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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

NEW BUDGET DEFICIT.

The real potentialities of the new Parliament will be made clear within a few weeks, when it will be called upon to discuss the Budget for 1936, which has just been published. Revenue for the coming year is estimated at 419,400,000 francs and expenditure at 496,500,000 francs, leaving an estimated deficit of 77,100,000 francs. Revenue shows a drop of about 17 millions and expenditure a rise of 18 millions over the 1935 estimate. The interest on the Public Debt will absorb 90 millions, while the annual charge for the redemption of the Debt remains at 33 millions. The sum devoted to subsidising cereal production — which is controlled and financed by the Government — is to reach 39 millions. Some 7 millions will be spent on insurance for State officials and 8 millions is to be paid into the reserve fund for the financial reorganisation of the Federal Railways. Some 98 millions (69 millions in 1935) is to be devoted to national defence, of which 27 millions will be spent on armaments and equipment and 10 millions on the purchase of horses. Unemployment insurance, extraordinary assistance to the unemployed and the various schemes set up for combating unemployment, are to cost over 42½ millions: 23 millions is to be spent on social insurances and about 30 millions on subsidising agriculture.

The 1936 deficit of 77 millions — to which should be added another 30 millions, representing the deficit on the Federal Railways — is to be mainly met by the imposition of new taxes. Economies of about 21 millions, however, are also proposed. They are to be obtained by means of a cut in the salaries of State officials — which were reduced last year by 7 per cent. — and by general economies amounting to 11 millions on ordinary administration expenses. Some 32 millions is also to be secured from the tax on sugar and petrol; 10 millions from an increase in the rates of the "Crisis Tax"; 5 millions from a tax on bank deposits; 40 millions from a new tax on the receipts of industrial, commercial and banking undertakings; and 3 millions from the suppression of postal exemption granted to the Cantonal Governments. Altogether some 90 of 100 million francs will be raised in these ways.

A CENTENARIAN SWISS GUARD.

Colonel Louis de Courten, of Sierre, who is now residing at Nancy, celebrated his 100th birthday. When he was 19 he enlisted in the Papal Army and was present at the Battle of Mentana against the Garibaldisans on November 3rd, 1867. He left the Pontifical service in 1870 with the rank of Captain. Eight years later he was recalled to Rome and appointed Commander of the Swiss Guard, which he reorganized. He resigned in 1901 and retired to Sierre. Colonel de Courten, who enjoys splendid health, spends his time partly at Sierre and partly at Nancy, and occupies himself with historical research.

LEAGUE FINANCES.

The financial situation of the League on October 31st, 1935, showed a cash balance of 10,758,249 Swiss francs. Of the total budget for 1935 of roughly 30,640,000f., over 24,270,000f., have already been received, while 8,600,000f. have also been received in the form of contributions in arrear. This situation is altogether better than was the case at the same time a year ago. This year, on October 31st, 79.21 per cent. of current contributions had been received, as against 63.70 on October 31st, 1934; 28.06 per cent. of contributions in arrear had also been received, against 21.43 a year ago.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

The fifty-sixth board meeting of the Bank for International Settlements was opened on Monday last by the President, Dr. Tripp. The board members attended in full. For the first time a representative of the newly established National Bank of Argentina, M. H. Baequerel, came to Basle to make closer contact with the European central bank governors. The board accepted the October report, showing an increase of 7,500,000 Swiss francs, bringing the total balance up to 68,400,000 Swiss francs.

The President made a statement on the favourable situation of the bank. Most central banks of Europe, he said, as well as the banks of Argentina and Nicaragua, had increased their deposits, especially their gold deposits, which enabled the B.I.S. to fulfil its task of serving more and more as the world centre for the international gold clearing. As most countries had now joined the international postal and telegraph and telephone clearing agreement, the amount of the sums to be transferred every month by the B.I.S. had considerably increased. The amounts realized from payments in coal by the German Government in settlement of the purchase price of the Saar coalmines flowed in regularly to the B.I.S., so that the total amount of the price of 900,000,000 French francs would presumably be paid before the agreed term of 1940.

M. Tannery, of the Banque de France, gave an official denial of the rumour in the French Press that Mr. Montagu Norman, Dr. Schacht, and himself had concluded an agreement concerning the sanctions against Italy.

SPECIAL SWISS PAPER FOR GERMANY?

Because Germany has banned a large number of important Swiss newspapers, a publisher in Solothurn is reported to have arranged with the German authorities for the issue of a paper to be called the Neueste Schweizer Nachrichten, for German consumption.

Although it is stated that the paper will be politically neutral, the report has excited much speculation in Switzerland.

HUMAN BALANCE SHEET.

2,400,000 died of starvation all over the world in 1934.

1,200,000 committed suicide in 1934 for lack of adequate food.

Out of total inhabitants of the earth of 2,000,000,000, at least 500,000,000 do not possess enough to have satisfactory meals.

These figures are the result of a survey just published in Geneva.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. E. Hardmeier, late National-Councillor, has died at the age of 65; the deceased was President of the cantonal teachers Association; he entered the "Kantonsrat" in 1908 and in 1917 he was elected member of Parliament. (National Council). M. Hardmeier, who belonged to the radical-democratic party enjoyed a great reputation in Parliamentary circles.

* * *

The death has occurred in Zurich of Dr. Ludwig Frank, a noted nerve specialist at the age of 72. Dr. Frank was from 1891-1905 chief physician at the Asylum of Münsterlingen (Thurgau). In 1905 he started practicing in Zurich where he enjoyed a great reputation; he is the author of many works on Psychotherapy.

* * *

M. Emil Rüd, "Kreispostdirektor" in Zurich is relinquishing his post at the end of the current year.

NEUCHATEL.

M. G. A. Borel, Engineer at Colombier, has been elected Chairman of the Board of the Cantonal Bank.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

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.

BASLE.

Dr. G. Senn, since 1912 Professor of Botany at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Dr. Senn is also Director of the Institute of Botany, the Botanical Museum and the Botanical Gardens of the town of Basle.

* * *

Professor Götzinger, President of the Appeal Court, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. He was appointed to his post in 1907. M. Götzinger was appointed in 1917 Professor of Law at the University of Basle a post which he held in conjunction with his judicial office.

* * *

The death is reported of Dr. Ernst Baumberger, who was a teacher at the "Mädchen-gymnasium" for 25 years, at the age of 69.

BERNE.

In the lower part of Berne, on a site where the remains of a large Gallo-Roman pottery were unearthed two years ago, archaeologists have brought to light important sections of a Celtic stone fort. This is the first discovery in Switzerland of Celtic military constructions.

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The President of the superior court of justice of the canton of Berne, M. Walter Gressly, is retiring from his post on the 31st of December; he was appointed to this office in 1931.

* * *

M. W. Gassmann, senior partner of the Printing Works, W. & Ch. Gassmann in Biel, has died at Montreux. The deceased was the Publisher of the following publications: "Journal du Jura"; "Bieler Tagblatt" and "See-länder Bote."

* * *

M. Walter Kraft, Director of the "Eidgenössischen Amt für Geistiges Eigentum" has retired from his post, which he has held since 1921. Director Kraft represented our country on several International Conferences.

* * *

VAUD.

National Councillor Gloor, since 1925 a member of the Grand Council (Socialist) has resigned.

SOLOTHURN.

Dr. Adolf Lechner, "Staatschreiber" of the canton of Solothurn for the last 25 years is resigning his post at the end of this year for reasons of health.

* * *

Dr. Robert Schöpfer was the successful candidate at the By-election which took place for a seat in the States Council, he received 16,365 votes, his opponents J. Schmid (Socialist) polled 10,380 votes and Redaktor Walliser (Cons.) 5,791 votes.

ST. GALLEN.

M. Otto Weber of St. Gall, a former National Councillor and member of the Cantonal Government has left the Democratic Party.

FOOTBALL.

INTERNATIONAL.

3rd November, 1935.

SWITZERLAND2 NORWAY0

The third encounter with Norway levelled the account, each country now having a win, a draw and a defeat to its credit. It was not much of a game in Zurich and after a goalless first half the Reds woke up sufficiently to score twice and secure the spoils. Against Norway's rather weak opposition, our team showed no life, no joie-de-vivre, no cohesion and no effective shooting power, all of which augurs ill for next Sunday's encounter in Budapest.

10th November, 1935.

HUNGARY6 SWITZERLAND1

The pessimistic views that prevailed after the disappointing display against Norway proved only too true. Just before 6 o'clock on Sunday I tuned in on Beromünster and found a neat and clear "reportage" of the match in Budapest in progress. Fifteen minutes to go, the score 4:0; I had no doubt which way! At that moment, Trello scored, 4:1 and even the dullest knew then which way. It seemed easy for the perhaps angry and hungry Hungarians to beat Schéchey in twice more, the sixth just on time and poor Switzerland left the field, tail well between their legs. The game counted for the "Europa Cup" where, as usual, we occupy ingloriously the last place. I am afraid we are as yet no match for Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia nor Hungary, only a "gate."

M.G.