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FEDERAL.

NEW SWISS MINISTER IN BUKAREST.

The Federal Council has nominated M. René de Week, Councillor of Legation in Paris, to the post of Swiss Minister at Bukarest. M. de Week originates from Fribourg, and has been in the diplomatic service of the Confederation for over 20 years; in 1913 he was Attaché at the Legation in London.

SWISS TAXPAYERS.

Few people are aware of the fact that the Swiss taxpayer is the most heavily assessed on the Continent. His yearly payment, reckoned per head of the population, attains an average of 151 gold francs, whereas a German only pays 86, a Belgian 70, a Dutchman 57, an Austrian 50, an Italian 43, a Dame 40, and a Czechoslovakian 19. The stability of Switzerland's financial structure and the rate of its exchange are, therefore, not solely due to circumstances, but, to a great extent, to the considerable fiscal efforts of the Swiss people.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BANK OF INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

The term of office of the Chairman of the Bank of International Settlements, in Basle, M. Mc. Garrah, comes to an end next May, and although re-election for a further period of three years, would have been certain, M. Mc. Garrah has declined to stand for a new term. He is proposed as an Honorary President of the institution. — Gates Wallace Mc. Garrah was born in 1863 in Monroe, New York. He started his banking career with the Leather Manufacturers National Bank, New York, with which he was connected until 1904, finally as General Manager. On the occasion of the re-organisation of the Federal Reserve Bank, he was appointed a director of this important Central Bank. In 1930 the delegates of the six Founder countries elected him as the first Chairman of the Bank of International Settlements.

The new Chairman of this International Institution will be his countryman, M. Leon Fraser, who was born in 1889 at Boston. He studied at the Universities in New York and London, Law and national economy. For some time he was a lecturer at the Columbia University, and when America entered the world war he joined the colours, and reached the rank of a major. After the war, his country nominated him as a member of the Reparation Commission, and he acted also as adviser to the Young-and-Dawes Delegations. Hitherto M. Fraser was Vice-Chairman of the Bank of International Settlements.

OVER THE ALPS BY GLIDER.

The Alps were crossed by glider (motorless aeroplane) last Monday for the first time, when Willi Farmer, a Swiss aviator, made the 120-mile journey from Zurich to Milan.

Most of the flight was over dangerous country, where a forced landing would have meant disaster.

In a small glider, 16ft. in length, and carrying seven mailbags, Farmer started a few minutes before 3 p.m. in splendid weather from the Dübendorf Aerodrome, near here.

He was towed by a Puss Moth aeroplane to a height of 12,000ft., and, after part of the journey, was released to complete the rest of the flight independently.

He plans to make the return flight by glider as soon as the weather permits.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

Bank in Burgdorf: 4 per cent. (1931: 5%); Leihkasse Neumünster in Zurich: 7 per cent. (1931: 7%); Aargauische Hypothekenbank in Brugg: 5s per cent. (1931: 7%); Bank in Ragaz, Ragaz: 6 per cent. (1931: 6%); Banca Popolare di Lugano: 8½ per cent. (1931: 8½%); Gewerbe Kasse in Baden: 5½ per cent. (1931: 7%);

Volksbank Siders: 7 per cent. (1931: 7½%); Bank in Langenthal: 5 per cent. (1931: 6%); Bank Guyerzeller A. G. Zurich: 4 per cent. (1931: 5%).

SWISS WINS SKI-JUMPING COMPETITION.

The special ski-jumping competition in the International Ski Federation meeting was decided on the mountain Isel near Innsbruck.

Raymond, Switzerland won with 224 points. His best jump was 231 feet. Burkert, Czechoslovakia was second with 213 points, and Sven Eriksson, Sweden, the winner of the two previous jumping events, third with 210.9 points.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

A hunger strike by a python, which lasted almost a year, has been broken by forcible feeding at the Zurich Zoo.

The python, about 25ft. long, had refused food ever since its capture in Sumatra. Homesickness was believed to be the cause.

The jaws of the reptile could only be forced open by human fingers. This was done and four raw eggs, dipped in olive oil to make them slippery, were introduced and massaged into the stomach.

* * *

Dr. H. Dietler, Manager of the A.G. Leu & Co., in Zurich, is resigning from his post which he has held for nearly 20 years with great distinction: he will shortly be made a director of this institution. As successor Dr. J. Diggemann, formerly Sub-manager of the bank has been appointed. M. J. Vontobel will act as Deputy-manager.

* * *

The Corso Theatre in Zurich has been sold; the present building will be demolished and a new one erected. It is proposed, that the new building should house a music Hall, as well as a number of up to date shops.

* * *

The railway disaster which took place on the 17th of December at Oerlikon, has claimed another victim in the person of Mme. Rosa Schneiter-Renz: this brings the number of the killed to five. Her husband, Major Schneiter also lost his life in the accident.

BERNE.

The death is reported from Berne of M. F. A. Véron, head of the Konservenfabrik Véron & Co. A.G., in Berne.

NEUCHATEL.

All schools at Le Loele have been closed owing to the influenza epidemic.

VAUD.

M. Grillet, Manager of the branch office of the National Bank in Lausanne has resigned from his post for reasons of health, his successor will be M. Ernest Kraft, at present sub-manager of the institution.

TICINO.

On Sunday last, a Banquet was held at Lugano in honour of Paccardi, who has been expelled from Swiss territory by the Federal Council. National Councillor Borella and M. Ferri, late editor of the "Libera Stampa," were present.

* * *

A revolt broke out at the local parliament in Ascona; over the purchase of an electrical power station. The authorities decided to purchase a power station which is owned by a private company, this decision, however, did not meet with the approval of the population. During a meeting of the council a crowd assembled outside the town hall and a noisy demonstration was held, some of the councillors were attacked by a mob, and the police had to be summoned.

* * *

Elisabetta Vanetta, a citizen of Cademario, near Lugano, has celebrated her 100th birthday last Tuesday, her eldest daughter is 77 years old.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

FOOTBALL.

12th February, 1933.

CHALLENGE NATIONAL.

Grasshoppers	10	Lausanne Sports	0
		(?)	
Servette	3	Young Fellows	0
		forfait	
Nordstern	4	Urania	5
Carouge	1	Blue Stars	1
Basel	6	Zurich	1
Young Boys	2	Biel	0
Aarau	2	Lugano	3

FIRST LEAGUE.

Winterthur	3	Oerlikon	2
Seebach	6	Luzern	1
Locarno	4	Old Boys	1
		(played in Luzern)	
St. Gallen	4	Bellinzona	3
Racing	5	Etoile Ch. de F.	1
Bözingen	2	Montreux	3
Grenchen	1	Olten	0
Cantonal	2	Solethurn	2

SWISS CUP DRAW: SEMI-FINALS.

to be played on 5th March.

In Zurich: Grasshoppers v Young Boys.

In Bern: Lausanne Sports v Basel.

The Challenge National has come to an end. Next Sunday already the League matches proper will be resumed. Grasshoppers and Young Boys are the finalists in this intermediate competition, and as they also happen to be drawn together in the Swiss Cup Semi-Finals two exceedingly interesting games may be looked forward to. Young Boys have made great strides this season and are the only unbeaten club in the upper circles. Will they succeed and maintain that record? A hard task against such favourites as the Grasshopper Club. Yet, I for one would welcome it, not out of club fanaticism, but for the reason that an occasional cold douche is good for all of us and quite especially for a team that has won, and quite deservedly won, the highest honours in the game. It is about time that at least one other Swiss club produces such football that, when matched with Grasshoppers, the result is not a foregone conclusion, and Young Boys seem to me to be that club. Well, we have to wait and see.

We would place on record the final tables of the Challenge National. Group 1 in securing 79 points, against only 43 points total of the clubs in Group 2, have demonstrated a decided superiority. Both groups of course represent the same standard in theory! And like so often in this world, theory and practice do not coincide. It follows it should be easier to avoid relegation in group 2, yet I am sure Aarau would tell you that, in all conscience, it is quite difficult enough! The only remedy is ONE compact National League only and if reduced to say 12 clubs, that would mean 22 League matches in a season, or the identical number as played now, viz. 14 League and 8 Challenge games. Further, in my opinion there are barely 12 clubs in Switzerland who have adequate funds, supporters and spectators to keep them alive under the present system of quasi professionalism. The two St. Gall Clubs have found that out. F.C. Winterthur, Cantonal and Aarau are others. But the powers that be, I am afraid, will not ask me for my opinion. The more the pity!

"CHALLENGE NATIONAL" TABLE.

Group 1 playing Group 2.

	Goals	
P. W. D. L.	F. A.	Pts.
Grasshoppers	8 7 0 1	41 6 14
Urania	8 6 1 1	37 11 13
Lugano	8 6 1 1	21 12 13
Biel	8 5 1 2	16 8 11
Basel	8 3 2 2	21 14 8
Young Boys	8 4 0 4	18 15 8
Chaux-de-Fonds	7 2 3 2	24 18 7
Couroge	8 0 5 3	11 14 5

Group 2 playing Group 1.

	Goals	
P. W. D. L.	F. A.	Pts.
Young Boys	8 5 3 0	23 12 13
Servette	8 4 2 2	14 10 10
Lausanne	8 2 2 4	16 30 6
Nordstern	8 2 1 5	18 31 5
Concordia	8 1 2 5	5 20 4
Zurich	7 1 1 5	7 22 3
Blue Stars	8 1 1 5	7 20 3
Aarau	8 0 1 7	8 44 1

M.G.