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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS FEDERAL FINANCE.

The Federal accounts which have just been made public show that with revenue at 409,800,000 francs (419,900,000 francs in 1932) and expenditure at 482,100,000 frs. (444,100,000 francs in 1932), the deterioration in the Federal finances between 1933 and the previous year is represented by a sum of 48,000,000 francs, the deficit being 72,300,000 francs, as compared with 24,200,000 francs.

The total receipts exceeded the estimate by 38,600,000 francs, mainly in respect of Customs, post, telegraph and telephones, military taxes, profits of the Central Bureau for the import of fodder, and fees collected by the Federal Section for imports. In expenditure the original estimates were exceeded chiefly in unemployment insurance and benefit grants to the embroidery and watch-making industries, subsidy to milk producers (this item was 16,000,000 francs more than the budget figure), tourist traffic, and corn subsidies.

The accounts of 1933 did not benefit from the provisions of the financial programme passed in the autumn of 1933, which provided for savings in expenditure amounting to 22,000,000 francs, for new sources of revenue computed at 52,000,000 francs, and for higher taxes on tobacco, calculated to bring in approximately 40,000,000 francs, thus making an estimated total improvement of 114,000,000 francs in the 1934 budget. It is hoped that at the end of that year there will be a sum which, after balancing the budget, will help to cover the deficit on the Federal railways.

The general opinion is that the solution of the economic problem in Switzerland lies in reducing the cost of living and applying a strong brake on public expenditure. In the 12 years between 1920 and 1932 Customs receipts have risen from 98,000,000 francs to 315,000,000 francs per annum, while in the autumn of 1933 new levies, amounting to 114,000,000 francs, were added to the already heavy burden of taxation. Any further taxation will meet with considerable resistance.

SWISS DISSATISFACTION OVER GERMAN TRANSFER.

M. Bachmann, director of the Swiss National Bank, stated last Monday that the negative result of the Berlin conference caused some dissatisfaction in Swiss Government and financial quarters. Official opinion is that this is only a temporary situation, as Switzerland does not intend leaving things in their present state.

The Swiss Federal Council is examining the possibility of resuming negotiations with the Reichsbank and even with the German Government with a view to coming to some agreement. This might be possible if Germany took into account the very favourable position she holds in regard to commercial exchange. As a matter of fact, Germany exports goods worth about £33,000,000 into Switzerland, from which she gets products to the value of nearly £9,000,000 a year.

The general opinion is that Switzerland cannot accept the present situation. Should Germany refuse to consider the particular situation of Switzerland, then Swiss official and trade circles would take the necessary measures for stopping imports from Germany, and Switzerland would make her purchases from those countries where there are frozen credits, but whose commercial balance is not as favourable as that of Germany.

SWISS AVIATOR KILLED.

Captain Leo Künzli, adjutant of the 3rd Air Detachment, was killed last week at Thun, when his machine crashed from a height of 1,200 meters into the Hasli Wood. Captain Künzli was stunt flying when the accident occurred; investigations by the Federal Air Office have begun.

The deceased was born in 1896 and hails from Dagmersellen. He was for some time an inspector of the Federal Air Office, and he gained his certificate as a pilot in 1929. Captain Künzli was one of the crack flyers in the Swiss Flying Corps, and his untimely death is greatly deplored.

CITE UNIVERSITAIRE IN PARIS.

The Federal Council has voted a credit of 60,000 francs for the Swiss House in the Cité Universitaire in Paris.

SWISS UNIVERSITY DISTINCTION.

The University of Berne has conferred an honorary doctorate on Professor Share Jones, Director of Veterinary Studies at Liverpool University, at its centenary celebrations. He was the only representative of a British university to be thus honoured. The grounds announced for the conferment of the degree were that he had "changed and enlarged the conception of veterinary science, created for it new opportunities for service, and advanced the cause of university education."

Professor Share Jones has been a pioneer in university veterinary education. Besides being a fluent lecturer and speaker, he is the author of books on applied anatomy which have secured for him an international reputation. He has written widely on university education and agriculture. In a scheme of higher agricultural education for Wales, approved and published twenty years ago by the Welsh Rural Development and Agricultural Association, he urged the University of Wales to establish at once what would have been the first complete Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science.

He has been president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which bestowed upon him its greatest distinction — the Steel Memorial Medal — for his contributions to this branch of science.

An energetic supporter of the Liberal party, he played a leading part in framing its agricultural policy, and when he fought North Shropshire as Parliamentary candidate, he almost doubled the Liberal vote.

Professor Share Jones went to Liverpool from London to help to found the University School of Veterinary Science, of which, for nearly twenty years, he has been the Director, and when the first Veterinary Chair was endowed in Britain, he was invited to be its occupant.

BEROMÜNSTER.

In a few months' time the power of the Beromünster station will be increased from 50 to 100 kw., and during the month of August Sottens will broadcast the programmes of both French and German Switzerland.

INCREASED INCOME FROM WIRELESS TAX.

According to the third annual report of the Société Suisse de Radiodiffusion, the Government's wireless tax of 15 francs produced an income of 3,048,000 francs (about £203,200 at the present rate of exchange) in 1932, and 4,156,000 francs (£277,066) in 1933. Of the income for 1933, the P.T.T. retained 2,156,000 francs (£143,733) for general expenses, salaries, etc., the balance of 2,000,000 francs (£133,330), being allotted to the Société for programme and other expenses. The average number of hours broadcast per day during 1933 was: Sottens, 8.05 hours; Beromünster, 8.20 hours; Monte Ceneri, 3.40 hours.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.

The Swiss Federal Council has resolved to widen the scope of the decision taken in March, 1932, concerning productive unemployment relief, in virtue of which Swiss export industries could already be subsidised in unusual circumstances. The new regulations provide for export industries that have to contend with specially keen competition owing, for instance, to currency depreciation, receiving in future from the Government and cantons manufacturing subsidies amounting, in exceptional cases, to 30 per cent. of the contracted delivery price. The sum

of 5,000,000 francs is to be set aside for this purpose, so that taking into consideration this year's contributions by the cantons, a total of 7,500,000 francs will be available.

AID FOR SWISS FILMS.

The Film-Finanzierungs A.G. Zurich, whose object is to aid financially films whose exterior are shot in Switzerland, has increased its capital from 350,000 francs to 500,000 francs.

The following institutions who are interested in "tourisme" are backing the venture. The Swiss Federal Railway, Swiss Tourist Office, Swiss Hotelkeepers' Society, and several private railway companies.

Since its creation the Film-Finanzierungs has financially helped three important films, "Guillaume Tell," "La Majesté Blanche," and "La Vallée Perdue." Three other films to be produced in Switzerland have been promised financial aid.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death has occurred in Zurich of M. Sigmund Waeckerling at the age of 82. He was formerly manager of the private banking house G. Koerner for 25 years, and was a well-known personality in Swiss banking circles.

On the occasion of a meeting which was held by the "Nationale Front" at the "Stadthalle" in Zurich, it came to ugly scenes between members of the Front and Communists. When the police endeavoured to disperse the crowd, they were shot at and pelted with stones; several policemen were injured and many arrests were made.

The "Stadtheater" in Zurich is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation. A banquet was held, at which Dr. Ernst Zahn, the well-known author, recited a prologue which he had specially composed for the occasion. Dr. Klöti, mayor of Zurich, extended the greetings of the town of Zurich to the 100th birthday child.

Dr. Robert Schmid, a prominent member of the Liberal party at Zurich, has died at the age of 67. Dr. Schmid was a Member of Parliament from 1913 to 1919.

BERNE.

The late Mlle. Ida Weber, a teacher at the primary school at Hedingen, has left an amount of nearly 60,000 francs to the community of Hedingen.

Professor Weese, who held the chair of Historical Art at the University of Berne since 1905, has died at the age of 66 at a nursing home in Berne.

M. Pilet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Motta, Foreign Minister, received last week the Venezuelan Minister, who has presented his credentials to our chief magistrates.

Early on Sunday morning a motor car driven by M. Schwenter, President of the Tribunal at Langnau, ran into some pedestrians at the Theaterplatz in Berne, with the result that a Mrs. Renfer-Eggmann was killed outright, whilst two other ladies had to be taken to hospital in a serious condition. M. Schwenter, the driver of the car, was arrested, as he seemed to be under the influence of drink.

From Berne comes the news of the death of M. Hans Dinkelmann, late general manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, at the age of 77.

M. Dinkelmann was from 1890 to 1892 a member of the cantonal government. From 1892 to 1905 he was manager of the "Emmentalbahn" and the "Burgdorf-Thun Bahn." In 1905 he entered into the services of the Swiss Federal Railways as general manager. From 1912 to 1922 he was president of the "General-Direktion." M. Dinkelmann was a member of Parliament from 1893 to 1905. In 1922 he was appointed "Direktor des Zentralamtes für den Internationalen Eisenbahntransport," in succession to the late Federal Councillor Forrer, from which post he retired in 1928.

LUCERNE.

It is reported that copies of last Monday's issue of the "Vaterland" were confiscated in Germany, and that the further sale of the journal in the Reich has been prohibited.