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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL

SWITZERLAND AND SANCTIONS.

Switzerland has come into line with the other countries in regard to the application of sanctions against Italy. The Federal Council has decided in favour of the following steps:

An embargo on arms exports and war materials to either Italy or Abyssinia. The application of financial sanctions.

As to economic sanctions, the Government will prohibit the export of key products to Italy, particularly aluminium.

Other Swiss exports will be paid by Italian imports to a corresponding amount under a clearing house system. The trade with Switzerland will, therefore, not enable Italy to acquire, as in the past, deposits of foreign currency with which to buy important raw materials elsewhere.

It is understood that the League will accept this compromise as a fulfilment of Switzerland's obligations under the Covenant.

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL CARL HAUSER.

Colonel Carl Hauser, "Oberfeld Arzt" of the Swiss Army has resigned from his post. Colonel Hauser was born at Fontaines (Neuchâtel) in 1866. He was appointed to his high office in 1910.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The return of the National Bank of Switzerland for the week ended October 23rd shows the following changes compared with the previous statement:

Frances		Inc. or dec.
ASSETS		
Gold holdings	1,387,151,146	+ 5,342,477
Gold exchanges	20,977,233	- 1,618,000
Domestic bills	72,118,011	- 1,547,849
Bills of the Swiss Confederation	57,366,000	- 372,000
Advances	98,351,168	+ 4,297,712
Security holdings	54,293,822	- 666,755
Deposits with home and foreign banks	7,782,505	- 11,948,076
Other assets	18,490,743	- 2,202,034
LIABILITIES		
Capital	37,000,000	Unchanged
Bank notes in circulation	1,260,914,500	- 9,330,365
Other short liabilities	356,531,210	- 967,190
Other liabilities	62,084,935	+ 1,583,031

THE NEW NUNCIO.

Mgr. Filippo Bernardini, titular Archbishop of Antiochia of Pisidia, and at present Nuncio in Sydney, has been appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Berne in succession to Mgr. Di Maria.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL TO QUEEN ASTRID

A stone cross and small memorial chapel are to be set up forthwith on the bank of the Lake of Lucerne where Queen Astrid was killed in a motor accident two months ago. The Belgian Royal Family has for this purpose purchased the strip of land where the accident occurred.

FACILITIES FOR MOTORISTS.

The Swiss Government have decided to extend to February 29th, 1936, the validity of the measure entitling foreign motorists spending more than three days in Switzerland to a reduction in the price of petrol.

LOCAL

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of M. Edouard Steinmetz, National Councillor. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva from 1915-1919. M. Steinmetz was a member of the National Council from 1918-1919 and again from 1929- until his death.

BERNE.

M. Victor Gautier, formerly President of the Administration of the Banque d'Escompte Suisse at Geneva, has been appointed Manager of the National Bank in Berne.

The General Election in Switzerland.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.

CANTONS	Radicals	Liberal-Cons.	Cath. Cons.	Bourgeois & Peasant Party	Young Peasant	Socialists	Communists	Freiwirtschaft	Frontist	Various
Zurich	5 (8)	...	2 (2)	4 (5)	—	9 (11)	1 (1)	—	1 (0)	6 (1)
Berne	4 (5)	—	1 (1)	11 (14)	3 (1)	11 (10)	—	—	—	1 (0)
Lucerne	3 (3)	—	5 (5)	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Uri	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schwyz	1 (1)	—	2 (2)	0 (0)	—	0 (0)	—	—	—	—
Obwalden	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nidwalden	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glarus	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1)
Zug	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fribourg	2 (1)	—	5 (6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Solothurn	3 (3)	—	2 (2)	—	—	2 (2)	—	—	—	—
Basle Town	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (1)	—	3 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	—
Basle County	2 (2)	—	0 (0)	0 (1)	—	2 (1)	—	—	—	—
Schaffhausen	1 (0)	—	—	0 (0)	0 (1)	1 (0)	—	—	—	0 (1)
Appenzell A. Rh.	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Appenzell I. Rh.	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Gall	4 (4)	—	5 (6)	—	—	2 (3)	—	—	—	2 (0)
Grisons	1 (2)	—	3 (2)	—	—	0 (1)	—	—	—	2 (1)
Aargau	2 (2)	—	3 (3)	2 (3)	1 (0)	4 (4)	—	—	—	—
Thurgau	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	2 (3)	—	2 (1)	—	—	—	—
Ticino	3 (3)	—	3 (3)	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Vaud	6 (7)	3 (3)	—	1 (1)	—	4 (4)	—	—	—	—
Valais	1 (1)	—	4 (5)	—	—	1 (0)	—	—	—	—
Neuchâtel	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	—	3 (3)	—	—	—	—
Geneva	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	—	3 (4)	—	—	1 (0)	—
<i>Total</i>	48 (52)	6 (6)	42 (44)	20 (28)	4 (2)	50 (49)	2 (2)	—	2 (0)	12 (4)

(The figures in brackets indicate the strength in the old Council).

From the above table based on the earliest results available, it will be gathered that there is very little variation as regards the adherents of the different parties. The biggest losses are suffered by the Peasant Party (8 due, no doubt, to the split in the party). The Radicals loose 4 seats and the socialist gain one. For the first time two Frontist members enter the Council. Duttwiler, author of the "Migras," and "Hotel Plan" has been elected, as well as 6 of his adherents, this fact is perhaps the most interesting event in the General Elections. As regards the State Council we shall report in our next issue.

THURGAU.

The late M. Konrad Kuhn of Birwinken, has left an amount of 28,700 frs. for charitable institutions.

SCHWYZ.

The death is reported from Siebnen of M. Peter Rüttimann-Henny, founder and senior partner of the firm P. Rüttimann and Co., Furniture Manufacturers at Siebnen and Lachen, at the age of 68.

AARAU.

The late Mr. Adolf Schwander in Wangen has left an amount of 20,000 frs. for charitable institutions.

FOOTBALL.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Oh yes, of course, they are still playing football in Switzerland. In fact, the first quarter of the season 1935/36 has already come to an end and the next three Sundays will be given up to international engagements, first in Geneva, v. France, next, in Zurich, v. Norway and then in Budapest, v. Hungary. The fourth Sunday is reserved for the second round of the Swiss Cup. By the way, the only interesting result in the first round was the defeat of the cupholders, Lausanne, by Young Boys, 0:1 if I remember correctly.

To give you an idea of the present state of affairs, here is the League Table as on October 20th:

	P	W	D	L	For.	Agst.	Pts.
Grasshoppers	7	4	2	1	13	5	10
Young Fellows	7	4	2	1	20	8	10
Lausanne	6	4	1	1	17	7	9
Biel	6	3	2	1	16	9	8
Nordstern	7	4	0	3	11	13	8
Young Boys	7	2	3	2	12	10	7
Servette	7	2	3	2	8	8	7
St. Gallen	7	3	1	3	9	13	7
Bern	7	2	3	2	9	14	7
Basel	6	3	0	3	19	14	6
Lugano	6	1	3	2	7	12	5
Locarno	7	2	1	4	12	16	5
Chaux-de-Fonds	7	0	3	4	6	15	3
Aarau	7	0	2	5	11	26	2

Young Fellows are the surprise team of the season; they have led right from the start and only lost their place by a fractionally worse goal average to their local rivals, Grasshoppers, in the seventh match. Lausanne, the champions, with a game (v. Basel) in hand are equally well placed and so are Biel who trounced poor Aarau to the tune of 8:3 last Sunday. Servette have not yet got over the loss of some of their best players (Lausanne beat them in Geneva 4:0 for the first time for many long years!), but Nordstern, by beating both Servette and St. Gall 2:1 away, have jumped up the ladder. Young Boys are very much better than last year, but there remains room for further improvement; we always expect something out of the ordinary from the Y.B., don't we? Bern, Basel and Lugano are so far mere shadows of last years effectiveness; Locarno and Chaux-de-Fonds are no better and not much worse! And what about the two promoted clubs? Well, Aarau are seriously floundering and cannot find their feet. Only seven clubs have scored more goals, but none have conceded so many; there lies the rub. St. Gall on the other hand (and I am particularly pleased to say so) have started in a very promising manner; they occupied third place after 5 games, level on points (7), with Lausanne and one point behind Young Fellows. Unfortunately they lost their next two engagements, first in Lausanne to the tune of 1:5 and then at home against Nordstern. (That mysterious saint from Basel did it again!) Their forward line lacks penetrative power and they will slide down the ladder further if they do not remedy that weakness.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from

Members of the Committee.

A word about the *First League*. In the West, Solothurn have a clear lead of 2 points, having won all their 7 engagements. Carouge, relegated last season from the N. L. have lost all their matches, scoring 5 goals and giving away 24; horrible! In the East, Zurich are on top with 10 points from 7 games, closely followed by Luzern, Chiasso and Kreuzlingen with 9 points. F.C. Brühl, so dangerous last season are, in spite of their new English trainer, Harris, only eighth with 6 points, and at the bottom is the lion of Winterthur, sad to relate.

INTERNATIONALS..

On the 27th October the international series started with a handsome win by our Reds in Geneva and another by our second string, in Le Havre :

SWITZERLAND.....2 FRANCE.....1

FRANCE B.....2 SWITZERLAND B 3

22,000 spectators in Geneva. Switzerland does all the scoring! In the third minute Weiler W. (centre half) puts past Schlegel, his own goalie; in the 41st minute Treollo equalizes and Jäggi gets the winning goal early in the second half.

And so to bed again,

M.G.

TWO LONDON CONCERTS BY SWISS ARTISTS.

Two outstanding events in the artistic life of London were provided by Swiss artists of such rare quality that we have every reason to be proud of these emissaries of our native culture. Paul Baumgartner of Zurich, who had already introduced himself as a most brilliant and talented pianist in London last April, repeated his visit on Monday, 21st October, at the Aeolian Hall with even better success. Unfortunately news of the concert reached our Colony so late by way of the *Swiss Observer* — through no fault of its own — that only very few compatriots were able to attend it.

But even more unlucky was the other magnificient Swiss artist, Nina Nuesch, a contralto-singer of the highest distinction, also from Zurich, who made her début in London on the following Tuesday, October 23rd, at the Grotian Hall. Not a soul in our Colony, I believe, knew

A JOURNEY TO SOUTH AFRICA.

By VICTOR AND RUDY SCHÄFERER.

(Continued).

Once on shore we decided to try another method of getting killed and hired a taxi. We could not explain to the driver anything as we did not know his language nor he English, Schwyzerdütsch nor any other civilized language. He only knew 3 words which we heard later.

We first visited the Governor General's residence. It is a very pretty place having originally been a Dutch Fort. We signed our name in his visiting book before leaving in order to make sure that we were invited to the next garden party! We then went to the native University, of which they are very proud, and various villages. On the way back our driver wanted to show off the power of the car which was practically new and put on a bit of speed. On coming round a corner we nearly crashed into another of our ship's companions then to our complete surprise our driver leant out of the window and shouted "You b..... fool!"

We then visited the Brewery which is run by Swiss. It is a really fine place and wonderfully kept, the beer is also very good and is sold all along the coast. We sampled so much of this famous beer that we nearly lost the boat. In fact a number of cases were put on board for transport to Duala. One of them was broken and the contents, glass included, was eagerly lapped up by the native crew.

On getting back to the harbour we found that we had to wait for some more passengers who had got lost. While waiting we watched a big crate being landed. The crate was covered with recommendations such as "Keep Dry," "Vorsicht," "This side up," etc. Just as about 30 boys had succeeded in getting it clear of the boat one of them spotted that a big wave was coming. The whole crowd promptly dropped the thing in the water and letting out unearthly yells, fled for the shore. Finally the crate was brought on to the beach, turned the wrong way up and allowed to dry.

In the meantime the sea had been getting quite rough and when we finally got round the corner of the jetty we got a good ducking. A

anything of this concert until it was too late, and we can only write this report on the strength of the criticisms in the English Press, to which Madame Sophie Wyss, the indefatigable protagonist and patron-saint of Swiss musical art in London drew our attention. She gave, herself, a recital of Spanish songs at the invitation of the Anglo-Spanish Society on the evening of Mme. Nuesch's concert — to the delight of the Spanish audience, including the Ambassador of Spain. But by her kind hospitality I was later on enabled to meet Mme. Nuesch and hear her sing, which made me doubly regret having missed her concert.

Considering the great expense which these artists incur to introduce themselves in London and considering the great honour they gain for our country, we feel sure that quite a considerable number of musically-minded people in our Colony would regard it as a most pleasant duty to support their artist kinsfolk on these rare occasions, if only they were informed in good time. With this end in view we are writing to all the concert-agents to advise us and the *Swiss Observer* in good time henceforth.

PAUL BAUMGARTNER.

What new laurels Mr. Baumgartner has earned for himself and our country with his second concert in London, we can best illustrate by reproducing the criticism from the *Observer*, the big London Sunday paper, which says :

Paul Baumgartner, a pupil of Eduard Erdmann, made a deep impression at Aeolian Hall on Monday. It would be difficult to name another young pianist who combines so richly an intense, independent, and imaginative mind with such a powerful, flowing, deeply cultivated technique. His renderings of Beethoven's "Eroica" variations, Szymanowski's mountainous sonata, op. 21, and Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques" were all masterly and satisfying; the last two which, for all their passion and striding confidence, maintained a magnificent quality of tone, especially so.

NINA NUESCH.

While the criticisms of her recital, that appeared in the London Press have not been quite so unreservedly full of praise, she nevertheless received very encouraging tributes, all of which particularly underlined the exceptional beauty of her voice, described by the "Times" as "a combination of qualities rare enough to raise great expectations." Mme. Nuesch was accompanied by Mr. Baumgartner and we mention with special satisfaction that she sang several very beautiful compositions of our great Othmar Schoeck. Fol-

gentleman who was going lion hunting with a camera got his camera wet and spent that evening and the next day cleaning it out.

We next called at Cotonou and tried to put down two passengers, unfortunately it was Sunday and evidently the doctor overslept himself, as after a lot of delay we had to put them and their baggage on to a French steamer which was anchored there and let them wait until the doctor found time to pass them.

The next port was Lagos in Nigeria. A beautiful place as one comes in from the sea with its delightful bungalows shaded by immense palms and the brilliant green lawns coming right down to the lagoon like a harbour.

The old town is inhabited mainly by natives and creepy-crawlies; we found a bug on the billiard table of the best hotel! It is a very dismal place with all the houses falling to pieces and simply swarmed with natives. We were taken round in a most ancient Ford, the sort of thing one sees in a garage scrap heap. The driver had original ideas as to petrol economy, he would accelerate up to about 25 m.p.h., this being a highly dangerous speed as the front wheel developed a decided wobble, turn off the engine and let the car coast along until it was going at about 5 m.p.h. when he would switch the engine on again and repeat the process. On the way back we had a puncture, before we quite knew what had happened we were surrounded by swarms of natives all jabbering away at a terrific speed. Since we were near the ship we intended paying off the driver and walking. The driver however, with a great show of secrecy and whispering in Daddy's ear finally made it clear that he wanted £2, whereas he had arranged for 10/- in front of the harbour policeboy. A great deal of gesticulation was going on when all of a sudden another "taxi" came round the corner. We immediately stopped it and started to get in when much to our surprise our own driver took over the car and let the other boy mend the puncture for him, while he drove us to the harbour gate and received his 10/- with a great show of thanks. A fine example of community of property!

Here the last of our Swiss fellow passengers left us. We were very surprised to hear how many Swiss there are along the Coast and further inland on the plateau who have stores. They all report that they are doing very well, mainly due

lowing is the criticism in the "Morning Post" :

Dr.E.

Five attractive songs by Othmar Schoeck, the Swiss composer, were delightfully presented by Miss Nina Nuesch at her vocal recital at the Grotian Hall.

This singer made excellent use of her fine voice and special talents for sensitive interpretation, and "Peregrina," which opened the group, exemplified her highly intelligent artistry.

Two Handel airs were delivered with noble feeling and authority, while Monteverdi's "Nigra sum" received a treatment of rare understanding.

The scrupulous diction and phrasing of Miss Nuesch were further revealed in four songs by Schumann, of which "Wehmut" provided a fair illustration of her uncommon insight.

EXHIBITION OF ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Messrs. Ilford Ltd., are showing at their Galleries at 101 High Holborn a collection of 70 most beautiful Alpine photographs by an eminent geography-teacher at an English Public-School, J. Hubert Walker. The exhibition comprises so many pieces of the most lovely views of our mountain scenery — from the Lake of Geneva to the Dreisprachenspitze, but mainly from the Bernese Oberland — that we can only say: go and see for yourself. Mr. Walker has certainly not only a selective eye but also a profound love of the Alps. The pictures are entirely taken on Ilford materials which allow of the highest artistic finish. May we conclude by expressing the hope that a certain member of our Colony, who has also made a collection of extremely beautiful Alpine photographs over the best part of a life time, all his own, may come forward in the near future with a public exhibition.

Dr.E.

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to their ability or desire to work hard under trying conditions.

The ship was next supposed to call at Duala French Cameroon but owing to the state of the tide it was unable to get any nearer than the mouth of the river. Here we hung at anchor unloading earthenware soil pipes into steel lighters. Since the sea was rather rough the result can be imagined about 25% of the pipes were broken and we are still wondering if it was not more. In the meantime, one of the lighters had somehow come untied and started floating away, the boys had a great time chasing it with their tug and finally bringing it back. By this time it was getting dark and for the next hour we watched a magnificent sunset between the Island of Fernando Po and the mainland, to the music of breaking drain pipes! Several passengers had to alight here and get into the tug that had come to fetch them. This was a very ticklish job and one or two of them, among them a lady, nearly fell into the water between the companion ladder and the little boat; they were only saved by the sailor told to help them giving a hefty shove in the back.

Here our temporary native crew left us, they were a very cheery lot and we were sorry to lose them. Rudy had made friends with the head boy by some means or other, not unconnected with a cream bun, and when they left in addition to saying goodbye to the Captain, the Officers and the Passengers in general they all sang "Goodbye Rudy Skarer," much to everybody's amusement. The way they lowered their own goods into the lighter was amusing in the extreme. Most of them only possessed a loin-cloth and a few pots and pans but the care lavished on these was unbounded, if the drain pipes had been treated in the same manner not one would have been as much as chipped! Among them as a passenger was an Arab known as Mohammed Ali, he was a great aristocrat having a native servant, a stool an umbrella and a prayer-mat, to say nothing of a coconut matting bundle containing the most amazing collection of junk. His bargaining in English with a German Officer as to the amount of his fare was a perfect scream.

(To be continued).