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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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*We wish all our Readers a Happy New Year*



## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES IN THE COMMAND OF THE SWISS ARMY.

Colonel of Division Tissot, commander of the 1st Division has been appointed commander of the St. Gotthard Fortress. —

Colonel Tissot was appointed to the command of the 1st Division in 1932, he is a citizen of the town of Neuchâtel and is 53 years old. He is a member of the Swiss Instruction Corps and in 1931/32 he held the command of the 3rd Mountain Brigade. —

Colonel Combe has advanced to Colonel of Division, and will take over the command of the 1st Division in succession to Colonel Tissot. He is a member of the Instruction Corps since 1905. Colonel Combe has a distinguished army career behind him. During the Frontier occupation he held the following appointments: General Staff Officer of the 1st Division, and the 3rd Mountain Brigade, after the war he was on the Staff of the 1st Army-Corps. As Lieutenant-Colonel he was in command of the Geneva regiment 3, and on his reaching the rank of Colonel he was put at the head of the mountain Brigade 3. The new commander of the 1st Division was one of the most brilliant members of the General Staff; he was born in 1882 at Orbe. —

Colonel Labhardt, the new Chief of Arms of the Cavalry, has been nominated Colonel of Division. He was born in 1881 at Steckborn, and after having completed his studies as an engineer, entered in 1906 the Federal Instruction Corps. From 1916-1921 he was with the firm of Bally at Schönenwerd, where he occupied a leading position. Then he entered into the Civil Service as Vice-Director of the Federal Labour Office. Colonel Labhardt was at one time in command of the 4th Artillery Brigade, and the Infantry Brigade 13.

Colonel Marcuard, who has recently been nominated Chief of Arms of the Artillery has been made a Colonel of Division. He was born in 1881 at Berne, and entered the Federal Instruction Corps in 1907. In 1916 he was appointed a member of the General Staff, he held various commands such as the one of the 4th Artillery Regiment, and the 2nd Artillery Brigade; in 1930 he succeeded to the command of the Fortress of St. Maurice. —

Colonel Huber, has been appointed commander of the Fortress of St. Maurice; he was born in 1883 at Jönin (Aargau). Colonel Huber, who is a member of the Instruction Corps held the following commands and appointments: 1917 he entered the General Staff, and a year later he joined the Staff of the 6th Division; he successively held the commands of the Mountain Artillery Detachments 4 and 6. Until recently he was Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army-Corps.

#### GENEVA'S FINANCE MINISTER IN BERNE.

M. Naine, Finance Minister of the canton of Geneva, has had an interview with Federal Councillor Meyer, head of the Federal Finance Dept., he has acquainted the latter with the endeavours the cantonal government has made to balance the budget.

Representatives of the large banks in Switzerland have met at Zurich in order to discuss matters regarding the grant of a further credit to the canton of Geneva.

The government of the Confederation has put an amount of 900,000 frs. at the disposal of the "Caisse d'Etat" to defray the running expenses of the cantonal government.

#### SWISS PAPERS BANNED IN GERMANY.

The prohibition on the following Swiss papers: "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," "National Zeitung" and "Bund," has been prolonged to an indefinite period.

#### BOMBS FOR RAILWAYMEN.

Heavy gunfire and the threat of falling avalanches have been startling the peasants of the famous Engadine valley, for "war" has been declared against avalanches at the request of the Bernina Mountain Railway Company.

Last March, the month in which avalanches usually fall, two railway men were killed when they rushed down the line to warn an oncoming train that an avalanche was falling. They saved the train, but were crushed to death by the avalanche.

Part of the railway line was diverted to avoid a similar accident, but the authorities felt it might be possible to bring down loose masses of snow (the nucleus of the avalanches) by gunfire and bombs. So experiments have been made in the presence of high army officers, representatives of the Swiss Federal Council and of the Canton Government concerned.

The best results were produced by bombs. So in future Bernina railwaymen are to be supplied with bomb-throwing machines. With these they will keep the mountain slopes free from threatening masses of snow.

#### ANGLO-SWISS SKI MEETING.

The eleventh Anglo-Swiss ski meeting between the Universities of Great Britain and Switzerland will this year take place at St. Moritz instead of Murren as hitherto. The teams consist of six men each and the events to be contested are a downhill race and a slalom. The Anglo-Swiss Challenge Cup, presented for the annual contest by the British Ski Association, has been won six times by the English and four times by the Swiss undergraduates. There was no race in 1932.

#### NEW CABLE RAILWAY.

A new electrically operated cable railway has recently been completed and put in operation in Switzerland between Schwyz and the tourist resort of Stoos, which lies at a height of about 4250 ft. above sea level. The line has a length of 1489 yards, including a bridge and two tunnels. The carriages are designed to accommodate fifty passengers and travel at a speed of just over 4½ m.p.h. The cable is 3½ mm. in diameter, and has a safety factor of 9. It is operated by a 125 h.p. asynchronous three-phase, six-pole motor, and is provided with automatic stopping gear at the terminal stations.

#### DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

The newly appointed Japanese Minister, M. Hotta, was received by the President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Motta, Foreign Minister, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials. M. Hotta, was formerly Japanese Minister at Prague.

#### WINDFALL FOR THE "ZOO" AT BASLE.

The Zoological Garden at Basle will receive an amount of nearly 600,000 frs. from the legacy left to them by the late M. Ulrich Sauter.

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1935

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

#### M. MUSY IN RUMANIA.

M. Musy, late Federal Councillor and Finance Minister, has arrived at Bucarest, where he gave various lectures on Economic and Financial questions, before a distinguished gathering. Amongst the company were, the Swiss Minister M. de Weck, the Finance Minister of Rumania, the Governor of the National Bank and a great number of well-known personalities in the financial world. A dinner was held at the Swiss Legation at Bucarest in honour of the distinguished guest at which over 50 people were present.

#### CREDIT FOR BRUSSELS EXHIBITION.

The National Council has voted a credit of 350,000 frs. in order that Switzerland may participate at the International Exhibition which will take place at Brussels in the coming year.

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

M. Otto Sing, since 1932 a member of the "Stadtrat" has resigned from his post for reasons of health. M. Sing was for many years "Schulsekretär" and was an untiring worker, he was the head of the "Gesundheitswesen."

M. E. Stirnemann, (Liberal) was elected a member of the town council of Zurich, with 26,190 votes, his opponent, M. O. Brunner (Communist) received 9,327 votes.

##### BERNE.

The death occurred in Berne of M. O. R. Wagner, founder and chairman of the Hallwag, A.G., at the age of 59.

Colonel Stoll, for many years a member of the Federal Instruction Corps, has died at Interlaken at the age of 59. Colonel Stoll was from 1930-32 President of the Officers Association of the canton of Berne.

##### LUCERNE.

Dr. Emil Cattani, a medical practitioner, who recently died at Lucerne has left 30,000 frs. to be distributed amongst the poor.

##### BASLE.

M. Wallrath-Kaufmann, a former Manager of the firm Hoffmann-La Roche has celebrated its Golden wedding anniversary.

##### THURGAU.

The late A. D. Jenny from Zihlschlacht has left an amount of 29,000 frs. to charitable institutions.

##### SCHWYZ.

M. Alois Filliger-Odermatt, formerly a member of the cantonal government has died at Küssnacht at the age of 73.

##### APPENZEL A.R.H.

The late Mr. Alfred Styger, Manufacturer and "Kantonsrat" in Stein, has left an amount of 100,000 frs. to be distributed amongst his workmen. He has also left amounts of 20,000 frs. each to the communities of Hundwil and Urnäsch for charitable purposes.

##### ZUG.

Dr. Müller and Dr. Iten, both candidates of the Conservative party have been elected members of the States Council (Ständerat.)

##### VAUD.

From Lausanne comes the news of the death of Dr. Césaire Roux, a well-known surgeon. Dr. Roux was formerly head of the surgical clinic of the cantonal hospital and Professor at the University of Lausanne. He was an honorary citizen of the town of Lausanne. The deceased was 75 years of age.

The factory of Nestlé's at Payerne has closed down for good; they employed at one time over 300 hands.