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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### "SCHWEIZ. VOLKS BANK" APPOINTS GENERAL MANAGERS.

The newly constituted Board of the "Schweiz. Volksbank," has appointed Dr. A. Meyer, Zurich formerly Manager of the Zurich Branch, General Manager. M. A. Hirs, who formerly has been a member of the "General Direktion," remains at his post.

## FRENCH RAILWAY LOAN.

The French Government Railway Administration has contracted a loan of Swiss Frs. 195,000,000 (£7,800,000 at par) with the "Schweiz. Kredit Anstalt," in Zurich, in the form of Five per Cent., two and four year Railway Treasury bills. This money is to be utilised to pay off two year French Railway Treasuries maturing 15th March next.

## NEW HUNGARIAN MINISTER IN BERNE.

Monsieur Ladislau von Tahy, has been appointed Hungarian Minister in Berne.

## RADIO LICENSES IN SWITZERLAND.

At the 31st of December, Radio Licenses issued in Switzerland numbered 300,051.

## SWISS BANKS DIVIDENDS.

The "Solothurner Handelsbank" Solothurn, has declared a dividend of 6% (1932: 6%); Volksbank, Interlaken is paying 5% (1932: 5%); The St. Gallische Credit Anstalt, St. Gall, has declared a dividend of 8% (1932: 8%); and the Spar und Leihkasse Kaltbrunn 6% (1932: 6%); the Volksbank in Reinhald (Aargau) pays a dividend of 5½% (1932: 5½%).

## ALPINE TRAGEDIES.

A skier, M. Eberhard from Bern was carried away by an avalanche on the Hundsrücken, near Zweizimmen, and was killed.

Two skiers from Geneva have been missing since Saturday in the region of Cluses, near Chamonix.

(On going to press we hear that the two sportsmen have been found, both are well.)

## UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

The number of unemployed in Switzerland at the end of December, 1933, is 95,000; or 13,113 more than at the same period in 1932.

## INTERNATIONAL SHOW OF LIGHT AIRCRAFT.

An international exhibition of light aircraft is to be held in the Palais des Expositions, Geneva, from April 27th to May 6th, 1934. It is being organized by the Geneva Section of the Swiss Aero Club, with the assistance of "Interavia," an international aviation news agency. Great interest in the scheme is being shown by the leading Swiss airmen, and the exhibition itself is to be under the patronage of the President of the Swiss Confederation. It is being financed partly by the Swiss Aero Club and partly by the Cantonal authorities. The Palais des Expositions is about 86,000 square feet in area. As Switzerland has practically no aircraft industry of her own and interest in flying is rapidly developing, market potentialities for light aircraft would appear to be promising. The following articles will be admitted to the exhibition:—Aeroplanes, seaplanes and flying boats; instruments and accessories; constructional materials; hangars, beacons, and indicators; petrol and oil; aerial photographic materials, &c. There will be test and demonstration flights at the Geneva Aerodrome.

## A NEW AERODYNAMIC LABORATORY AT ZURICH.

A new laboratory for Aerodynamics is being built at the famous Swiss University, or Federal High School, at Zurich, the only institution for technical study in the country. The new laboratory has been designed by Professor Ackeret and will be housed in the vast new building, at present only half-finished, for the various engineering laboratories.

To provide data for the design of the two new wind-tunnels, both of the closed-circuit type, a small working model has been built and is housed in the provisional aerodynamics laboratory in the cellar of the main building.

The larger tunnel will have an open working section and an elliptical jet with a maximum diameter of 3 m. (9 ft. 10 in.), and a minimum of 2.1 m. (6 ft. 11 in.). The measuring balances will be semi-automatic. Two fans will give a wind-speed of 70 m. per sec. (230 ft. per sec., or 157 m.p.h.).

The smaller tunnel will be used for very high speeds indeed and will be completely enclosed so that experiments can be made in it with all kinds of gases. The jet will have a cross-section of .5 x .5 m. (1 ft. 8 in. x 1 ft. 8 in.) and a multi-stage blower will give a wind-speed of 600 m. per sec. (1,968 ft. per sec., or faster than the speed of sound). Special attention has been given to means for controlling the heat from friction which at such high speeds will be very great.

This apparatus, at present the only one of its kind in the World, will be used not only for experiments in aerodynamics, but also for investigations in connection with the flow of steam and gases through turbines. It should also be useful for investigations concerning airscrews and perhaps for advanced ballistics and the design of rockets.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

The famous "Sechseläuten" in Zurich, will take place on Monday, April 16th.

\* \* \*

The "Greifensee" and the "Hallwiler See" are frozen over.

\* \* \*

Dr. Hans Behn-Eschenburg, a member of the "General-Direktion" of the famous Oerlikon Company, and one of the pioneers of the Swiss electro technique has celebrated his 70th birthday.

### BERNE.

Pastor Christian Roth has died in Matten, near Interlaken, at the age of 88. Pastor Roth officiated as a clergyman for 55 years, of which 52 years were spent at Eriswil (Emmenthal).

\* \* \*

A big landslide took place last week at the Harder (Interlaken), where much damage was caused.

\* \* \*

The furniture factory of Alfred Bieri, at Ruppigen has been totally destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to exceed 100,000 frs.

\* \* \*

Various Societies and institutions of our French speaking compatriots in Berne, offered a banquet in honour of the new President of the Confederation, M. Pilet-Golaz, Federal Councillors Motta, Schulthess and Musy, as well as the heads of the cantonal governments of Fribourg, Vaud, Neuchâtel, Valais, Berne and Ticino were present.

### BASEL.

A large farm-house, called the "Bruderholz-Hof" at Oberwil, was completely destroyed by fire. Some of the live stock perished in the flames. Arson is suspected, the damage caused exceeds 120,000 frs.

\* \* \*

Dr. Hans Abt, President of the Appeal Court in Basle is shortly retiring after 35 years in the legal profession.

### BASLE-COUNTY.

M. Julius Frey, head of the Cantonal Government has celebrated on the 10th inst., his 60th birthday anniversary. M. Frey entered the cantonal government in 1922, over which he presided in 1925/26; 1930/31 and 1933/34.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

### PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 1934.

for the

### DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

## GENEVA.

M. Léon Nicole, formerly Editor of the "Travail," and now head of the cantonal government, has been condemned to pay a sum of 2,500 frs. to M. Georges Oltramare, director of the "Pilori" for defamation of character; he has also to pay the cost of the action, and the sentence will be published in three papers.

## NEUCHATEL.

The report of the School Commission of La Chaux-de-Fonds, for the year 1932-33, shows that the town has taken very strict measures against non-attendance at school. During the year, 223 notices of illegal absences were sent out: 74 second offenders were reported to the President of the Tribunal, who imposed 64 fines, acquitted 8 and sent 2 children, whose parents were ignorant of their truancy, to the Director of Schools for disciplinary punishment. Very severe penalties were imposed in three cases where it was known that the families were indifferent or refractory, and where the children had a large number of unjustifiable absences to their account. One boy, in particular, apart from the fines imposed on his parents, will be obliged to attend school for six months after he has reached the leaving age.

\* \* \*

The death has occurred in Le Locle, of M. Jules, Albert Piquet, at the age of 80. M. Piquet was a member of the Grand Council from 1895-1918, over which he presided in 1912. He entered Parliament (National Council) in 1899, and was a member of this body for 20 years, he was also a member of the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways (1917-1923).

## SCAFFHAUSEN.

The Court of Schaffhausen sentenced three Swiss Socialists to fines of 100, 30 and 20 francs respectively and acquitted three others, on charges of having kidnapped two German police officers last November, after enticing them over the frontier on to Swiss territory.

The two kidnapped men had been in the habit of entering Switzerland *incognito* with the object of watching German fugitives and Communists, and arresting them as soon as they should happen to cross the German boundary. Swiss Socialists, with the help of a girl who acted like Rahab of Jericho, sheltered the German police officers on the pretext of handing over to them political documents, suddenly overpowered and beat them, and finally handed them over to the Swiss police.

The Swiss Court inflicted these light penalties on the Swiss Socialists in consideration of the fact that the German Courts acquitted Nazis concerned in a more serious case of kidnapping a Czechoslovak, alleged to be a Communist, on Swiss territory.

## GRISONS.

The death is reported of Colonel Jakob Becker at the age of 78; he was formerly a member of the Instruction Corps. From 1914-1918, Colonel Becker was commandant of the town of Chur; he retired in 1928.

## TICINO.

Dr. Benno Buetti has been elected District Judge at Locarno; he is a member of the conservative party.

\* \* \*

Mme. Carolina Mioranza of Ravecchia, aged 70, was burned to death, when her dress caught fire.

## FOOTBALL.

14th January, 1934.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Concordia	.....5	Young Boys	.....2
Bern	.....5	Young Fellows	.....2
Lugano	.....4	Zürich	.....0
Lausanne	.....2	Basel	.....2

## FIRST LEAGUE.

Carouge .....4 Etoile Ch. de F. .....2  
Bellinzona .....5 Brühl .....4  
and of the other 10 fixtures, 9 were postponed and the tenth, Urania v. Nordstern had to be abandoned when standing at 1:0 in favour of the Geneva Club. Thus does the clerk of the weather play havoc with those carefully arranged mathematical fixture lists. We have now in the National League 5 clubs with 11 games played, 6 with 12, 3 with 13 and 2 with 14. What's the use of bothering about a League table?

M.G.