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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

M. MINGER HONOURED.

M. Minger, the newly elected President of the Swiss Confederation, received a hearty reception from the population of Schüpfen and Fraubrunnen at a Banquet, which was held in his honour at the "Bären" in Schüpfen.

Amongst the speakers, who congratulated the President on reaching the highest office, which the Confederation can bestow on one of its citizens, were: Dr. Stähli, "Gemeindepräsident"; National Councillor Gnägi, M. Stähli, member of the cantonal government and M. Hofer (Aarberg).

M. Minger who was greatly moved, thanked the population of his native town for the spontaneous reception accorded to him. He mentioned that one of his first concerns would be the safeguarding of Switzerland's independence. "I hope," he said "you do not expect any wonders from me, but you can expect, that I shall do my duty, regardless of party interests."

Federal Councillor Pilet, the outgoing President had sent the following telegram:

“Gestatten Sie mir, dass ich mich der Freude der Einwohnerschaft von Schüpfen anschliesse, die Sie als treuen Führer und Freund feiert, den zur höchsten Amtswürde aufgestiegenen echten Sohn des Landes, des währschaften, schönen Bernbietes. Empfangen Sie meine herzlichsten Wünsche, dass es Ihnen vergönnt sein möge, die schwere Aufgabe zur Ehre und Würde unseres lieben Vaterlandes zu erfüllen.”

NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation has received on New Year's day, representatives of the Bernese cantonal government, as well as the heads of the town authorities. Later on the Diplomatic Corps was received.

SECOND NATIONAL PARK FOR SWITZERLAND.

It is hoped that, as a result of negotiations now going on between the Government of the Valais Canton and the communes and private landowners, Switzerland will be given by next year a second national park.

Last year, thanks to the efforts of the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature, the Aletsch Forest, on the left bank of the Aletsch Glacier, was purchased and transformed into a reserve in which hunting, cattle-grazing, wood-cutting, and plant collecting are prohibited. The Aletsch Forest was thus saved and the existence of its centuries-old pines assured.

In the summer, at the league's suggestion, the Valais Cantonal Government created a reserve on the southern flanks of the Bernese Alps, extending from the southern entrance of the Loetschberg Tunnel to the Finsteraarhorn and Aletsch Forest, about 25 miles long and eight miles wide. It includes several high peaks, such as the Bietschhorn and Aletschhorn, as well as the Aletsch and Fiesch glaciers, thus forming a territory where game will multiply undisturbed. Recently also the Cantonal Government of Berne approved the creation by the Oberhasli Electric Power Company of another reserve of 45 square miles, including the mountains and glaciers extending from the Finsteraarhorn and Lauteraarhorn to the Unterar glacier, and from there to the peaks situated on the eastern side of the Grimsel Pass. In the same region, farther north there is also a reserve extending from the Faulbahn — near the Lake of Brienz — to the Urbach Valley, and including the Wetterhorn and Engelhörner.

These three reserves are so near each other that it has been suggested that they should be united in one single reserve, which would be bigger than the National Park in the Engadine and more central.

SWISS PATRON SAINT'S RELICS TRANSLATED.

In the presence of the Bishop of Chur, the civil authorities of several Cantons and a great number of people, the mortal remains of Niklaus von der Flie — Switzerland's national hero — have been solemnly transferred into a new shrine in the parish church at Sachseln (Canton of Unterwalden).

On this occasion, M. Philipp Etter, one of the two Catholic members of the Swiss Federal Government, speaking on its behalf, recalled Niklaus' life and everlasting merits and set him as an example to the present generation.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SKI TEAMS BEATEN.

The combined Oxford and Cambridge University ski teams have been beaten by the Klosters Ski Club in a straight race and Slalom combined, by 99.72 per cent. to 97.66 per cent. There were eight competitors on each side, seven in each team counting. The Universities won the Slalom with 100 per cent. to 99.45 per cent., despite the fact that J. Jegen, of Klosters, had the best time with 36.6 seconds. Klosters won the straight race with 100 per cent. to 95.32 per cent. They supplied the first man in C. Guler, with a time of 8 min. 25 secs. Conditions were very bad, and the University skiers were further handicapped by a lack of knowledge of the country.

SWISS EXPORTS TO GERMANY.

An official statement issued by the Swiss Government is largely inspired by the uneasiness expressed by certain countries, particularly Czechoslovakia, at the considerable exports to Germany from Switzerland of scrap material which can be utilised in the manufacture of explosives.

Trade relations between Germany and Switzerland are regulated by a compensation agreement which fixed quotas for Swiss exports to Germany.

The communiqué draws attention to the heavy exports of certain scrap material which, in November, were seven times as great as in October, and reminds exporters that these excessive totals are not covered by the compensation agreement.

SWISS-PORTUGUESE TRADE.

An amendment has been made to the Swiss-Portuguese trade agreement of 1905, under which Portugal grants certain facilities to the Swiss pharmaceutical industry. In return, Switzerland agrees to protect registered trade marks of Portuguese wines.

"PROTOCOLS OF ZION" TRIAL POSTPONED.

The Berne "Protocols" trial, which was to have been resumed this week, has been postponed till January 15th, at the request of Lieutenant-Colonel Fleischhauer, of Erfurt, who was nominated by the defendants as their expert in order to support the contention that the "Protocols" are genuine. Herr Fleischhauer appeared before the Court to ask that the handing over of his expert opinion be postponed until February 15th, but the President, Judge Meyer, agreed to an extension of one month only. This announcement comes as a surprise, and it is believed that the Nazi Government does not wish the result of the trial to be known before the Saar plebiscite.

Following the recent events in Zürich, the Zürich Police Director has expressed strong condemnation of the anti-Jewish incitement. It was

disgraceful, he declared, that seventy years after the Jews had been granted the same rights as the Christians in Switzerland, there was still anti-Semitism in this country. "There is no 'Jewish question' in the Canton of Zürich," he stated. "Conditions will not become any better if the cry of *Juda verrecke*, this import from Berlin, is raised in the streets."

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The "Zürcher Volkszeitung" will not any more appear after the 1st of this month.

* * *

From Pfäffikon comes the news of the death of M. Friedrich Flachsmaier, "Statthalter" of the District of Pfäffikon at the age of 70. The deceased was for 12 years a member of the "Kantonsrat."

* * *

An action has been started at the District Court at Zurich against M. Steiger, formerly General Manager of the "Banque Populaire Suisse," the plaintiffs are seeking to recover a sum of 4 million francs.

BERNE.

M. A. Aellig, for many years Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Berne has retired from his post.

BASLE.

Dr. Ferdinand Holzach, rector of the "Kabnepriam und Sekundarschule Basel" has retired from his post, he was connected with this institution for over 40 years.

GENEVA.

The composer, Joseph Lauber, Professor at the conservatoire in Geneva has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. M. Lauber was at one time conductor at the Opera House in Geneva.

* * *

The Swiss Banks have refused to advance any further sums to the Cantonal Government. They have declared their lack of confidence in the Socialist Government, and Geneva is now in a serious plight. The State Treasury is so low that the salaries of Civil servants cannot be paid much longer in full.

ST. GALLEN.

A policeman was shot dead at St. Gall when he tried to arrest a mechanic named J. Baumgartner from Sarnach, who threatened to shoot his landlord. The murderer was then killed by another policeman who came to the aid of his colleague.

* * *

M. Jakob Birrell, late National Councillor, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary; he was a member of Parliament from 1922-1931.

GRISONI.

M. Andreas Laely, States Councillor has informed the Liberal Party Office, that he wishes to vacate his seat in Parliament on the 1st of June. M. Laely has been a member of the Federal Chamber for over 20 years, he presided over the States Council in 1932/33.

VAUD.

The death occurred at Pont-Farbel near Gland of Colonel Jean Yersin at the age of 71. M. Yersin was formerly Maire of Prangins, and from 1901-1912 he was a member of the Grand Council, he entered Parliament (National Council) in 1914, he vacated his seat 5 years later. The deceased reached the rank of Colonel of Artillery in the army. M. Yersin was for many years a member of the "Société Hippique du Léman" over which he presided from 1915-1925.

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