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FEDERAL.

LARGE DEFICIT OF THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

The accounts of the Swiss Federal Railway for the year 1932 close with a deficit of nearly 50 million francs.

DIPLOMATIC VISIT AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

M. Schulthess, President of the Swiss Confederation has received the new Lettish Minister, Dr. Julius Feldmans in audience.

SWISS CONSULATE AT LOS ANGELES ATTACKED.

The Swiss Consulate at Los Angeles was attacked by two men, who forcibly gained an entrance into the Consulate. The chancellor M. Graf von Ratz (Zurich), was attacked, but his cries for help were heard, and the intruders took to their heels, without having succeeded in their endeavours to effect a robbery.

NEW CHIEFS OF STAFF IN THE SWISS ARMY.

Colonel Jakob Huber, a member of the Instruction Corps has been appointed chief of staff of the 3rd Army Corps, up to his new post he was in command of the 5th Artillery Brigade. Lieutenant-Colonel Hans Bühler from Frutigen will be the new chief of staff of the 2nd division. The army has now the following chief of staffs:

1st Army Corps:	Colonel Goudet.
2nd Army Corps:	Colonel Hartmann.
3rd Army Corps:	Colonel Huber.
1st Division:	Lieut.-Colonel Perrenoud.
2nd Division:	Lieut.-Colonel Du Pasquier.
3rd Division:	Lieut.-Colonel Bühler.
4th Division:	Lieut.-Colonel Iselin.
5th Division:	Lieut.-Colonel Gubeli.
6th Division:	Lieut.-Colonel Fischbacher.
St. Gothard Fortress:	Colonel Waldis.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

For the year ending 1932, the following dividends have been declared: Schweizerische Hypothekbank Solothurn: 5½ per cent. (1931 5½%); Berner Handelsbank, 4 per cent.; Volksbank Interlaken, A.G., 5 per cent. (1931 5%); Bank Wädenswil in Wädenswil, 4½ per cent. (1931 5%); St. Gallische Kreditanstalt, St. Gallen, 8 per cent. (1931 8%); Gewerbe Kasse in Bern, 8½ per cent. (1931 8½%); Spar & Leihkasse Huttwil, 7 per cent. (1931 8%).

A WAGNER MUSEUM AT LUCERNE.

Villa Triebtschen, Richard Wagner's residence on the lake of Lucerne, near Meggenhorn, has been purchased by the Lucerne Municipality, which now intends spending 148,000 francs on the restoration of the house. Richard Wagner lived there from 1866 to 1872, and in that building he finished the *Meistersinger*, *Siegfried*, and the *Götterdämmerung*. The ground floor of Villa Triebtschen will be arranged, with the help of the composer's family, into a Wagner Museum, which it is expected to inaugurate in the course of the present year, when the fiftieth anniversary of Wagner's death will be celebrated.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. W. Rosenblum, a lawyer in Zurich, has been arrested for embezzling an amount exceeding 130,000fr.

M. Flandin, the former French Minister of Finance, has given a lecture in Zurich on the work of the approaching World Economic Conference, amongst the audience were M. Musy, the Swiss Finance Minister, Professor Bachmann, head of the National Bank and M. Quesnay, General Manager of the B. I. R. at Basle and many other eminent personalities in Swiss Banking and Financial Circles were present.

The population of Zurich at the end of December 1932 amounts to 261,335 or 3,495 more than at the same period of last year.

BERNE.

Inhabitants of Kienthal, in the Interlaken district, were awakened in the small hours of the morning by a severe earthquake shock. A few seconds later a rumbling sound was heard. The actual centre of the earthquake has not yet been traced.

Dr. h. c. Anton Schrafl, President of the General Direction of the Swiss Federal Railways, has celebrated his 60th birthday. The head of Switzerland's biggest concern was born at Lugano, and is the son of Anton Schrafl, who was one of the earliest pioneer's of the Gotthard Railway. In 1922 he was appointed by the Federal Council, member of the General Direction in succession to M. Sand; four years later he succeeded M. Zingg as head of the General Direction, in the same year the Federal Technical University conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on him. Dr. Schrafl enjoys an international reputation, and his vast experience, his foresight and energy are a great asset to a concern, which suffers very acutely under the present economic crisis.

LUCERNE.

The death at the age of 93 is announced from Lucerne of Dr. Theodor Bell, head of the well-known machine-works of Bell & Co., at Kriens. That firm, which specialises in the construction of bridges and turbines, was founded by Mr. Bell's father. The deceased was for over 52 years a member of the Grand Council, and for many years was on the board of the Cantonal Bank. The Federal Technical University of Zurich conferred on him in 1918 the degree of *doctor honoris causa* as an appreciation for his pioneer work in the Water Turbine erections.

GLARIS.

The mountain of Kilchenstock, in the Canton of Glaris, has again started to move. According to the latest report it is now travelling at a rate of over four inches a day. The movement since the beginning of October has been so pronounced that a serious landslide is awaited daily, and the Swiss Federal authorities have consequently issued a grave warning to visitors and to the inhabitants of the district.

BASLE.

Dr. Ed. Nüscher, General Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle has celebrated his 60th birthday.

Lisa Wenger, the well-known and popular writer, has celebrated her 75th birthday anniversary on the 23rd of this month.

From Basle comes the news of the death of M. Georg Meidinger, Founder and head of the engineering works Georg Meidinger. From small beginnings he worked up a large business which enjoys an international reputation.

GENEVA.

M. De Moro-Giafferri, one of the most distinguished members of the French Bar, has been approached regarding taking over the defence of L. Nicole, who will shortly appear in court, in connection with the Geneva riots. There arises, however, the question whether the Federal Authorities will sanction this choice, as there is a strong feeling that the defence should be entrusted to a Swiss lawyer.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of M. E. Leuté, Customs Director of the district of Geneva. M. Leuté who was for 45 years in the service of the Confederation is resigning for reasons of health.

AARGAU.

The death is reported from Olten, of Doctor Max von Arx, at the age of 76. Doctor von Arx was for many years chief surgeon at the cantonal

hospital; and the Founder of the Historical Museum and town library in Olten; which town loses in him one of their most distinguished citizens.

APPENZELL A. RH.

The death is reported of M. Georg Lobeck, a partner in the firm J. G. Nef & Co., at Herisan.

ST. GALLEN.

A voluntary collection for aiding the unemployed in the canton St. Gallen, resulted in the collection of an amount of 78,670fr. besides numerous donations in kind.

Landammann Alfred Riegg, who is shortly entering into his 7th decade, has tendered his resignation. M. Riegg has been a member of the cantonal government since 1906, and during all these years he has unceasingly worked in the interest of his native canton.

GRISONS.

After having paid various legacies, the executors of the will of the late Major Dosch from Tinzen, have handed over to the cantonal Government an amount of 570,000fr., this amount has been earmarked for assisting the poor.

The King and Queen of the Belgians have arrived at Arosa where they will stay for a fortnight.

VAUD.

Part of the buildings at Chillon College, formerly the Hotel Byron, at Villeneuve, near the Castle of Chillon, was destroyed by fire. For some years past it has been an English boys' school, conducted by Mr. Pym. There are about 100 boys in the school, nearly all British. They were all saved, as well as the masters and staff, but their belongings were destroyed.

FOOTBALL.

CHALLENGE FIRST LEAGUE.

22nd January, 1933.

The last round was played off last week and by the skin of their teeth F.C. St. Gallen managed to become finalists for Group 2 East, the other, as anticipated, being Etoile Ch. de F. Curious, just two of the four relegated clubs. The two clubs have agreed to play the final for the title and the gold medals later in the year.

Here are the final tables of the Competition:

FIRST LEAGUE CHALLENGE TABLE.

Group 1 (West) playing Group 2.

	Goals			Pts.
	P.	W.	D. L.	
Etoile Ch. de F.	5	4	1 0	14 4
Grenchen	5	4	1 0	20 13
Montreux	5	3	1 0	16 8
Bern	5	3	1 1	12 8
Bözingen	5	3	1 1	10 7
Olten	5	3	1 1	14 12
Cantonal	5	0	2 3	10 14
Solothurn	5	1	0 2	7 11
Racing	5	1	0 2	5 10

Groups 2 (East) playing Group 1.

	Goals			Pts.
	P.	W.	D. L.	
St. Gallen	5	2	1 2	16 12
Seebach	5	2	1 2	15 13
Locarno	5	2	0 3	12 13
Oerlikon	5	1	2 1	7 18
Old Boys	5	1	1 3	11 15
Bellinzona	5	1	0 3	9 12
Brühl	5	1	0 2	6 10
Winterthur	5	0	2 2	6 11
Luzern	5	1	0 4	5 14

CHALLENGE NATIONAL.

Lugano2	Concordia0
Lausanne Sports1	Young Fellows2

FRIENDLY MATCHES.

21st and 22nd.

Basel0	Admira Wien3
Zurich1	Admira Wien9
Urania2	Bern4

INTERNATIONALS.

Holland0	Switzerland2
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(0:1)

In Amsterdam.

Switzerland B0	Alsace0
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In Solothurn.

(Continued on back page).

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