

# Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION THANKS M. MOTTA.

M. Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation, expressed his thanks to M. Motta, for the splendid way in which he has voiced the point of view of Switzerland with regard to the admission of Russia as a member of the League of Nations, on the occasion of the meeting at Geneva of the 6th commission.

#### GORDON BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The two Swiss balloons "Basel" and "Zürich III." have both landed in Russia. The balloon "Basel" has come down near Wjasma, and "Zürich III." landed at Woronowa in the district of Leningrad. On going to Press all the balloons taking part in the race have landed, the provisional result is as follows:

1, Balloon "Koscinczko," 1310 km. (Poland); 2, Balloon "Warszawa II," 1280 km. (Poland); 3, Balloon "Polonja," 1175 km. (Poland); 4, Balloon "Belgica," 1160 km. (Belgium); 5, Balloon "Zürich III.," 1030 km. (Switzerland); 6, Balloon "U. S. Navy," 1010 km. (America); 7, Balloon "Dux," 1000 km. (Italy); 8, Balloon "Basel," 920 km. (Switzerland); 9, Balloon "l'Aigle," 900 km. (France); 10, Balloon "Lorraine," 890 km. (France); 11, Balloon "Deutschland," 828 km. (Germany); 12, Balloon "Buffalo Courier Express," 800 km. (America); 13, Balloon "Wilhelm von Opel," 795 km. (Germany); 14, Balloon "Stadt Essen," 745 km. (Germany); 15, Balloon "Bruxelles," 710 km. (Belgium); 16, Balloon "Bratislava," 300 km. (Czechoslovakia).

#### SWISS EXPORTS INCREASE.

Swiss trade in the summer months has been satisfactory. The Department for Economic Affairs announces that exports tend to increase, and the adverse foreign trade balance in the months January to August was Frs. 62,000,000 less than in the corresponding period of last year.

Exports for the month of August were Frs. 65,900,000, showing an increase of Frs. 3,600,000 over July and Frs. 1,400,000 over August, 1933.

Imports totalled Frs. 113,900,000 or Frs. 1,100,000 less than in July and Frs. 8,700,000 less than in August, 1933. The Department points out that the general tendency of the whole volume of foreign trade is towards reduction. Although the stability of the value of the exports is decidedly marked, it is on a low level.

Trade returns of the Rhine port at Basle show a surprising advance in traffic during the month of August. This amounted to 270,000 tons, being 50,000 tons more than in July, 1933, 66,000 tons more than in July, 1932, and 88,000 tons more than in July, 1930. The Month of July hitherto gave the maximum amount of trade.

A portion of the record trade in August belonged to the month of July, during which traffic was held up by a 14 days' strike in Strasbourg. The total tonnage dealt with in the two months July and August exceeds by about 50,000 tons that dealt with in the corresponding months of the year 1933.

The amount of traffic passing through the Rhine port of Basle in the first eight months of the present year — namely, 1,231,916 tons — is an increase of 2,924 tons over that which passed through in the corresponding period of the year 1933. It is confidently anticipated that, conditions being again normal, the current and following months of this year will not show a setback.

### PROFESSOR LAUR'S ACCIDENT.

Professor Laur, the eminent leader of the Swiss Peasant Party met with a serious accident in Berne, where he was run over by a motor-car. He was seriously injured but according to latest reports he is a little better.

### SWISS EMIGRATION FIGURES.

The emigration figures from the 1st of January to the 31st of August, 1934, are stated to be 729 or 54 more than during the same time in 1933.

### TRAINING OF RECRUITS.

The period of training for Swiss recruits is to be extended by about three weeks under a Bill which was approved by the National Council. The present term of training is, it is said, no longer consistent with the progress of motorisation.

### M. SCHULTHESS AND A LIBEL ACTION.

An unusual libel case, in which a Federal Councillor, M. Schulthess, Chief of the Department of Public Economy, accused two members of the Opposition National Front Party with having criminally libelled him, ended on Wednesday, in the conviction of one of the accused and the acquittal of the other.

The allegation was that M. Schulthess had considerably enriched himself during his period of office as head of the Public Economy Department.

The court sentenced the convicted man to a week's imprisonment and a fine of 500 francs (£33) or in default a further 50 days in prison.

### SWISS POLICE FOR THE SAAR.

The Swiss Government has wisely refused to allow its young men to be taken to police the Saar. It no doubt argues that if heads are to be broken they had best be those of the nations primarily concerned.

### SWISS CLAIMS FOR WAR DAMAGES.

The claims of Switzerland for war damages suffered by its citizens were brought before the Council of the League on Tuesday last by M. Motta, and were subjected to severe handling by representatives of the Powers against which the claims were made.

The claims come under three heads:—

(1) War damages proper — that is, damages suffered by the person or property of Swiss citizens on the territory of the defendant State as the result of military action on the part of the forces of the defendant State or its adversary; (2) Requisitions and seizures of Swiss property in occupied territory, divided into (a) requisitions and seizures of property made in accordance with the laws of war, and (b) illegal requisitions and seizures; and (3) Requisitions of Swiss property on British territory.

### MUSSOLINI ENTERTAINS THE SWISS MINISTER.

On the occasion of the signing of a further extension of the Swiss-Italian Arbitration Treaty, M. Mussolini, head of the Italian Government, gave a dinner in honour of M. Wagnière, the Swiss Minister, accredited in Rome, at which 120 political and diplomatic personalities were invited.

During the banquet speeches were made both by Mussolini and the Swiss Minister. The former expressed the wish that the happy relations which at present exist between the two neighbouring nations, might endure and become still more intimate. M. Mussolini voiced the admiration in which both he, and his country hold Switzerland, two countries which are related to each other by blood relationship.

Monsieur Wagnière, in his reply, thanked the Italian Statesman for his spontaneous statement about the happy relationship which exists between the two nations, and assured him that the

Swiss people are animated by the same wish to see the bonds of friendship still more firmly tightened.

### AN ALPINE CONFERENCE.

The International Union of Alpine Associations created two years ago met this year in the Engadine under the presidency of Dr. F. Gugler, President of the Central Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club, and under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Egmond d'Arcis (Geneva), President of the Executive Committee of the U.I.A.A. Fourteen countries and 27 alpine associations, totalling nearly 300,000 members, are represented in the Union.

Among the questions discussed by the delegates and referred to the Permanent Bureau in Geneva for further study were the publication of an international handbook giving particulars of mountainous regions in all countries, the protection of nature, the creation of national parks in frontier districts, and measures to prevent the construction of railways and telepherics in the mountains. The delegates adopted a report recommending the use in all countries of the same signs on skiing maps. Another important report dealt with the study and cataloguing of avalanches, which is to be made by an international committee of five elected by Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. Since last year, thanks to the friendly intervention of the U.I.A.A., the Italian Alpine Club has been able to obtain the opening of 17 passes between Austria and Italy.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Dr. Robert Keller, a former Headmaster of the "Gymnasium und Industrieschule" in Winterthur (1891-1916) has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

#### BERNE.

Owing to bad weather conditions, the "Défilée" of the 3rd Division, which was to have taken place on the 20th inst., was cancelled.

#### BASLE.

From Basle comes the news of the death of M. Ch. Schlumberger-Vischer, senior partner of the Banking firm Ehinger and Co., and one of the leading personalities in the financial circles of Basle. M. Schlumberger who was Vice-Chairman of the Swiss Bank Corporation, and who was on the Board of many large concerns in Switzerland, reached the age of 73.

The "Cichorienfabrik Helvetia und Heinrich Franck Söhne A. G. Basle," has celebrated the 50th anniversary since their foundation. On this occasion the firm has given various donations to the Staff as well as to different charitable institutions in the town of Basle.

#### GENEVA.

M. Motta, the Swiss Foreign Minister has paid a visit to the Queen of Persia, previous to her departure, after a stay of three months at an estate on the Lake of Geneva, on this occasion he presented to the Royal visitor a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Swiss Government. A high official of the Swiss Foreign Office accompanied the Queen as far as the Swiss Frontier.

Late States Councillor Moriaud, who was at one time under arrest in connection with the Banque de Genève affair, and who was later on liberated on account of not sufficient proof being forthcoming has taken up his practice as an advocate.

#### AARGAU.

The death is reported from Schönenwerd, of Mme. J. Bally-Herzog, at the age of 82. Mme. Bally was the daughter of the late General Herzog.

#### SOLOTHURN.

The death is reported from Solothurn of M. Benziger-v. Glutz, Chairman of the "Schweizerische Hypothekenbank" at the age of 70.

#### GRISONS.

Dr. Nadig, town president of Chur, has been re-elected with 1794 votes, his opponent, National-Councillor Canova (Socialist) received 924 votes.

#### VALAIS.

M. Adolf Imboden, President of the Cantonal Tribunal has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. M. Imboden was for many years a member of the Grand Council over which he presided in 1914.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Members of the Committee.