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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS



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### FEDERAL.

#### GENEVA INTERNATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SALON.

M. Schulthess, President of the Swiss Confederation, opened the 10th Geneva International Automobile Salon, on which occasion he made a speech.

M. Schulthess remarked that unfortunately the majority of the population of Switzerland are not aware of the seriousness of the position, "there is," he said, "still a widespread belief, that the actual crisis, is only of short duration, after which, conditions will again take their normal course." "I can see no short cut to regain prosperity," he continued, "we shall have to make arrangements to hold out, and all classes will have to make heavy sacrifices, if we intend to emerge victoriously from this international economic depression.

He concluded his address with the following words:

"Our position is serious, but we shall overcome the adverse conditions if every citizen is doing his duty, putting the interest of the whole community above his personal one. Switzerland has still great material reserves, but still higher estimate and value the moral reserve, the will, the determination of our people, to maintain and safeguard the inheritance which former generations have handed us down, and I make a fervent appeal to our people to put their back to the wheel, and to do their utmost to fight hard to regain once again, prosperity and economic peace.

#### CONSUL ALEXANDER BALTIS.

The news of the death of M. Alexander Baltis, Swiss Consul in Abo (Finland), will come as a sad surprise to many, who have come in touch with this charming representative of our country. Consul Baltis was born at Aadorf (Thurgau) and spent his youth at Munich, where he started in business; later he established his own establishment at the University town of Abo. When the Great War broke out, he was entrusted by the Swiss Government to look after the interests of the residing Swiss. During the war and throughout the revolution, he worked untiringly in the interest of our country, and thousands of Swiss who were in dire distress received help from him: as a matter of fact he spent almost his whole fortune in mitigating the distress of his countrymen. After the separation of Finland from Russia, he received an offer to represent Switzerland at the Finnish capital Helsingfors, but he could not make up his mind to leave the town of Abo which had been dear to him. Consul Baltis has served his country well, and he will be remembered by many to whom he has rendered great services.

#### UNE CAUSE CELEBRE.

The case Nicole and consorts has been fixed for the 8th of May: nearly 450 witnesses will be called by the prosecution and the defence, the duration of the case will take over a month. The seat of the tribunal will be the Salle de Reformation at Geneva.

#### SWISS SKI-ING TRIUMPH.

The Arlberg-Kandahar meeting opened at Mürren last week. There were seventy-seven starters, including many of the most famous skiers in Europe.

Weather and snow conditions were excellent, but owing to the mild winter the shorter Schiltgrat-Kandahar finish course had to be used instead of the traditional Schiltgrat-Gimmelwald.

The race was a great triumph for the Swiss. Walter Prager, the Swiss champion, was first in 2 minutes 18 seconds. He was followed by Heinz von Almen and Graf, both of Wengen and Steuri, of Schiedegg.

The fifth man was Lantschner (Austria). Peter Lunn only arrived forty-eight hours before the

race, and was tenth in 2 minutes 40 seconds. It was a fine performance, as he had had less than three weeks skiing earlier in the winter.

Tschol, 21st, was the best from Arlberg. MacLaren, 15th, ran well. Munro was 32nd, Mackintosh, 33rd, Lewns, 38th, Mitchell (Austria), 48th; and Tommasi, the best Italian, 53rd.

The Ladies' Race started 400 feet above the Dogger Rock. The winner was Nini Zogg (Switzerland), who beat Miss Mackinnon by half a second, and Miss Kessler by one second. The fifth was Mrs. Butler, and the 6th, Mrs. Boughton Leigh.

#### SWISS RAYON INDUSTRY.

Swiss rayon manufacturers are petitioning for further State protection, the quota restrictions introduced last October having completely failed in their purpose. The Federal authorities are stated to be now giving their careful consideration to new safeguarding measures.

In spite of certain optimistic forecasts at the beginning of last year no improvement took place in this industry in 1932: production, inland sales, imports and exports all showed a decrease as compared with 1931. Imports diminished by 0.43 per cent. in weight and by 26.83 per cent. in value, the figures being 2,450 tons, as against 2,461 tons and 15,400,000f., as compared with 21,100,000f. The marked decline in value is indicative of the cuts in price introduced by foreign competitors to the detriment of Swiss trade, the dumping thus achieved having brought down the price of rayon products in Switzerland to the lowest figure quoted on the world market.

Exports were handicapped by a number of difficulties, the chief being high Customs tariffs, foreign exchange restrictions, depreciation in currency, diminished purchasing capacity, and general trade depression. In order to be able to compete on foreign markets Swiss manufacturers were forced to make drastic cuts in their prices. Yet exports sank by about 19 per cent. in weight and 39.6 per cent. in value in comparison with 1931, the figures being respectively 3,652 tons, as against 4,511 tons, and 22,700,000f., as compared with 37,600,000f. The principal purchasing countries were Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, and Austria. As a result of the decline in exports production had to be decreased, and three of the remaining Swiss factories — two were closed some time ago — were forced to reduce their output and the number of hands employed by about 20 per cent.

#### FURTHER SWISS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

New import restrictions have been decreed by the Federal authorities which are of considerable importance to Anglo-Swiss trade. In addition to cotton fabrics they also affect heavy woollen tissues, of which Great Britain exports large quantities to Switzerland (e.g., in 1931, Switzerland purchased these goods from the United Kingdom to the value of 6,100,000f. out of a total import valued at 19,300,000f.)

The new restrictive measures, which become operative as from March 1, 1933, affect the following articles:—

Tariff item 197, footwear of felt, without leather soles; 198, rubber footwear; 368, cotton fabrics, woven of dyed yarn, other than plain or twilled; 370, cotton fabrics, figures, striped, checked, &c., other than unbleached; 471, woollen tissues, unbleached, of yarn, of carded wool; 474, woollen tissues, bleached, dyed, printed, woven of dyed yarn, weighing more than 300 grammes per square metre; 914, tractors without bodywork, not otherwise specified.

#### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

A policeman who assaulted a prisoner in the cell, has been fined 50f. and transferred; he was also warned that should such an offence occur again, instant dismissal would follow.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 25th

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1.

A credit of 2,133,000f. has been voted for the extension of the Mythenquai and the Alfred Escher avenue.

The sisters Schöllhorn in Winterthur have bequeathed an amount of 10,000f. to a Fund for the unemployed, in remembrance of their late parents.

The 1933 International Zionist Congress will take place in August at Zurich.

#### BERNE.

The students of the Cantonal Technical School in Burgdorf have gone on strike; they demand an entire re-organisation of the curriculum, and a change in the teaching staff. Negotiations between the Management, the cantonal government and the students have commenced; in the meantime the institution remains closed.

The wellknown Hotel "Savoy" at Interlaken, has been sold for 600,000f. to a limited company. The share capital is 80,000f., and Chairman of the board is M. von Almen Hotelier at Lauterbrunnen.

#### LUCERNE.

M. Jean Haefelin, General-Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Lucerne has died at the age of 68. M. Haefelin, who enjoyed a great reputation in Swiss Banking Circles, has been at the head of the Cantonal Bank since 1908.

Dr. J. Zimmerli, Mayor of the town of Lucerne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary, he has held this position since 1919 with great distinction. Dr. Zimmerli entered Parliament (National Council) some fifteen years ago.

#### GENEVA.

The Non-commission Officers' Association is holding their annual re'union at Geneva from the 14th - 17th of July. The Federal Council has granted a credit of 5,000f. towards the expenses.

#### BASLE.

Rowdy scenes were witnessed during a sitting of the Grand Council, when the communist member Bidemann repeatedly interrupted the proceedings, by making insulting remarks concerning a friendly power. After having been repeatedly called to order by the President, he persisted in his attacks, and finally was suspended. As a protest the communist members of the Council left the Hall in a body.

#### ARGAU.

The Electric Power Station at Laufenburg announces again the distribution of a 10 per cent. dividend as for some years past.

#### ST. GALLEN.

The cantonal government consisting of seven members (Ruckstuhl, Mäder, Maechler, Baumgartner, Kobel, Grünenfelder and Keel) have been confirmed for a new term of office. 3 members belong to the conservative party, 3 members to the liberal- and one member to the socialist party.

The serious disaster which took place last October, at St. Margrethen, costing the life of seven people, when the woodwork of the roof of the "Kühlhaus Handels A.G." suddenly collapsed, had its sequel before the District Tribunal Unterkirchenthal. The head of the above mentioned concern, M. B. Elzas was charged with negligence, he was however, acquitted, but will have to bear the costs of the action amounting to 1355f.

#### FOOTBALL.

12th March, 1933.

#### INTERNATIONALS.

in Zurich :

Switzerland ..... 3 Belgium ..... 3

in Stuttgart :

South Germany ..... 0 Switzerland B ..... 0

#### FIRST LEAGUE.

Etoile Ch. de F. ..... 0 Montreux ..... 3

We had met Belgium before on 5 occasions, drawing once and losing the other four. To register the first victory was therefore somewhat overdue, and without being too optimistic, might this time have been expected.

A wonderful crowd of over 21,000 spectators turned up, wonderful as regards numbers, very much less wonderful as regards sportsmanship!