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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND PAYS HOMAGE TO DEAD KING.

M. Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation has sent the following telegram to Queen Maria of Yugoslavia:

Profondément indigné à la nouvelle de l'odieux attentat perpetré contre le Roi Alexandre nous présentons à V.M. les condoléances émues du Conseil Fédéral et du peuple Suisse.

En nous associant de tout cœur à votre deuil de Reine, d'épouse et de mère, nous tenons à assurer V.M. de la part très vive que nous prenons à la perte irréparable qui frappe le peuple Yugoslave en son chef glorieux.

At the same time, the President of the Confederation has addressed the following telegram, to M. Lebrun, President of the French Republic:

Vivement émus à la nouvelle du deuil tragique qui vient de frapper la France et son gouvernement nous vous présentons, au nom du Conseil Fédéral et du peuple Suisse, l'expression de notre plus profonde sympathie.

M. Motta, head of the Federal political Dept. has sent the following telegram to M. Doumergue, President of the French cabinet:

Permettez-moi de m'associer de grand cœur au deuil qui atteint la France et son gouvernement et laissez-moi envoyer la pensée de mon souvenir à M. Barthou, votre Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, tragiquement tombé dans l'accomplissement de son devoir.

SWISS AND THE SAAR.

The Swiss Federal Council decided to provide 350 Swiss nationals to act as ballot officers in the January plebiscite which will decide whether the Saar Territory is to become German or French or to remain under the control of the League of Nations.

THE POPE'S CONGRATULATION TO M. MOTTA.

The Pope has congratulated M. Motta, the Swiss Foreign Minister, on his speech at the League Assembly opposing the admission of Russia to the League on the ground of her alleged persecution of religion.

DIPLOMATIC NEWS.

The Dutch Minister in Berne, M. Doude van Troostwijk, will retire from his post this month, which he has held since 1924.

* * *

Count Clauzel, the French Ambassador in Berne, was injured when his car collided with another car near Berne. Although he was taken to a clinic, his injuries are not considered to be serious.

NEW HEAD OF THE SWISS CLEARING OFFICE.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Steiger, Manager of the National Bank in Zurich Head of the newly founded Clearing Office.

BILLS BY WEIGHT.

Swiss hotel-keepers have invented a new device to attract visitors.

Each new arrival is politely asked to step on a weighing-machine.

If at the end of a week visitors can guess their weight exactly before a second weighing, the proprietor offers a 10 per cent. reduction of the bill.

The hotel-keepers have such faith in the fattening powers of their chefs that few visitors succeed in guessing right.

SWISS-ITALIAN FRONTIER INCIDENT.

A Swiss-Italian frontier incident with serious possibilities is reported from Bosco-Gurin, in the Val Maggia.

A young man and a boy in search of lost sheep were stopped and questioned by Italian guards 100yds. from the frontier on Swiss territory. They were told to clear out and not be seen in that neighbourhood again.

The Swiss frontier post at Bosco was informed, and on Wednesday Swiss guards surprised two Italian frontier guards on Swiss territory. They arrested them and took them to Bosco.

INTERNATIONAL WALKING RECORD BEATEN BY SWISS.

A world's walking record held by Great Britain for sixty-four years — T. Griffith's 2h. 47m. 52s. for twenty miles — has been broken by Arthur Schwab, of Switzerland. He covered the distance in 2h. 42m. 13s.

Schwab also established a new world record for thirty kilometres, his time being 2h. 29m. 37.6-10s.

SWISS ELECTRIC EXTENSIONS.

Since April last the following lines of the Swiss Federal Railways have been opened to electric traction: Biel-Sonceboz, 15 km.; Rorschach-St. Margrethen, 11 km.; Sonceboz-La Chaux de Fonds, 29 km.; and Berne-Lucerne, 84 km. All these lines are operated on the standard single-phase 15 kV. system. The electrified lines of the Swiss Federal Railways now amount to 2,031 route km., or 1,260 route miles.

FRESCOES IN AN ENGADINE CHURCH.

Wall paintings in the Alpine village church of Santa Maria in the Engadine which were discovered in 1912 have been restored after 20 years' work by the Belgian artist M. Charles Lefebvre.

There are three frescoes. The oldest consisting of plain brown squares, dates from the foundation of the church (A.D. 1000). Over these a romanesque fresco was found, of which only five portions were uncovered so as to leave the third fresco as complete as possible. Of the romanesque portions two are decorative designs, while the others represent a Nativity, two Saints (unidentified), and a warrior carrying a two-handed sword of a type used only at the time of Frederick Barbarossa. The weapon makes it possible to fix the date of the fresco towards the end of the twelfth century.

The third fresco (fifteenth century) has 19 uncovered paintings representing the legend of Mary of Magdala and the Princes of Marseilles, taken from the "Légende Dorée" of Jacques de Voragine (1260).

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Ib. Küng, late Manager of the "Walder A.G. Brauerei" has celebrated his golden wedding anniversary.

* * *

On the occasion of the 100th Jubilee of the "Sparkasse Richterswil-Hütten," this institution has given an amount of 24,000 frs. to various charitable bodies.

* * *

A fire at the "Stadtcasino" at Winterthur, caused damages amounting to over 100,000 frs. The "Kasino," which is the property of the town of Winterthur will have to be built anew.

BERNE.

Professor Laur, who recently met with an accident, when he was run over in Berne by a motor-car, has been discharged from hospital; he has left for the Ticino where he will recuperate.

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.

The Cantonal Bank of Berne has celebrated the 100th Jubilee of its existence.

BASLE.

On the occasion of the return of the Swiss communist Hofmaier, who was recently liberated by the Italian authorities, ugly scenes occurred. The police had to be called out and various arrests were affected.

SOLOTHURN.

M. H. Heer, founder of the firm of H. Heer and Co., tin plate manufacturers, in Solothurn, has died at the age of 61. M. Heer reached the grade of colonel of Infantry and during the Frontier occupation was in charge of the South Front at the Gotthard Fortress.

GENEVA.

Geneva's oldest inhabitant, Mme. Luquien, née Vautrin has died at the age of 99 and 11 months.

* * *

M. Frank Grandjean, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Geneva, has died at the age of 55.

AARAU.

The death is reported from Aarau of M. H. Kern-von Arand, senior partner of the well-known firm of Kern and Co., manufacturers of mathematical instruments at the age of 78.

ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Bürke, Professor of law at the Commercial University of Basle, has died in St. Gall at the age of 55. Professor Bürke was one of the leading personalities in the Liberal Party of the canton St. Gall.

VAUD.

Colonel Ernst Krähnöbühl, Sub-Manager of the Montreux-Oberland Railway has retired after 32 years service with the company.

* * *

The death is reported from Avenches, of M. Ferdinand Blane, the deceased was from 1880-1885 member of the Grand Council. M. Blane was a noted advocate; in the army he reached the rank of colonel, he was at one time Chief of Staff of the 1st division.

TICINO.

A new clinic was opened last week at Sorengo near Lugano, called the St. Anne's Clinic, which contains 100 beds. The opening ceremony was attended by members of the cantonal government.

AN APPEAL TO THE COLONY.

We understand that an appeal to the Colony under the lead of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, Swiss Minister, has been issued by a committee appointed by all the Swiss Societies in London, in connection with the approaching 25th Jubilee of Monsieur R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Pasteur of the "Eglise Suisse."

We cordially associate ourselves with the endeavours of this committee to collect Funds for a presentation and donation. M. Hoffmann-de Visme, together with his late wife, has during the last 25 years rendered many and valuable services to the Colony, he was a great friend to all those who needed help, both spiritual and material.

No effort was too great to him to tender a helping hand, where help was needed. There is, through this appeal, an opportunity to show the gratitude for this unselfish work, and we invite our readers to subscribe to this fund as liberally as they can. (All donations should be sent to the "Jubilee Committee," 12 Upper Bedford Place, London, W.C.1.)

A modest dinner has been arranged to take place, on Wednesday October 31st, at the First Avenue Restaurant, High Holborn, W.C.1, (Ticket 5/-) on which occasion, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, who has kindly consented to occupy the chair, will present the gift of the colony to Monsieur Hoffmann-de Visme.

We hope that a great number of our compatriots will take this opportunity to be present to testify their appreciation for services well and faithfully rendered.