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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS CONDOLENCES.

The Federal Council has instructed the Swiss Minister in Paris to convey to the French Government its sincere regrets, on the occasion of the death of M. R. Poincaré. At the same time, M. Motta, the Swiss foreign minister, has addressed a letter of condolence to the French ambassador in Berne.

A 100th BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF A FAMOUS SWISS SOLDIER.

On the 12th of this month one hundred years have elapsed since Colonel Alphons Pfyffer von Altishofen was born, as a member of one of the oldest family of the canton of Lucerne. In his early years he served in the Neapolitan army and in 1861 he was promoted to the rank of captain in the Federal General Staff. In 1870/71 he took part in the Frontier occupation as an adjutant to the then chief of the General Staff, Colonel Paravicini. After the reorganisation of the army he received the command of a brigade and in 1879 the command of the 8th division was entrusted to him. From 1885 until his death in 1890, he occupied the post of Chief of the General Staff. In this capacity he has rendered great services to the army, he was the chief instigator in providing Switzerland with an adequate frontier defence in the nature of fortresses. His name, will for ever occupy a place of honour in the history of our army.

SWITZERLAND'S PRINCIPAL EXPORT CUSTOMERS IN SEPTEMBER.

The export figures for September are, according to statistics 75,603,203 Frs. (Sept. 1933 : 71,442,452 Frs.) and are apportioned amongst the following countries : Germany 20.49 million frs. (Sept. 1933 : 10.65); France 9.09 (12.06); Italy 7.31 (6.70); Great Britain 6.47 (7.35); U.S.A. 3.42 (4.03); Holland 2.38 (2.84); Austria 1.94 (1.98); Tschecho-Slovakia 1.91 (2.12); Belgium 1.66 (2.25); Rumania 1.57 (0.80); and Spain 1.57 (1.43). The following countries participate with an amount of about 1 million francs : Sweden, Argentine, Persia, Denmark, India and Poland.

SWISS CHURCH'S APPEAL.

The little church of St. Ursula, in Berne, well known to English and American visitors, is in such financial plight that it has only money to pay the taxes, and not a franc either for the chaplain or for upkeep.

An appeal is being made for aid, both in Berne and in England.

SWISS 'PHONE FACILITIES.

Various facilities have been introduced recently by the Swiss telephone service, including an arrangement by which it is possible to dictate a message of not more than 20 words to the exchange, to be passed on by telephone to one or more persons.

The arrangement will be especially useful for travellers who may risk missing a train by waiting for connections.

SWISS PRAISE OF BRITISH MOTOR-CARS.

A remarkable tribute was paid to British cars by Mr. de Jenner, the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, who headed an official delegation to the Motor Show at Olympia.

"It is my opinion," he said, "that British cars are the best in the world. In Switzerland, where the country is so mountainous, we are seeing more and more British cars. This should be regarded as a great tribute to the merits of British models."

Mr. W. Rufenacht, the Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Legation, described British cars as "marvellous."

SWISS LOAN.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to issue a loan of 100,000,000 francs (about £6,700,000 at present rates) at 4 per cent.

This loan will be used to consolidate the floating debt of the Confederation and to meet current financial requirements.

It will be issued at the price of 98.65 francs per cent., with an additional charge of 0.60 francs for the Federal stamp.

The duration of the loan will be twelve years.

A BUTTERFLY ENTHUSIAST.

The most enthusiastic butterfly hunter who ever lived, a Swiss named Hans Fruhstorfer, made a wonderful collection of 100,000 butterflies, and this has been lent to the Natural History Museum in Paris. He began his collection in Brazil when he was 22; then took his net to Java, where he spent three years; then he followed his pursuit for two years in the Malay Archipelago.

He travelled through South America, Japan, China and Siam, darting about with that abstracted look of the butterfly-hunter here, there and everywhere until he had brought his net over some of the rarest creations in the world. His 100,000 specimens have nearly 7,000 varieties.

SWISS CONCERT NEWS.

Ten concerts to be given by the Suisse Romande Orchestra will be broadcast from the Lausanne and Geneva studios during the coming season. The conductors engaged include Ernest Ansermet, Albert Wolff, W. Mengelberg, and Franz von Hoeslin, and many well-known soloists, including Alexandre Brailowsky, Adolphe Busch, Marian Anderson, André de Ribaupierre, Walter Gieseking, Jo Vincent, and Robert Casadesus, will be heard.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

A new swimming pool with sunbathing facilities has been opened by a Zurich hotel. It measures 50 by 16 metres, and holds 370,000 gallons of water. The pool is lined with tiles giving the water a transparent blue colour. Children have a small shallow pool to themselves. Steps for sitting and lying in the sun surround the pool and lead to the lawns.

SOLOTHURN.

A terrible accident happened at a level crossing on the Solothurn-Biberist Road when a train coming from Solothurn ran into a motor-car which was driven by Hans Schweingruber from Gerlafingen and his brother. Both were taken to the "Bürgerspital" at Solothurn where Hans Schweingruber, father of six children died, whilst his brother is still on the danger list.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva, of Monsieur Henri-Michel Chauvet, at the age of 78; the deceased was the founder of the banking firm of Chauvet et Cie, which at one time played an important part in the banking world of the town of Geneva. M. Chauvet was for many years a member of the town, as well as of the Grand Council. He was a director of the Insurance company "La Genevoise" and of the "Journal de Genève."

ARGAU.

M. Fritz Hochuli, one of the pioneers of the Knitting industry in Switzerland has died at Safenwil at the age of 74. The firm of Hanhart and Hochuli enjoyed an international reputation.

NEUCHATEL.

M. Charles L'Eplattenier, the well-known painter and sculptor has celebrated his 60th

birthday anniversary at La Chaux-de-Fonds. After finishing his studies at Budapest, Paris, London and Munich, he occupied for many years the post of head-master at the Art School in La Chaux-de-Fonds. The works of M. L'Eplattenier are numerous, amongst them is the monument "Des Rangiers," the fresco's "De la Salle des chevaliers" at Colombier, and the large painting of the "Bataille de Morgarten." He has also executed the decorations at the crematorium and of the "Musée des beaux-arts" at La Chaux-de-Fonds. The monument of the "République" of this town is one of his best known *chef-d'œuvre*.

* * *

A motor-car driven by Mlle. Denise Sandoz, of Môtiers, collided near Allaman with a car containing M. R. Montandon of La Chaux-de-Fonds and his fiancée, Mlle. Edmée Rouiller of Geneva. M. Montandon was killed outright and his fiancée died a few hours later.

VALAIS.

A large fire has completely destroyed the castle De La Vorpilliére, near Massongex, which was built in 1870 and which belonged to the Count Riant of Paris.

FOOTBALL.

7th October, 1934.

SWISS CUP, FIRST ROUND.

It would hardly be interesting to set out in detail the 32 results, the more so as no startling surprises were served up. In fact all the 14 National League clubs have survived, a peculiar feature being that — whether by chance or by design who known? — they all steered clear of each other in the draw. Of the First League, 11 clubs or exactly half have won through to the second round, to be played on November 18th, the other seven survivors being five clubs from the Second and two from the Third. There was not a single game that ended in a draw, two requiring an extra 30 minutes to settle the issue. And if you consider that the losing teams scored but 29 goals against the winners 114 you get a fair picture of the "high" standard of football displayed in this First Round.

On the 14th inst. the first of the season's Internationals took place in Geneva against the redoubtable Czechs, runners-up to Italy in that World-Championship of a few months ago, the result being

SWITZERLAND ...2 CZECHO SLOVAKIA...2

We hope to give you a report thereon next week.

M.G.

JUBILEE SONNET.

(Dedicated to the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.)

A Quarter-Century has passed since first you
came
To this great city — Shepherd of a scatter'd
flock;
To strengthen, through God's word, ou'r faith
unto a rock
And, by His love, keep bright that ever
sacred flame.

This was the task you set yourself — Your
noble aim!
How many minds did not you ease ... and
hearts unlock?
Yet, helping others, you too suffered grief
and shock;
For, earthly trials most of us their victims claim.

Thus all these many years you served the
Church and gave
Us comfort, help and pray'rs, from cradle
to the grave;
Heedless all time of self, you answered ev'ry
call ...
Revered by rich and poor, adored by children all.

And though you've long since earn'd ou'r
gratitude and love,
Your fitting, true reward shall come from
Him above.

October, 1934.

GALLUS.

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.