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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS TRIBUTE TO DEAD KING.

The President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Pilet-Golaz, and M. G. Motta, Minister for Foreign Affairs, have sent telegrams of condolence to the new King. They have also paid a visit of condolence to the Belgian Minister at Berne, M. Le Jeune de Munsbach. The Swiss Minister at Brussels is representing the Swiss Government at the burial.

DIPLOMATIC CHANGES.

The Federal Council has announced the following changes in the Diplomatic Service:—

Dr. Hans Fröhlicher, at present Councillor of Legation in Berlin, has been transferred to the Political Department in Berne. Dr. Max Ratzberger, Chief of the Consular Service, will go to Athens. Dr. C. Jenny, at present in Athens, has been appointed to the Legation at Brussels. M. J. Borsinger will return from Brussels to Berne (Political Department); M. Emile Fontanel, of the Federal Political Department, has been assigned a post at the Legation in Budapest, and M. Alfred Brunner is changing his place from Istanbul to Bucharest. M. K. E. Bavier, from the Legation at Paris, is going to Istanbul. Dr. Hans Zurlinden, in Bucharest, has been appointed to the Paris Legation.

£10,000 AWARD IN SPY CASE.

The Swiss Federal Courts have disposed of an interesting spy case that has been before them for some time.

In April, 1916, a Swiss merchant went to Turin on behalf of the Swiss secret service, and communicated secret reports as to movements of Italian troops on the Swiss frontier.

Messages, which were sent to an accommodation address in Lugano, were intercepted by the Italian authorities, and in October, 1918, the man was sentenced by court martial at Bologna to penal servitude for life.

This severe punishment was based on the assumption that the man was in the service of the Austrian intelligence service.

Representations by Switzerland resulted in the sentence being reduced to 15 years, and in January, 1930, the man was released from the fortress in Elba in which he had been interned.

He sued the Swiss Federation for £40,000 damage for his long imprisonment.

Eventually a compromise payment of £10,000 was agreed on.

The man, however, sought to have this upset, claiming that the consent to the reduced payment was obtained under duress.

This claim has now been rejected, and the award therefore stands.

BIG IRISH ORDER FOR SWISS FIRM.

The Oerlikon Company has been given the order for the steam turbine, estimated to cost £20,000, for the Pigeon House, Dublin, provision for which was made under the Electricity Supply (Amendment) Act, 1932.

Delivery of the turbine will be made in the next few weeks.

It is stated that both Swiss and German firms were canvassing for the order. The fact that Switzerland spends more than £70,000 a year on the purchase of Saarstahl horses for her army had great weight, it is understood, with the Government in placing the order in that country.

Switzerland hopes to secure further orders for electrical equipment, notably for turf apparatus.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

During the meeting of the "Kantonsrat" in Zurich, the Socialist member, M. Mayer, made a proposal to interrupt the proceedings for five minutes in order to pay a silent tribute to the Austrian proletariat. The President declined to accede to this wish, pointing out that the Council cannot occupy themselves with foreign affairs. The Socialist Bickel protested in violent language against this ruling and was suspended for one hour from the sitting.

BERNE.

Dr. L. Merz, Member of the Cantonal Government, has intimated that he does not seek re-election. He entered the cantonal executive in 1915. From 1918 to 1919 he was a member of Parliament (States Council).

* * *

Colonel E. Heer, a member of the Instruction Corps (Artillery), has resigned from his post for reasons of health.

BASEL.

Pastor Eduard Thurneysen, of the Minster Parish at Basle, has been made a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Edinburgh.

ARGAU.

A fire broke out at the laboratory of the engineering works of Brown, Boveri et Cie., at Baden. The damage caused is estimated to exceed 100,000 francs.

* * *

The death is reported of Dr. Hans Pfyffer-Keller, a well-known medical practitioner in Zofingen.

ST. GALLEN.

The Brewery Stocken in St. Gallen is celebrating this year the 150th anniversary of its foundation. The firm has been for the last hundred years in the hands of the family Walser.

SOLOTHURN.

The death took place at Olten of M. Otto Michel, "Bürgermann," at the age of 67.

VALAIS.

From St. Maurice comes the news of the death of M. Maurice Pellissier, a former National Councillor, at the age of 83. M. Pellissier was also a member of the Grand Council, over which he presided.

GRISONI.

The plan to utilise the waters of the Lake of Sils, in the Engadine, for the production of electrical power has now definitely failed. The canton Grisons authorities have refused to ratify the convention concluded between the communes of Val Bregaglia and Sils and a consortium which proposed to erect a power station in the Val Bregaglia. Various plans for the utilisation of the waters of this high valley have been elaborated in the past 25 years, but have been opposed with great tenacity by the Swiss Society for the Protection of Natural Beauty. (Well done!—Ed.)

VAUD.

The construction of new broadcasting studios at Lausanne is progressing well. The principal studio will be of rectangular shape, and every effort is being made to obtain the best possible acoustical arrangements. A large and expensive organ is being installed in the main studio, and already a committee, the *personnel* of which includes the organist of the Temple de l'Eté, in the Champs-Elysées, Paris, and the organist of Lausanne Cathedral, has been appointed to purchase the instrument. The committee responsible for the construction of the studios consists of representatives of the telegraphic administrations of the cantons of Vaud, Neuchâtel, Valais, Fribourg, Lausanne, and the Société Romande de Radiodiffusion. It is officially stated that the studios will not be constructed at the expense of wireless listeners, but from the subscriptions of the above-mentioned authorities.

TICINO.

Mr. Adolph Monico, the former proprietor of the Café Monico, in Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1, who died at Lugano, Switzerland, in September, 1931, left a fortune of £87,788. The Café was founded in 1876 by Mr. Monico's father, Mr. Giacomo Monico, who died in 1910. Mr. Monico bequeathed to his wife all his furniture, the use of his house at 21, Elsworthy Road, Hampstead,

N.W.3, for life, and a life annuity of £800. The residue of his estate, save for legacies of £11,000 to each of his daughters, is divided between his two sons.

* * *

A specially appointed commission of the Liberal Party to deal with refractory members has expelled the Mayors of Locarno and Lugano (Rusca and de Filippis) and Guglielmetti, Editor of the "Avanguardia," from the Liberal Party.

FOOTBALL.

18th February, 1934.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Grasshoppers |6 | Young Fellows |1 |
| Blue Stars |4 | Chaux-de-Fonds |5 |
| Concordia |3 | Bern |1 |
| Young Boys |4 | Zurich |1 |
| Lugano |1 | Nordstern |0 |
| Servette |3 | Basel |2 |
| Biel |2 | Urania |1 |
| Lausanne |3 | Locarno |1 |

FIRST LEAGUE.

| | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|
| St. Gallen |1 | Seebach |1 |
| Fribourg |2 | Racing |3 |

FIRST LEAGUE CUP.

| | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Luzern |6 | Bözingen |2 |
| Aarau |4 | Grenchen |4 |

At last a Sunday without postponed or abandoned matches. What of the results? In the National League Grasshoppers continue their monotonous sequence of wins and now lead with 26 points from 16 games. Servette, worthy champions, displace Bern from second place, 24 points, 15 games; Bern third with one point less and one game more bowed their knees before lowly Concordia, last but one in the table, who jump to twelfth. They are definitely on the up-grade. Three clubs overhaul Basel, who, in spite of their meritorious fight in Geneva, drop to seventh, viz., Biel, Lausanne and Young Boys. The only change at the bottom of the table is as already recorded.

In the First League Cup we are at a complete loss to understand what is happening, how, or the why thereof. Anyhow, we are sure to find out eventually who has won that bauble, and when found we shall make a note of it, as Captain Cuttle has it.

I was ever so pleased to read in the last *Swiss Observer* that there is actually a subscriber in Switzerland who has given a passing glance to these notes of mine. I quite agree, there are a number of other sports deserving honourable mention. As luck would have it, just last week I gave all the latest about Ice Hockey (by the way, Switzerland lost to Canada 2-3 in Zurich last Sunday), and this time the Editor actually found space for it. I have not always been so fortunate. But, after all, the article is headed "Football." Why? Because that game has undoubtedly the biggest pull with the masses, and because that brand of sport happens to be M.G.'s particular fancy. Were these articles to be headed "Sports," I should want a lot more room and a lot more "pay" than the *Swiss Observer* could possibly share. But would it then be the turn of the Wrestlers? Hardly so. I would range quite a number of other pastimes first: to mention only a few: Ice Hockey, Skating, Ski competitions in all its variations, Concours Hippiques, Gymnastics (Kunst, National), Shooting, etc. Schwingen any time and all the time in preference to Ringen. Why? Just prejudice, I suppose, or is it because Ringen is too commercialised by those professional wrestlers with those fearful names? Na, jedem Tierchen sein Pläscherchen!! There is one thing to be admired—that men like Werner Bürki, Ernst Kyburz and many others who have gained the highest honours in Gymnastics (National) are championing this comparatively new sport, new in its international and amateur developments. And in all honesty, I wish them every success!

M. G.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

We are informed that the "Yodelklub C.F.F." is coming over to London early in March, and on this occasion will offer a concert to the Swiss Colony.

This concert will take place on Friday, March the 9th, at 8 o'clock, at the Union Helvetica Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. The admittance will be 2/- per person (to be paid at the door), and the concert will be given in aid of the Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses Pauvres.