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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Motta, Chief of the Political Department have received the newly appointed British Minister, Sir George Warner, in special audience on the occasion of his presenting his letters of credence.

SWISS CLAIMS FOR WAR DAMAGES.

The question of Swiss claims against the British, German, and Italian Governments for damages suffered by their nationals during the War came before the League Council last week.

The outstanding claims against the United Kingdom, so far as is known, amount to £12,000, the two largest being for damage to property in the Cameroons. The British Government, which adopted as a rule of settlement the granting to Swiss nationals of the same treatment as would be given to a British subject, dismissed these claims on the ground that there is no valid proof of British liability. Last week the Argentine representative, Señor Cantilio, who is *rapporteur*, presented a report rejecting the Swiss suggestion that the League Council should obtain an advisory opinion from the Permanent Court of International Justice.

M. Motta, the Swiss delegate, spoke in defence of the Swiss claim. Mr. Eden replied by stating that the British attitude—which was a friendly one to the Swiss Republic—remained unchanged.

The debate was adjourned on the request of the Danish delegate, who suggested that the Finnish claims against Great Britain should first be settled.

BASLE BANK PRESIDENT.

The announcement that Mr. Leon Fraser, the American President of the Bank for International Settlements, is going to give up his post in May has caused great surprise and the news has been received with general regret.

"I have served the Bank for International Settlements ever since its foundation five years ago," Mr. Fraser said, "and I am rather tired of staying away from my home in America so long. That is my only reason for making up my mind to go back to the United States."

Mr. Fraser will accordingly not stand for re-election at the next general meeting of the bank, but until then he will carry out all his duties as President.

SWISS BANKS DIVIDEND.

The following dividends have just been declared: Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, 3.142 per cent. (1933: 4%); Allgemeine Aargauische Ersparniskasse, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Bank in Menziken, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Hülfkasse Grosswangen Bank, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Bank in Zug, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Volksbank Emmentaler, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Spar & Hülfkasse Madretsch, 8 per cent. and 6 per cent. (1933: 8% and 6%); Gewerbekasse Baden, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Bank in Langnau, 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); St. Gallische Hypothekarkasse, 4½ per cent. (1933: 4½%); Hypothekar Bank Lenzburg, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Gewerbekasse Bern, 8½ per cent. (1933: 8½%).

THE GOSSAGE TROPHY.

The Gossage Trophy, which is the most important curling event in the Engadine, drew an entry of 13 teams. Every curling club in the Engadine is entitled to enter up to three teams. The trophy was originally presented by the late Colonel Gossage, himself an excellent curler and a member of the St. Moritz Curling Club.

The weather was not very good, play having to be stopped in the second round on account of snow, and the semi-finals suffering from a bitter north wind which blew snow off the surrounding banks across the rinks, making necessary the incessant use of a sweeper. The final was decided between the St. Moritz I. team (that to represent St. Moritz in the Jackson Cup at Engelberg) and the Junior St. Moritz C. C. No. II team, and resulted in a win for St. Moritz I. by 13 stones to 10.

INTERNATIONAL GLIDING CONTEST.

An International Gliding Contest, at which it is hoped, champion gliders from all parts of the world will be present, will be held on the Jungfraujoch, above some famous Swiss glaciers, from September 4th to 18th next.

SKIS WITH ROCKETS ATTACHED.

Moonlight ski parties have been the fashion at St. Moritz.

The "Three S" Club organised a ski jumping exhibition on the Keiller leap, some twenty enthusiasts braving the jumping hill.

Colin Wyatt, former captain of Cambridge University, and Percy Legard, of the Guards, went down with small rockets fastened to the end of their skis.

Several Swiss Jumpers leaped with lighted torches in their hands.

The snow hill was lit up with torches.

FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS OF EUROPE.

The stage is set at St. Moritz for the European Championships, which may well prove to be the most momentous skating events since the defeat of Gillis Grafström by Karl Schafer at Lake Placid in 1932. One thing is certain—rarely will have the reigning champions been assailed by such an array of challengers. It should be good for skating that the competitions are being held in Switzerland, a country so international in sport, and in St. Moritz, the cosmopolitan metropolis of winter sport.

On present form four skaters who stand out in the Men's Championship well ahead of the others are Schafer (Vienna), Baier (Berlin), Dunn (London), and Nikkanen (Helsingfors). The first figure to be skated is the Outside Rocker, a severe test at the cold-blooded, crack-of-dawn hour of 9 o'clock at 6,000ft., and the man who puts down a real championship figure here will place himself in a strong position.

In the ladies' event Mlle. Sonja Henie, unique in her generation as a skater and athlete, stands on her pedestal a target for all. Four competitors who are crowding to challenge her supremacy are Miss C. Colledge and Miss M. Phillips (London), Fräulein L. Landbeck (Vienna), and Fräulein M. Herber (Berlin). Weather conditions have little effect on Mlle. Henie, Fräulein Landbeck, or Miss Colledge, the latter being so strong, so fit, and so perfectly trained that if anything she rather revels when "up against it." Certain it is that Mlle. Henie will have to be at her very best to beat this young English girl, who is not only a magnificent school skater but is capable of performing at terrific speed a four minutes' free programme so full of difficulties and intricate movements that any slight lack in finesse, on account of extreme youth, is more than compensated for.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE DE BALE.

The recent fall in the price of the shares of the Banque Commerciale de Bâle (Basler Handelsbank) from a level of about Frs.300 at the end of last week to their present of Frs.188 (as low a figure as Frs.160 was at one time quoted) has, not unnaturally, given cause for comment. It is sufficiently explained, nevertheless, by the bank's statement that, following the reduction of the Ordinary capital from Frs.100 millions to Frs.75

millions last year, and owing to the repurchase and cancellation of shares as decided by the shareholders in general meeting, it had been obliged to support the price of its shares in the market to the extent of Frs.5,250,000 shares nominal and that this has become a charge on the special reserves of Frs.17,500,000.

The bank further announces that it has ceased to support the market and will no longer function as buyers. It was to this latter statement that the immediate weakness of the market was due, coupled with the announcement that in principle the directors were in favour of devoting any profits achieved in respect of 1934 to reconstitute the reserves.

SWISS BANK IN TROUBLE.

Great surprise has been caused by the announcement that the "Bank in Burgdorf," at Burgdorf, has applied for a moratorium.

The Bank states that 5,400,000f. has been withdrawn by depositors during the past eighteen months, and in these circumstances, business could not be carried on.

Every possible step will be taken to safeguard the interests of creditors, and it is expected that they will sustain losses through the step now taken.

The Cantonal Bank of Berne is prepared to advance 50 per cent. to creditors of the "Bank in Burgdorf."

The news follows a sudden slump in home Bank shares during the week.

WINTER SPORTS JUBILEE.

Few of those now enjoying the winter sports season in Switzerland realise that it marks an interesting jubilee. It is fifty years since Addison Symonds presented his challenge cup and the Grand National toboggan race was established by the English colony at St. Moritz.

Seven years earlier the pleasures of tobogganing in Switzerland had been revealed to English people by a small party that stayed primarily to skate at Davos Platz.

SWITZERLAND — TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPORTS.

The textile machinery export figures for November again show a great improvement under the heading of spinning and twisting machines (viz. of some 285,000 frs.) as compared with the same month of November, 1933. Chief purchasers were Germany (133,000 frs.), Czechoslovakia (125,000 frs.), and U.S.A. (105,500 frs.). Exports of looms, however, declined by 33 per cent. (219,000 frs.) and of "other weaving machinery" by a little more than 33 per cent. (166,000 frs.). The fall in the case of looms is attributed to the export of a considerable number of second-hand machines (e.g. to Yugoslavia 80,500 kgs. at an average value of 125 frs. per 100 kgs.) Germany's purchases of "other weaving machines" were more than 50 per cent. of the total (326,872 frs.). Exports of knitting machines increased by 39,000 frs. to 454,931 frs. (Italy 163,800 frs., France 97,300 frs., and Great Britain 80,500 frs.). Textile machinery exports as a whole, however, were lower at 1,872,021 frs. as compared with 1,933,548 frs.

GIANT EAGLE CAPTURED ALIVE.

An enormous eagle, with a wing span of more than six and a half feet has been caught alive near Brigue.

The bird became entangled in some telephone wires, and in its struggles to release itself it was so badly hurt that it fell to the ground and was easily captured.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. Kunz, a member of the tribunal in Zurich has been appointed a member of the Municipal Council at Zurich.

* * *

Dr. O. Wettstein, for twenty-one years member of the Cantonal Government has resigned from his post for reasons of health. Dr. Wettstein is 69 years of age.

BERNE.

M. F. Häfiger, Sub-Manager of the "Kantonal Bank," has been appointed Manager of the "Gewerbe Kasse" in Berne, in succession to M. Hürzeler, who recently died.

* * *

The late Federal Judge, Dr. Leo Weber has left two-thirds of his fortune to the clinic "Aller-

CITY SWISS CLUB.
PLEASE RESERVE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1935
for the
DINNER AND DANCE
at the
MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

heiligenberg" (Ct. Solothurn), and to the "Inselspital" in Berne.

From Berne comes the news of the death of Colonel Johann Bossart, a member of the Federal Instruction Corps, at the age of 55.

The deceased was born at Buchs (Ct. Aargau), and entered the instruction service (cavalry) in 1904. Lately he held the command of the 3rd cavalry brigade. During the Frontier occupation he acted as a staff officer of the 1st Army-Corps. Colonel Bossart was one of the most efficient cavalry officer in the Swiss Army.

ZUG

A motor car driven by the 35 year old Karl Huber from Lucerne met with a bad skid on the road between Arth and Küssnacht and was thrown into the Lake of Zug. The driver, and his passenger, a Miss Ehrler from Küssnacht, were drowned.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of M. Lucien Désert, Manager of the Banque Populaire Suisse at Geneva, at the age of 53.

Dr. Askenazy, since 1905, Professor of pathology at the University of Geneva, has been made a honorary citizen of the town of Geneva.

Colonel Fonjallaz, who has been accused of espionage has started an action against M. L. Nicole, head of the Geneva Government, for defamation of character, he claims damages amounting to 50,000 frs.

Dr. George Werner, Professor of Law at the University of Geneva, has died at the age of 56. Professor Werner was Vice-President of the Committee of the International Red Cross.

AARAU.

Dr. Othmar Häupl, principal medical officer at the municipal hospital at Baden, has been appointed surgeon-in-chief of the cantonal hospital at Aarau, in succession to Dr. E. Bircher, who recently retired from this post.

ST. GALLEN.

The Commercial University at St. Gallen has celebrated the 35th Anniversary since its Foundation.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

A fire which broke out at the Parkett-Pabrik at Oberwiesen-Schleitheim completely destroyed the works; the damage caused is estimated to exceed 250,000 frs.

GRISONS.

M. J. Huonder, head of the cantonal government has died suddenly at Samaden. M. Huonder was in the company of a party visiting the Julier Pass, when he was suddenly taken ill, he was taken to the hospital at Samaden, where he died. M. Huonder was born in 1878 at Rabius, he studied forest-economy at the University of Zurich and was for many years on various boards of Woods and Forests. He entered the cantonal government in 1927, and three years later represented his canton in Parliament. (States Council).

VAUD.

Seven houses were destroyed by fire at Fey near Echallens, the damage caused is considerable.

M. Ch. A. Favrod-Coune

has succeeded to the seat in Parliament, which has become vacant through the death of M. J. de Muralt. The new member of Parliament was born in 1877, and after having concluded his studies established himself as a notary at Château-d'Oex; since 1922 M. Favrod occupied the post of President of the community of Château-d'Oex; in 1925 he was elected a member of the Grand Council.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1935

at the

Trocadero Restaurant
Piccadilly Circus, W.I.

In the chair : M. C. R. PARAVICINI, Swiss Minister.

RECEPTION
at 6.30 p.m.

DINNER
at 7 p.m.

DANCING
8.45 p.m. till midnight

TICKETS at 12.6 can be obtained at Swiss House, 31-35, Fitzroy Square, W.I. (Tel. Museum 0633), City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.3. (Tel. Clerkenwell 0555).

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON GROUP OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

January the 16th, 1935.

It is again my privilege to address to you from the chair a short survey of the activities of our Group during the past year. I feel almost tempted to repeat the introductory remarks to my address of 1934, as they describe very correctly the pace and quality of our progress in the past year. Again we have to record a shrinkage in our membership and the causes are again the same, apart from removal by death. The frontiers are still closed to immigration on the one hand, while on the other the representation deprived us of several members of many years' standing. There were three admissions, and the membership stands to-day at 125 as against 133 a year ago. We especially deplore the loss by death of Mr. Hermann Senn, O.B.E., the famous expert and writer on foods and cooking.

I have previously spoken of the extraordinary and touching trust of so many of our members in their President and Council by allowing them to do all the work without participation; this year I look upon it as a positive compliment in view of the fact that the members have paid their subscriptions with such laudable promptitude that, at the end of the period under review, not one single penny is outstanding. At this point I am again tempted to repeat last year's remark, that, if they only knew how interesting and stimulating our monthly meetings with their discussions, reviews, lectures and reports have become, they would appreciate the loss they incur by staying away.

The Council of the Group has held nine monthly meetings at Swiss House in the course of the year, and these were attended with great regularity by the Council members. Apart from the time taken up by administrative matters the following causeries and discussions were produced at these meetings:—

February 14th, Dr. H. W. Egli,
Political influences on Swiss Groups abroad.

March 21st, Dr. H. W. Egli,
Swiss democracy and Swiss colonies.

May 16th, Dr. Eric Kessler,
Recent political developments in Switzerland.

June 27th, Mr. M. Lerian,
The Union Helvétia and its Members.

July 12th, Discussion,
Double Nationality, and Direct Representation of Swiss Abroad.

November 21st, Dr. H. W. Egli,
Political Review.

December 19th, Discussion,
Changes in policy for 1935.

In accordance with the accepted custom, the Group has last year again presented two film-shows to the Swiss Colony in London. On February 24th, the "Suchard" film, graciously placed at our disposal by the famous firm of chocolate makers, filled the King George's Hall twice in the afternoon. The November performance was of a different character, when the distinguished writer on the Alps, Mr. Charles Gos of Geneva, entertained us with a magnificent lecture on "La conquête des montagnes ou Comment la montagne conquit l'homme." The lecturer showed and commented on a large number of lantern slides, developing his subject from the point of view of the historian, the artist and the alpinist. The lecture was of a very high order and attracted a number of the great British alpinists of the day.

There were a number of other functions in the colony in which the Group usefully collaborated during the year and in which it was your President's privilege to be personally and actively engaged. Owing to the absence on sick leave of our valued friend and member the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme, I was offered and accepted the direction of the Fête Suisse at Central Hall in June; as your President and Representative of the Swiss in Great Britain, I took part at the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger in Fribourg on August 1st, and in September I had the pleasure of assisting actively in the organisation and execution of the Jubilee festivities in honour of the Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. In accordance with long standing custom, the Group participated in the Swiss Sports at Herne Hill in May, when our three representatives assisted in general administrative duties.

I am happy to state that our relations with the Minister, the Legation and our sister Societies in London continue to be of the most cordial character. Our sincere thanks are due to the Minister and we express them here with deep

satisfaction for his ever ready assistance and collaboration in our undertakings and for his evident appreciation of our efforts. Our thanks also go to his staff at the Legation. During the year, we have cultivated a most intimate and constant intercourse with the S.S.E. in Berne, and I had the pleasure of paying two visits to the Secretariat, the direction of which is now divided between Mme. A. Briod (French) and Mr. Schurch (German). On these visits to Switzerland I gained new inspiration and courage by the contact with our great friend and preceptor Prof. A. Latt in Zurich. Further I would express the thanks of the Group to Mr. Stauffer and the "Swiss Observer;" to Mme. C. Müller for her thoughtful and obliging secretarial assistance and to one of our council members, Dr. H. W. Egli for his eminently practical and forceful infusion of new thought and direction in our policy. We are also indebted to a number of associations and institutions, both here and on the Continent, for their publications and printed matter sent to us.

We may again look back upon last year's work with a sense of satisfaction that outside influences, such as the pressure of economic circumstances, political restrictions, etc., have been unable to affect our activity fundamentally. We continue to exist; we go forward in an even stride and, as one of the earliest units of a movement which now counts well over 200 Groups abroad, certain special obligations are inseparable from our individuality. We are looked upon by the newer Groups as a model and it behoves us, therefore, to be a real example of steadfastness in our principles, the greatest of which is *Service* in the cause of *True Patriotism*. The courage of our convictions is the test of our existence for the simple reason that, if a thing be good in itself, it must win through. If we are but a small nucleus of former glory, and the spirit be not lost, it might be more difficult for us to hold that jewel in safe keeping, but it is a greater achievement. In this belief we shall carry on and look to the future of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique with calm assurance.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE.

(London Group).

Instead of the monthly meeting for February, the London Group will be giving a reception to Mme. Alice Briod, French speaking Secretary of the Secretariat des Suisses à l'Etranger in Berne, on her first visit to England, at the "Foyer Suisse," Upper Bedford Place, on Friday the 15th February at 7 o'clock.

A modest supper will be laid in the large Hall at 7.30, at the cost of 2/6 per head inclusive of tips. Wines may be obtained at the table.

It is hoped that the Minister may take the chair and that the presidents of the sister societies in London will be present as guests. Ladies are specially welcome.

Early application for tickets will be necessary as the Hall accommodates about 60 persons, and they may be obtained from the office of the "Swiss Observer" and from the hon. treasurer of the Group, Mr. A. F. Suter, 133, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

YODELLERS AT THE LEGATION.

Madame Paravicini gave a party on Thursday, January 17th, between 6 and 7 o'clock p.m., at which Mr. and Mrs. Frey-Bernardsgrüter entertained the numerous guests.

The yodellers, who wore their picturesque national costumes, were heartily applauded after each turn.

Among the guests who assembled in the drawing room, were :

Princess Helena Victoria and Princess Marie Louise, Countess of Bradford, Lady Joan Bridge-man, Lady Mildred Fitzgerald, the Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Hay, the Hon. Edward Bigham with Lady Katherine, the Hon. Mrs. Francis Curzon, Mrs. Baldwin, the Hon. Mrs. Edward Stonor, Sir Horace and Lady Rumbold, and Sir Odo and Lady Russell, — two former Ministers at Berne — Mr. Edward Knoblock, Lady Guernsey, the Earl of Aylesford. M. and Mme. de Jenner, M. de Bourg, M. Rüfenacht.

Both the English and Swiss Press were invited.

After the concert, sherry and delicious hot sausage and savories were served.