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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS FAITH IN GOLD.

The necessity of firmly maintaining the gold standard was once again stressed in the Swiss National Council by the Finance Minister, M. Meyer, in the course of the examination of the Treasury accounts.

The maintenance of the gold standard was essential, he said, in the interest of the State's credit. He was categorically opposed to devaluation, which could only bring fleeting advantages and no durable benefit.

The Federal Council and the National Bank were firmly determined to maintain the gold standard. The National Bank, which in a short time had paid out 750,000,000 francs in gold and foreign exchange, was to-day as strong as ever.

The Treasury accounts were approved by the Federal Council without opposition.

SWISS FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION.

The "official" day for the Swiss Federal shooting competition has been fixed for the 26th of July. The Federal Council will attend *in corpore*. An invitation has also been extended to the Diplomatic Corps. M. Pilet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and the French Ambassador will be the official speakers.

A MONUMENT FOR CAPTAIN SPELTERINI.

A monument to Captain Spelterini, the well-known pioneer of the "ballon-libre," who died in June, 1931, has been inaugurated at Vöcklabruck (Austria). Colonel Messmer and Lieutenant Colonel Santschi have represented the Swiss Aero Club on that occasion.

Captain Spelterini was born in 1853 at Kirchberg, St. Gallen, and his original name was Eduard Schweizer. He was the possessor of a fine baritone voice which decided him to make his career as an opera singer. He studied music at the Conservatoire of Paris and Milan with such success that he received at once an engagement for a début at the Opéra in Paris. Before this, however, could take place he was taken ill with a very severe attack of pneumonia, which after a lengthy convalescence left him almost without a voice, so that he had to give up his ambition of becoming a singer. It was in 1875 when young Spelterini witnessed for the first time a balloon flight in Paris. The weather was extremely bad, and no would-be passenger could be found to accompany the pilot. So our young countryman offered himself and was accepted. The flight was a stormy one, but Spelterini kept cool, and so impressed the pilot that he recommended him to take up flying as a profession, which he did. He studied very hard, and after three years passed the examination as a full-blown pilot, his certificate bearing the remark of the Académie d'Aéronautique de France, "Vous le méritez plus que les autres." From 1879 onwards he became a professional pilot.

Not before Spelterini had undertaken seventeen flights by himself did he start to take passengers with him. He commenced now on travels which took him to England, Russia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Rumania, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa and Denmark. In the meantime, however, he paid a visit to his native land in 1891 when he made his first ascent having as a passenger J. C. Heer, the well-known Swiss writer. In 1892 he undertook the famous Berne flight, having on board Count Zeppelin, who at that time was building his first airship. He piloted his balloon through

a terrible storm and landed safely on the Pilatus. In 1898 he flew with his balloon "Vega" for the first time over the Alps, a deed which never before had been achieved. He also flew over the Mont Blanc.

His board books register altogether 570 flights, with a total of 1,237 passengers, which figures are a striking proof of the life work of this courageous pilot.

Captain Spelterini was one of the most popular men in Switzerland, and was an Honorary Member of the Swiss Aero Club.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

From Zurich comes the news of the death of M. Eugen Hueblin, at the age of 69. The deceased was for 30 years stenographer of the Federal Chambers. From 1903 to 1908 he was president of the Allg. Schweiz. Stenographenverein.

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Dr. Schirmer, Professor at the Töchterschule in Zurich, was drowned when bathing in the Lake of Zurich. He was 74 years old.

BERNE.

From Berne comes the news of the death of Colonel Arnold Keller, a former chief of the General Staff of the Swiss Army, at the age of 92.

Colonel Keller was born in Aarau, the son of the famous statesman, Augustin Keller. He studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg, Zurich and Berlin, and started a practice as an advocate in Aarau in 1866. In the meantime, he attained the rank of captain of artillery in the army, and in 1876 he decided to take up an army career. He soon made a name for himself, and his many works on military subjects became well known. For many years he was an active collaborator of Colonel Pfyffer (Lucerne), head of the General Staff, and when the latter died in 1890, Colonel Keller became his successor, and was promoted at the same time to Divisional Commander. He retired in the year of 1905.

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The factory Schnell, vormals Rapp, A.G., shoe manufacturers at Herzogenbuchsee, was completely destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to exceed half a million francs. Nearly 150 workmen have thus become unemployed.

FRIBOURG.

Thirty-one lorries have delivered 2 million cartridges to be used on the occasion of the Federal shooting competition which will take place next month.

ST. GALLEN.

The embroidery firm of A. Naef and Co. in Flawil has sold its machinery, and the works buildings are for sale.

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M. Ebnete-Gehrli, a former teacher at the "Realschule," has celebrated his golden wedding anniversary.

SOLOTHURN.

M. Joh. Hugi-Kocher, a former member of the "Kantonsrat" and a popular leader of the "Volkspartei," has died at Selzach at the age of 83.

VAUD.

The "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne has been fixed for the 8th to the 23rd of September. The Federal Council will be represented at the opening day by M. Pilet, President of the Swiss Confederation.

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The Nestle factory at Payerne will be closed at the beginning of next November. This establishment employs at present about 100 workmen.

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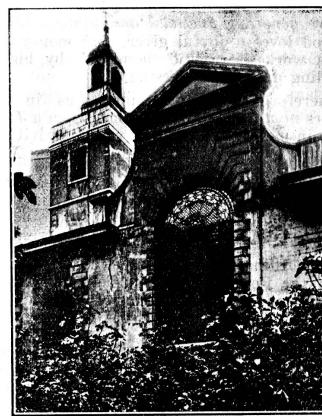
M. J. Mermoud, a former National Councillor and president of the community of l'Isle, has died.

* * *

M. Benjamin Mayer, professor at the school of engineers at Lausanne, has retired from his post, which he has held for nearly 44 years.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde)

10th Anniversary of its Foundation.
Significant and Interesting History.

Ten years have passed since one beautiful Sunday morning our Allemannic Swiss Community inaugurated their own Divine services at the pretty and homely Church of St. Anne, at 9, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2.

Many of our compatriots will vividly remember that memorable day of June 22nd, 1924, when, filled with joy at the thought that their long-cherished wish for a Sunday morning service in their own mother tongue, and according to the custom of their fathers, had been realised. They answered the call of the provisional "Kirchenpflege," and listened with intense interest both to the message from the Bishop of London, and as delivered by the Rev. H. C. Thomas, M.A., and to the sermon by the Rev. W. Dietsche.

"Rest in the sunshine of the Love of God": thus read one of the messages; a phrase more beautiful, both in its construction and its deep and uplifting meaning, than most of us had ever heard before. No wonder that it made an everlasting impression upon the hearers and animated them with the fervent wish to find in this beautiful church that peace and happiness which is promised to those who follow Christ. No less impressive and stirring was the sermon on the text from Isaiah 66: "Was ist's denn für ein Haus, das ihr mir bauen wollt, oder welches ist die Stätte, da ich ruhen soll." The speaker laid stress on the fact that it is not sufficient to have a temple of God, but that work done in such a temple is all-important. Christian Love has a home here, a source of ever-flowing and reviving energy. From this temple of God his love must be radiated into every corner of our Swiss Congregation. "Kommet her, alle die ihr mithilfend und beladen seid, ich will euch erquickern." Not one among us all is free from pangs of a stricken conscience, from troubles, ill-luck, physical and mental. Let them seek this temple of God, and let them cast their burden upon the Lord. Let them realise that there is no pain too great which the Lord cannot turn into a blessing.

It was thus with full confidence and faith that the young church looked into the future. Those early days, however, were not void of a feeling of great responsibility and anxiety, of difficulties to be overcome, and even of occasional doubts as to whether a step of such gravity was justified.

Through the influence of the Bishop of London, and particularly the friendly disposition of the late Rev. Bishop Herbert Bury, D.D., the use of this beautiful church was granted at a very moderate rental, and this in spite of the fact that the churchwardens of St. Anne's were reluctant at first to let this treasure of a City church to a foreign congregation. Therefore the arrangement had to be tentative and provisional at first. However, it soon grew into a permanent and mutual understanding. For this, thanks are due again to the late Rev. Bishop H. Bury, D.D., who loved the Swiss and their country.

Looking back after ten years' work, the thought occurs to some of us: Has it all been