrymen will wish to join in tendering Prof. Laur our heartiest congratulations for his success.

Dr. B.

Owing to lack of space the Article on the "Fronten" will be published in next week's issue only.