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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

RESULT OF THE FEDERAL "KRISENSTEUER."

It is reported from Bern that the result of the Federal "Krisensteuer" amounts to 85 million francs. It was expected that about 60 million francs would be collected. The Confederation will benefit by an amount of 51 million francs, whilst the cantons will receive the amount of 34 millions francs.

AN ANNIVERSARY.

On January 31st it was the 10th anniversary of the death of General Wille, a soldier and citizen who well deserves that his services should not be forgotten.

His life's work was dedicated to the Swiss Army, all his energy was concentrated on one aim, to make our Army an efficient and respected force, and during the world war he was the trusted and untiring leader of our Army. It is therefore not out of place, to remember on this anniversary, once again, the great services he has rendered to our country.

No one can claim a bigger share in the improvement and furtherance of our fighting force, he was its great educator and inspirator. With a steady hand and with an iron determination he, long before the great war broke out, delivered our force, from the fetters of old institutions and perceptions. He educated the soldier to discipline, and the officer to an independent and responsible leader. He demanded from everyone the maximum of his strength, and by his example succeeded in creating throughout the army a sense of duty, which stood in good stead during the long and tedious Frontier occupation.

The military organisation of 1907 was due solely to his merit, for many years he fought with a tenacious energy for this re-organisation, and in spite of considerable opposition, he stuck to his programme, which seven years later proved to be an undeniable success.

It is hoped that the example which our famous countryman has given us, during some of the darkest hours through which Switzerland has passed, might not be forgotten, and that our fighting forces are still imbued by the same spirit which has saved our country from a terrible disaster.

INCREASED MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The new President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Rudolf Minger, came into office at the New Year, and as he is the chief of the Military Department, some foreign newspapers insisted on the "particular significance" of that choice. It is true that during the present year military problems are to be in the foreground. The Government and Parliament last year decided to spend about 100 million francs on the increase and improvement of the armaments of the Army and Air Corps, and to devote another six millions to the erection of fortifications along the Rhine; and that programme is to be completed in 1935. It was also decided to prolong the period of instruction of recruits. All these are purely defensive measures, however, which were made necessary as Switzerland previously placed her hopes in the Disarmament Conference.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1934.

Last year 146 persons were killed in 101 accidents in the Swiss, French, Italian and Austrian Alps. This is the highest number recorded during the past 13 years. The second highest was recorded in 1931 (128 deaths); in 1933 the total was 112.

Of last year's victims 125 were men and 21 women. Five of the men were guides. In nine cases only were the parties accompanied by guides, and 18 victims were climbing alone. Thirty persons were killed in skiing accidents,

as against 17 in the previous year. Skiing accidents have largely increased in recent years not only because of the development of skiing but also because of the growing habit of making ski excursions in the higher regions and on the glaciers.

Forty-four of the accidents last year were due to falls on rocks, 14 to avalanches, and 11 to storms and exhaustion. Only one person died from a fall in a crevasse, thanks to the fact that last summer glaciers were abundantly covered with snow and therefore very safe. The terrible thunderstorm of September 9th alone caused the death of 21 climbers, nine of whom died from exhaustion. It should be added that 53 accidents out of 101 were either due to imprudence and lack of experience, or to unsatisfactory equipment.

SWITZERLAND WINS WORLD BOB RACE.

The World championship bob race at Igles (Austria) was won by Switzerland, with Czechoslovakia second and Italy third.

SWISS BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have just been declared:—

Swiss Bank Corporation, 4½ per cent. (1933: 6%); Gewerbebank Männedorf, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5%); Sparbank Tringen: 3 per cent. (1933: 4%); Spar and Leihkasse Frutigen, 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); Volksbank Siders A.G., 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); Caisse populaire et de Crédit, Lausanne, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Bank in Ragaz, 6 per cent. (1933: 6%); Leihkasse Neumünster Zurich, 7 per cent. (1933: 7%); Spar and Leihkasse, Zurich, 5½ per cent. (1933: 5½%); Hypothekar and Sparkasse Arau, 5 per cent. (1933: 5%); Bank in Buchs, 5½ per cent. (1933: 6%); Banque Populaire Sierre, 6 per cent. (1933: 6%).

SWISS CATHOLICS AND THE MEXICAN VICTIMS.

On the occasion of its annual meeting in the great hall of the Cercle de l'Esperance, under the chairmanship of Mgr. Besson, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, the Geneva Catholic Federation, representing 77,000 Catholics of the Canton expressed its lively brotherly sympathy with the Catholics of Mexico, deprived of their indefeasible right to liberty of conscience, and victims of odious persecution; condemned with indignation the iniquitous measures taken and the barbarous means employed by a sectarian government to uproot the faith of a country with long Catholic tradition; and prayed that the persecution might speedily cease, so that Mexico might enjoy anew the divine fruit of peace and charity.

SWITZERLAND - LONDON IN 3 HOURS.

On April 1st the daily aeroplane service Zurich-Basel-London will be resumed. Passengers leave Zurich at 8.55 a.m. after the arrival of connections from five other Swiss and some North-Italian airports. Leaving Basle at 9.35 a.m., London is reached at 12.35 p.m.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Hermann Schlatter, has been appointed, editor of the "Genossenschaftliches Volksblatt," in succession to M. Ulrich Meyer, whose retirement, after many years was reported recently. M. Schlatter has been an active administrator of the Consumers' Co-operative Society at Schaffhausen.

Three schoolboys of the "Winterthurer Kantonsschule" who had attempted to climb the "Käserugg" in spite of their teacher's warning, were overtaken by a snowstorm. Four search parties explored the mountain in vain, and there is no hope of finding the boys alive. Their names are: René Cochand, son of Director J. Cochand, Winterthur, Johann Kuhn, Hittnau and Fridolin Störi, Ober-Winterthur.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1935

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

The late M. Fritz Hämerli-Diggelmann has left an amount of 10,000 frs. for a holiday Fund of the town of Winterthur.

* * *

A new "Front" under the name of "Eidgenössische Soziale Volksbewegung" has been founded at Zürich, at its head is Dr. Beda Eigenmann, their official organ is called the "Eidgenössische Wacht."

BERNE.

Owing to an intensive influenza epidemic most of the schools in Berne have been closed.

* * *

The cashier of the "Ersparniskasse Steffisburg" was arrested for having embezzled funds of the bank and the "Krankenkasse Steffisburg" amounting to 50,000frs.

BASLE.

The death is reported from Lugano of Dr. Ludwig Bauer, who for the last twenty years has been a writer for the "National Zeitung," his articles enjoyed great popularity and his death leaves a great gap in the Journalistic profession.

* * *

M. D. Eberhard Vischer, Professor of Theology at the University of Basle has been made a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Warsaw.

GENEVA.

M. Charles Bally, Professor of philology at the University of Geneva has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Professor Bally is the author of many works on philological subjects. He has occupied his post for the last twenty years.

AARAU.

The circumstances which led to the bankruptcy of Messrs. Frikart, of Zofingen, the Swiss iron-traders, have caused considerable surprise in Swiss financial and commercial circles. Losses amounting to several million francs are involved.

The Chairman of the company accuses a former director of having embezzled Frs.1,200,000 (about £80,000 at current rates). The director in question is already under arrest.

Assets amount to Frs.1,660,000 (£110,000), and Liabilities are valued at Frs.3,720,000 (£248,000). There is thus a deficit of Frs.2,060,000 (£137,000), which does not include the share capital of Frs.1,000,000 (£66,000). In all, there are exactly 1,001 creditors.

The Cantonal public prosecutor is making a judicial inquiry into this affair. Should it prove worth while, the main creditors will try to carry on the company's business.

* * *

Brown Boveri and Co., the leading firm in the Swiss electro-technical industry, who suffered a loss during the 1933-34 business year of £400,000, recently issued a report stating that so few orders have been received lately that the volume of employment is only 25 per cent. of the normal and that there is no immediate prospect of the situation improving.

NEUCHATEL.

Mlle. Jeanne-Katherina Neipp, who celebrated her 100th birthday on December 1st, 1934, has died at Neuchâtel.

VAUD.

The express Berne-Genève which was stationary at Lausanne was run into by a local train coming from Saint-Maurice, the last carriage of the express was slightly damaged. Three passengers suffered from shock, but after receiving attention they were able to go home.

* * *

M. Henri-Louis Burdet, station-master at Trois-Villes, near Baumes, was run over by a train, he slipped on the snow when trying to avoid an oncoming engine. He was taken to the hospital at St. Croix, where he died, he leaves a widow and two children.

VALAIS.

Lieutenant César Bompard from Martigny, a member of the Swiss Flying Corps, was injured when he landed at la Blécherette, he came in touch with high tension wires.