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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

NEW SWISS LOAN SUCCESS.

The new loan to the amount of 100 million frs. in four per cent. bonds, redeemable in 12 years which was recently offered for subscription by the Swiss Confederation at a price of 98.65 per cent. plus 60 centimes per cent. stamp duty, has met with a very good reception. The loan was heavily over-subscribed (233,000,000 frs.).

SWISS ROAD DEATHS.

Fifty-seven members of the Swiss Parliament have forwarded to the Federal Government a resolution asking for the re-establishment of the speed limit for motor-cars, which had been suppressed by the new Federal law in force since January, 1933.

The chiefs of the cantonal police forces decided at their annual meeting to treat more rigorously all those who drive recklessly or do not observe traffic regulations. This campaign against motorists is due to the fact that the number of road accidents has increased in the past few years.

According to official statistics, 8,739 persons were injured and 480 killed in road accidents in 1932, motor-vehicles being responsible for 7,000 and 404 respectively; in 1933 9485 persons were injured and 515 killed, 8,800 and 465 respectively by motor-vehicles. There are now about 95,000 motor-cars and motor-lorries, 48,000 motor-cycles, and 860,000 cycles in Switzerland for a population of 4,000,000, which represents the high proportion of one motor-vehicle to 28 inhabitants. Nearly 300,000 foreign motor-vehicles are also yearly entering Switzerland.

JEWISH ACTION AGAINST SWISS NAZIS.

On Monday last was resumed at Berne a trial which began last November. The issue is of great public interest, for what the court is asked to decide is in effect the question of the authenticity of that notorious publication "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," otherwise called "The secrets of the Wise Men of Zion."

The trial is that of an action brought against the leaders of the Federation of Swiss National Socialists and certain members of the "National Front," a Swiss organisation of Fascist and Nazi tendencies, by the Union of Jewish Communities in Switzerland and the Jewish community of Berne.

The plaintiffs ask under a provision of the cantonal law of Berne for the confiscation of all copies of the book in question and of a pamphlet and a newspaper also published by the defendants and their prohibition in future. The cantonal law provides for the confiscation and prohibition of "works the form and contents of which are likely to lead to crime or immorality, to hurt the sense of shame, to excite vile instincts, and in other ways to cause brutal offence."

The plaintiffs in the case to be tried have presented the court, among many other documents, with a pamphlet in which a very large number of quotations from Joly's book are set out in parallel columns with quotations from the "Protocols" and the "Secrets," which show that the latter are almost identical with the former.

At the first hearing of the case on November 16th, 1933, the plaintiffs asked the court to nominate experts to ascertain the authenticity or forgery of the books in dispute. The Judge agreed to this and ordered a committee of three experts, one to be chosen by each party, and the third to be nominated by the judge himself. The defendants lodged an appeal against the person of the president of the court, as well as against the expert nominated by him, and objected on principle to a nomination of experts. Their appeal was dismissed by the Berne Higher Court, which confirmed all the decisions of the president

of the lower court, before which the case had been brought.

The plaintiffs propose to call as witnesses a number of persons whose evidence as regards the authenticity of the "protocols" and the "secrets" will carry weight.

MISHAP TO GOTTHARD EXPRESS.

The Gotthard Express coming from Milan was derailed last week in the vicinity of Muttenz, the locomotive and four carriages left the rails on account of a collision with a stationary goods van. Fortunately no loss of life occurred, but the damage caused to the rolling stock is considered to be serious.

SWISS TO PRESIDE OVER INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION.

M. Paul Bourquin from La Chaux-de-Fonds has been elected President of the International Press Association, on the occasion of the 5th International Journalist Congress at Brussels. M. Bourquin who was thus honoured was a few years ago President of the Swiss Press Association.

ABYSSINIAN MILITARY MISSION IN SWITZERLAND.

A military mission numbering 17 members have arrived at Arbon for a stay of seven days, to visit the Saurer Works.

SWISS RADIO EXHIBITION.

The Geneva Radio Exhibition, which was held from October 18th to 21st, was a complete success, the exhibits of wholly Swiss apparatus being especially numerous. Anti-interference devices and amateur-constructed equipment were well represented. Radio exhibitions have recently been held at Locarno, Bellinzona and Lugano.

SWISS FISH.

Switzerland is not only making a great effort to improve its commercial fisheries, but also to become the angler's paradise. The Interior Department has just issued its report for last year. In this figures are given of the stocking of lakes, rivers and streams. There are 249 distributing stations altogether in twenty-five cantons. Over 27 million eggs and 21½ million alevines were distributed in the waters, and, in addition, three-quarters of a million yearlings. The majority were coregoni, pike and brown trout. Among the others were lake trout, brook trout, grayling, rainbow trout and land-locked salmon.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Professor, Dr. Otto Nägeli, head of the medical University clinic at Zurich, has been nominated an honorary member of the American Society of clinic pathology.

The couple Baechli-Laubi at Affoltern a. A., have celebrated their diamond wedding, the husband is 86 years of age and his wife is 81.

At a meeting which was attended by members of the cantonal government, the town authorities, and various representatives of industrial and commercial bodies it was decided to hold an "Exposition nationale suisse" at Zurich in 1938.

From Zurich comes the news of the death of M. J. G. Kruck at the age of 59. M. Kruck was since 1917 a member of the Town Council during which time he rendered great services to the town. The deceased was also a member of the "Kantonsrat."

M. Otto Pfleghard, architect in Zurich, will enter the National Council in succession to the late Dr. Carl Sulzer. M. Pfleghard is a liberal, in 1931 he was elected to the National Council in succession to M. Odinga, but later lost his seat, the new member belongs also to the "Kantonsrat."

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