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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

ULRICO HOEPLI +.

The Swiss Colony at Milan and our country has lost one of its most illustrious sons, by the death of Ulrico Hoepli, which occurred at Milan last week at the age of 88.

The deceased was for more than 60 years in the Publishing profession, and his firm had an international reputation. Only recently, the town of Milan conferred on him their honorary citizenship. Although Mr. Hoepli spent the greatest part of his life in Italy, he remained faithful to his native land; he was born in 1847 in Tuttwil (Ct. Thurgau) and when 14 years of age he entered a publishing firm at Zurich, later on he took up positions at Breslau, Leipzig, Vienna and Trieste. In 1870 he settled down at Milan, where he acquired the publishing firm of Laengner. Under his management, he built up a wonderful business, and the publications reached an average of 120-140 books every year. The Italian government conferred on him the title of *commendatore* in recognition of his great services. As early as 1901, the University of Zurich made him a *doctor honoris causa*, and manifold were the honours bestowed on him by different international bodies of learning.

As soon as the death of U. Hoepli became known at Rome, Signor Mussolini instructed the Mayor of Milan to express to the members of his family the condolences of the Italian Government. The Pope also sent a telegram regretting the passing away of "his dear friend." M. Haeberlin, late Federal Councillor, has represented the Swiss government at the Funeral, and M. Motta has sent a telegram to the family of the deceased, deplored the death of a "dear old friend."

### IMPORT AND EXPORT FIGURES IN 1934.

The following import and export figures are published in Switzerland:

	Import from (in millions)	Export to (in millions)		
Germany	388.5	460.7	182.5	138.8
Austria	35.9	35.8	23.6	22.8
France	230.4	243.7	121.5	142.3
Italy	116.0	133.8	76.1	80.1
Belgium	50.8	63.5	23.2	25.0
Holland	38.6	45.1	26.4	31.5
England	90.9	88.7	83.6	87.6
Spain	31.0	31.2	21.4	20.8
Denmark	9.9	6.8	9.3	9.6
Norway	6.0	4.0	4.2	4.2
Sweden	12.4	9.8	13.2	13.0
Poland	15.0	15.6	12.6	14.0
Tscho-Slovakia	44.6	45.6	22.5	22.7
Hungary	22.7	24.0	7.3	5.9
Yugo-Slavia	13.4	11.8	7.4	5.9
Bulgaria	7.2	7.9	4.1	4.1
Rumania	26.1	21.8	16.4	10.9
Russia	10.4	14.0	5.8	8.1
Egypt	17.4	13.8	5.5	5.7
India	14.2	16.7	12.5	11.9
China	5.3	5.4	8.5	13.6
Japan	5.8	4.3	9.0	9.4
Canada	15.5	35.4	7.2	9.5
U. S. A.	75.9	90.3	47.5	57.6
Brazil	10.4	10.2	8.5	10.5
Argentine	53.5	48.8	12.9	13.5

Swiss economic conditions were decidedly unfavourable during the past year, although during the last quarter exports showed a rising tendency. Imports for the year totalled 1,434,000,000f., against 1,594,000,000f. in 1933, the drop being due to import quotas and higher Customs duties. Exports were 844,000,000f., against 852,000,000f. the previous year, the decrease being partly due to lower prices. A striking feature in exports is the recovery of the watch-making industry, which seemed doomed two years ago. Exports of watches

reached 109,000,000f., compared with 96,900,000f. in 1933 and 86,000,000f. in 1932. There was also a small rise in the export of machinery, which totalled 93,300,000f., against 90,000,000f. in 1933, and in the exports of cotton goods, which reached 105,000,000f., compared with 101,000,000f. the previous year. On the other hand, the export of silk goods declined, their total value being 91,600,000f., against 100,000,000f. in 1933.

The adverse trade balance was 590,000,000f., or about 41 per cent., while it was 582,000,000f. in 1933, or nearly 47 per cent. Part of the adverse balance will be made good by banking, insurance, and investment earnings, export of electric power, and the receipts of the hotel industry, which formerly yielded altogether between 800,000,000f. and 830,000,000f. But for 1934 the sum is likely to be about 30 per cent. below this.

Commercial exchanges with Great Britain were comparatively active. Imports from her, though reduced by import quotas, totalled 90,900,000f., against 88,700,000f. in 1933, while exports to her aggregated 83,600,000f., compared with 87,600,000f. the previous year. Great Britain holds the fourth place among exporters to Switzerland, after Germany (388,000,000f.), France (230,000,000f.), and Italy 116,000,000f.), while she is third among the principal buyers of Swiss goods, after Germany (182,500,000f.) and France (121,000,000f.). The British Empire altogether supplied 134,000,000f. of goods to Switzerland, while its purchases from Switzerland reached a value of 114,000,000f.

### DIPLOMATIC DINNER IN BERNE.

The Federal Council has offered a dinner to the Diplomatic Corps in Berne at the Bellvue-Palace. Several high officials of the Federal Administration also attended.

### SWISS BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have just been declared:—

Aktiengesellschaft Leu & Co., 3 per cent. (1933: 4%); Berner Handelsbank, 3 per cent. (1933: 4%); Basler Handelsbank, no dividend (1933: 4%); Banque Populaire Suisse, 2 per cent.; Schweizerische Bodencredit Anstalt, 6 per cent. (1933: 7%); Volksbank in Visp, 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); Hypothekar Bank Lenzburg, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Bank in Wädenswil, 4 per cent. (1933: 4%); Aargauische Hypothekenbank, Brugg: 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Kreditkasse Lyss: 5.24 per cent. (1933: 5.5%); Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank: 4½ per cent. (1933: 5%); Ersparniskasse Laufenburg, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5%); Solothurnische Leihkasse, 6 per cent. (1933: 7%); Volksbank Wollhusen, Malters, 4 per cent. (1933: 4.4%); Spar & Leihkasse Sempach, 4 per cent. (1933: 4.2%); Sparkasse Kriestetten, 6 per cent. (1933: 6.8%); Bank in Mezinen, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5.5%); Spar & Leihkasse Huttwil, 6 per cent. (1933: 7%); Bank in Langnau, 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank Basel, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Spar & Leihkasse Oberburg, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Freiamter Bank in Wohlen, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Ersparniskasse Aesch, 6 per cent. (1933: 5%); Bank in Langenthal, 4 per cent. (1933: 5%); Bank Eckel, Naher & Cie, Basel: 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); Ersparniskasse Brienz, 5.5 per cent. (1933: 5.5%); Gewerbe Bank Zurich, 6 per cent. (1933: 7%); Volksbank in Hochdorf, 4 per cent. (1933: 5%);

### BERNESE PRIVATE BANK IN DIFFICULTY.

The Private Bank, Wyttentbach and Co., in Berne has applied, and has been granted, a two months moratorium. A creditors' meeting has been arranged to take place on March the 1st in Berne.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1935

for the

### DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

### CURLING.

#### The Jackson Cup.

The Jackson Cup has returned to its spiritual home with the St. Moritz Curling Club, the oldest club in Switzerland, after six years. The competition was played for the first time at Engelberg, and began on January 21st in fine weather, which lasted throughout the competition. The ice was in good order on all three days, though the rinks were hardly broad enough in view of the very big curl which usually prevailed.

### FIGURE SKATING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.

Owing to the unprecedented number of entries it was found necessary to start the European Championships for men, ladies, and pairs a day earlier than was originally intended, and the authorities in St. Moritz, particularly the Stadium Company and the St. Moritz Skating Club, are to be congratulated on having got through the extra work entailed so successfully and on the excellent arrangements made for every one concerned.

The title was easily retained by Miss Sonja Henie of Norway, who also holds the world's championship. Miss Cecilia Colledge, the 14 year old London girl, was third in the European figure skating championship.

In the Pairs, which also were decided, the winners, Fräuleins M. Herber and Baier were dazzling in their brilliance. Never before have two skaters of such individual merit been seen together and the result was most striking. Fräuleins I. Papez and K. Zwack, a typical pair of the elegant Viennese school, skated charmingly and took second place. Mlle. L. Gallo and Mlle. R. Dillinger, of Hungary, not a very attractive pair, were third.

### ICE-HOCKEY WORLD TITLE.

Canada won the world's ice-hockey championship by defeating Switzerland by 4—2 in the final after a very hard and fast game.

In a match to decide the holder of the third and fourth places, England beat Czechoslovakia by 2—1. England thus securing the third place and Czechoslovakia the fourth.

As Sweden beat Austria by 3—1, Sweden secured the fifth place and Austria came sixth.

### BRITISH COMPANY RETIRING FROM SWITZERLAND.

It is stated from Basle that the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. has renounced the privilege of making further use of the concession granted to the company for the transaction of fire insurance business in Switzerland. All existing policies have been transferred to a Basle insurance company and the deposit of fr.100,000 deposited with the Swiss National Bank is being reclaimed.

### SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS STAFF.

At the end of 1934 the total salaries and wages staff of the Swiss Federal Railways numbered 29,818; this means a reduction of 1,005 men, or 3.26 per cent., compared with December 31, 1933. The present number of the railway staff is 25 per cent. lower than in 1930. This radical reduction was made possible by various rationalisation measures as well as by the introduction of the one-man service on electric locomotives.

### RADIO LICENSES.

The number of wireless licences in use at the end of 1934 was 355,000, an additional 55,000 having been taken out during the year.

### SWISS SOCIALISTS AND DEFENCE.

At a meeting of the Swiss Socialist Party at Lucerne the party decided by 362 votes against 294 to adopt with certain reservations a policy of "national defence."

### SWITZERLAND HAS MOST SUICIDES.

Twice as many people commit suicide in Switzerland as anywhere else in Europe.

The rate is 210-220 per million yearly. The average for Europe is ninety-seven per million.

Ireland's average of thirty-four is one of the lowest.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

A third resignation in the cantonal government has just been announced. M. Johannes Sigg, the socialist member of the government has informed the party leaders, that he wishes to be relieved of his post for reasons of health.

M. Sigg was born in 1874, he edited the "Volksrecht" from 1907-1915. From 1918-1929 he was an inspector of works. He entered the cantonal executive in 1929; he sat twice in Parliament (National Council).

\* \* \*

From Bühlach comes the news of the death, after a long illness, of M. Fritz Bopp, a former National Councillor, the deceased was Editor of the "Bühlach-Dielsdorfer Wochenzeitung" from 1898-1928. M. Bopp was a member of the "Kantonsrat" for 23 years. In 1915 he was sent to Parliament as the representative of the Peasant Party, he kept his seat until 1928.

\* \* \*

Dr. Rüegg, President of the Board of the "Zürcher Kantonalbank," has informed the Board that he wishes to be relieved of his office.

\* \* \*

Dr. Adolf Streuli, a member of the cantonal government has resigned from his post for reasons of health. This is the second resignation within a week from the cantonal executive. Dr. Streuli however will retain his seat in Parliament (States Council). Dr. Streuli was born in Horgen and studied law at the University of Zurich, he entered the cantonal government 1922 in succession to Dr. Gustave Keller.

\* \* \*

Dr. Oscar von Waldkirch has died at Zurich at the age of 73; he was for nearly 40 years in a leading position at the Federal Bank (Eidgenössische Bank). Dr. von Waldkirch was appointed General Manager in 1893 and in 1919 he was elected Chairman of the Board, two years ago he retired from his post for reasons of health. The deceased was a well-known personality in the Swiss Banking world.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. J. de Salis in Berne, Professor of French history at the Federal Technical University.

#### BERNE.

M. Bernard Niggli, a former Professor of Italian literature at the University of Berne, and a teacher of the Italian language at the "Städtische Gymnasium," in Berne for 40 years, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary.

\* \* \*

Dr. Fritz Ephraim, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Berne has died at the age of 59. Professor Ephraim was an authority on organic chemistry and enjoyed an international reputation.

#### GLARUS.

The death is reported from Niederurnen of M. Heinrich Jenny, who for eleven years, was a member of the cantonal government, at the age of 59. The deceased was for 25 years President of the community of Niederurnen, he retired from the cantonal government in 1933 for reasons of health.

#### ZUG.

The appeal which was launched some time ago for the victims of the inundation, which has taken place in the canton Zug, has resulted in an amount of over 150,000frs. being collected.

#### FRIBOURG.

On Saturday last the death occurred of States Councillor Dr. Emil Savoy at the age of 57. Dr. Savoy was born in 1877, he studied law at the

Universities of Fribourg, Louvain and Munich, and entered the cantonal government in 1913; seven years later he was sent to Parliament (States Council) as successor to M. Python. He presided over the States Council in 1927/28.

#### GENEVA.

Owing to a serious influenza epidemic which has broken out at Geneva the schools have been temporary closed.

#### \* \* \*

Dr. Jean Sarasin, son of the late Army-Corps commander Sarasin, has resigned from the Grand Council, his seat will be taken by Colonel of division Guillaume Favre.

#### AARAU.

Mr. Max Koenig, manager of the firm Frikart, A.G. ironmongers at Zofingen, which has recently gone into bankruptcy, has been arrested.

#### NEUCHATEL.

The population of the canton of Neuchâtel was numbering 119,854 inhabitants at the end of 1934 or 757 less than at the same period in 1933.

#### \* \* \*

How long may a lovers' kiss last?

A Swiss court at Neuchâtel has just been asked to decide this point.

The tribunal of Le Locle has dismissed a charge brought against a young man for kissing his sweetheart good-night in the street.

The gendarme who made the arrest did so, he said, because the kissing went on for a long time.

The young man concerned argued with the gendarme, whereupon the latter also charged him with interfering with a policeman in the execution of his duty.

But the sympathetic magistrate decided that interfering with courting couples was no duty of the police, and that, therefore, the young man was not guilty.

#### THÜRGAU.

Dr. Leutenegger, a member of the cantonal government for the last ten years has intimated that he wishes to retire from his post.

#### FOOTBALL.

27th, January, 1935.

SWITZERLAND A Int. Mixte : SWITZERLAND SWITZERLAND B ...1 SOUTH GERMANY 0

#### In Stuttgart:

GERMANY .....4 SWITZERLAND ....0

The 19th international match against Germany is played and lost, deservedly lost, without even a consolation goal. Germany has now 13 victories to their credit, the other matches resulting in 2 draws and 4 defeats. We have not scored a single goal against them for six years. The goal total to-day is 26:55 and if I add that at the end of 1924 it stood at 20:22 in favour of Germany, the thought forcibly occurs, what has come over Swiss Football during the last decade? I leave you to think it out for yourselves!

On paper one thought we had a good team doing duty, young and strong, yet nicely blended with some experienced players, such as Xam with his 58 caps in the forward line and Max Weiler and Minelli, 33 caps each, at back. But success was not to be, why, simply because we were not good enough. Odd as it may sound, our defence acquitted itself creditably, in spite of the four goals against them. The forwards, apart from Xam, were unable to hold the ball and failed miserably. The centrehalf persisted in playing his usual offensive game and presented the opposition with a clear way down the middle, whilst the wing halves hung back, concentrating on defence and leaving the forwards to their own devices.

58,000 spectators, a new record for Germany, witnessed the game. The teams were:

*Switzerland* : Bizzozero (Lugano); Minelli, Weiler I (Grasshoppers); Guinchard (Servette); Jaccard (Montreux); Lörtscher (Servette); Amado, Poretti (Lugano); Frigerio (Young Fellows) Xam (Grasshoppers), Jaech (Basel).

*Germany* : Buchloh; Stührek; Busch; Gramlich, Goldbrunner, Appel; Lehner, Stiffling, Conen, Rohweder, Kobierski.

*Referee* : Leclerc, France.

At half time the score stood at 2:0 and nothing else deserves to be reported in detail.

#### ICE-HOCKEY.

The Ice-Hockey world championship held in Davos was contested by 14 European national teams and by Canada. As expected it ended with the victory of the latter who beat us in the final : CANADA .....4 SWITZERLAND ....2

Switzerland thereby secured the European championship, last held by them in 1926. Thank God there is one game where we are in the fore-

front. England and Czechoslovakia are next in order. The semifinals resulted as follows:

Canada .....6 England .....0

Switzerland .....4 Czechoslovakia .....0

Both Beromünster and Sottern broadcast the prize distribution from the Hotel Bledere in Davos. It was very pleasing to hear the Canadian captain at the microphone paying a compliment to the Swiss team, "who had given them a really good and hard game in the final."

Our champion team was : Kuenzler; Badrutt, Hug; Torriani, H. and F. Cattini, (the famous so called "ni-Sturm," three valiant sons of the Grisons); Ch. Kessler, Müller, Pleisch. Both Cattini I and Hug had to stand down in the last match against Canada, owing to injuries, and were replaced by Schmidt and Kessler II. Hirtz was reserve keeper and played in some of the earlier rounds. They all deserve to have their names recorded.

Three cheers for the European Champions!

M.G.

#### LA LEÇON D'UN CONGRÈS.

A une soixantaine de voix de majorité sur quelque six cents, le congrès du parti socialiste a admis la nécessité de la défense nationale et, aussitôt après, sans craindre les contradicteurs, il a refusé la loi qui réorganise notre appareil militaire.

C'est du moins ce qui ressort péniblement de la motion de Lucerne, laquelle constitue d'ailleurs un vrai petit chef-d'œuvre de modération emberlificotée.

En a-t-il fallu des maux, des soins et des soucis, des contours et de l'euphémisme pour parvenir à la formule de la défense nationale, qui est une sorte de cri de désespoir et de résignation, et qui n'engage en fait le parti socialiste que de façon précaire et momentanée.

C'est beaucoup moins, en effet, la Suisse que la démocratie que le parti en question entend défendre par les armes s'il le faut, et les conditions qu'il met à cette extrémité sont telles qu'elles rendent à peu près illusoire le ralliement à la défense nationale.

Celle-ci ne saurait être acceptée qu'en bloc et l'on voit mal le parlement ou même le peuple trancher de sa légitimité selon les cas. Au surplus, et comme les mots le disent fort bien, c'est de défendre la nation qu'il s'agit et non point le régime.

Le congrès de Lucerne a retourné cette proposition et il a fait passer la démocratie avant le pays. Que cette démocratie cesse ici et là d'être favorable au socialisme et l'on peut être assuré qu'elle aussi sera abandonnée sans défense devant l'étranger par l'extrême-gauche.

Il a même fallu évoquer le spectre du fascisme pour emporter le vote des congressistes de Lucerne, et l'affaire fut acquise contre l'avoir des défigurés romands.

C'est que, tout naturellement, la Suisse allemande est mieux informée que la Suisse romande des choses du IIIme Reich et qu'elle craint davantage l'expansion hitlérienne. Cette crainte a fait admettre par les socialistes de la Suisse allemande la nécessité de se défendre, fait-ee avec des armes, et ils ont voté en fait autant au moins contre M. Hitler que pour la défense du pays.

Moins impressionnés que leurs camarades par le sort des ouvriers allemands et par celui des ouvriers autrichiens, les socialistes de la Suisse romande ont refusé de rien changer à leur programme farouchement antimilitariste, et ils admettent donc de ne point se défendre devant l'éventuelle invasion fasciste.

Les uns se sont montrés tout à fait intéressés, à Lucerne, les autres résolument illégitimes, et le certain est qu'il ne faudra point compter sur les socialistes pour emporter le vote des 23 et 24 février.

Même, chez les quelques socialistes de la Suisse allemande qui se sont ralliés, le désespoir dans l'âme, à la loi réorganisant et renforçant l'armée, plusieurs sont des chefs, des parlementaires, mais on peut penser que leurs troupes les suivront mal et se refuseront à une conversion aussi radicale pour entendre plutôt le communiste fidèlement attaché à l'antimilitarisme.

Quant à la Suisse romande, l'affaire est partout tranchée, et socialistes et communistes voteront en chœur contre la loi de réorganisation militaire.

Il faut donc se faire une raison, admettre en fait que les socialistes se dresseront quasiment tous contre la loi en question, et les patriotes doivent se coaliser et lutter en conséquence.

Rodo Mahert.

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at every meal - for Health!

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### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

#### ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1935

at the

Trocadero Restaurant  
Piccadilly Circus, W.1

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

RECEPTION ..... DINNER ..... DANCING .....  
at 6.30 p.m. ..... at 7 p.m. ..... 8.45 p.m. till midnight

TICKETS at 12/6 can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6963), City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.4. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595)