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# Che Swiss Observer

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY

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# PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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# FEDERAL.

### SWISS BANKING ACT.

**SWISS BANKING ACT.** The so-called "Banking Act" became law in Switzerland on March 1st. It enables the Swiss National Bank and a special Banking Committee to keep an eye on all banks in Switzerland, so as to protect the public — that is, their savings. Switzerland has never known anything like this Banking Act before, banks being able to act with moneys entrusted to them as they thought right. It would be wrong to say that the new Bank-ing Act enables the National Bank and the Com-mittee to supervise the affairs of banks in every respect, for this was not intended. Banks can carry on their business as usual, but the Banking Act gives both bodies mentioned above sufficient powers to interfere in specific cases when found

powers to interfere in specific cases when found advisable.

advisable. Thus the Act contains a decree which regu-lates capital export. Accordingly, a bank must get in touch with the National Bank before it is allowed to place money abroad amounting to Frs. 10,000,000 and more. The National Bank can stop the transaction the transaction.

Special regulations deal with the administration of a bank and the liquidity of assets. The question as to how much has to be allocated to reserves out of profits is also dealt with in detail. reserves out of profits is also deart with in defail. From now on, banks with a balance-sheet sum of Fvs. 20,000,000 and more are compelled to issue balance-sheet and profit and loss account half-yearly, and banks with a balance-sheet sum totalling Fvs. 100,000,000 and more even quarterly.

totaling Frs.100,000,000 and more even quarterly. At the end of a trading year ,balance-sheet and profit and loss account covering the whole year, must be sent to the National Bank for inspection. Balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts have to be made up in the same fashion by all banks. By way of interest it is worth while men-tioning that assets have to be divided into 19 and Habilities into 17 separate items. Another new provision is that the accounts must be checked by revisers unconnected with the bank in question and accredited by the State, and not by any andiand accredited by the State, and not by any auditors as hitherto.

# FASCIST MILITIAS,

FASCIST MILITIAS. The Swiss Supreme Court has rejected an appeal of the various Fascist groups against a decree of the Cantonal Government of Zürich pro-hibiting the private militias organised like the German Storn Troops. The plaintiffs invoked the Swiss Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of association, but the Supreme Court is of the opinion that the Fascist military formations constitute a perman-ent danger to the safety of the State, and cannot have the protection of federal law. The Federal Government three months ago prohibited the wearing of political "shirts."

# SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION. The annual meeting of the Swiss Bank Cor-poration was held at Basle on March 1st, under the chairmanship of Dr. Max Stachelin. The report for 1994 was adopted, and it was decided to pay a dividend of 42 per cent. and to carry for ward Frs. 1,139,943. Mr Julius Bloch-Sulzberger, Dr. Max de Cérenville, Dr. Roger Dollfus, Dr. Félix Iselin, and Mr. Hippolytic Saurer were re-elected to the board for a further period of six years. Mr. Fritz Baumgartner, of St. Gall, and Mr. Mathias Ehinger, of Basle, were also elected to the board. At the subsequent board meeting, Dr. Max Stachelin was confirmed in the office of chairman, Mr. Armand Dreyfus was appointed first vice-chairman and Dr. Jacques Brodbeck second vice-chairman. second vice-chairman.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS NATIONAL BANK. The new President of the Swiss National Bank, Dr. G. Schaller, advocate in Lucerne, was born in 1866. For many years he took an active part in the political sphere of his native canton.

where he was a member of the Grand Council. (National Council). Dr. Schaller was for a number of years President of the National Bank Com mission where he rendered great services to the institution

M. Henri Bersier has been elected Vice-President, he was born in 1870 at Payerne. For a considerable time M. Bersier sat in the National Council, and he was for several years Professor of national science at the University of Lausanne. At the present time he is at the head of the can-tonal bank of the canton of Vaud.

# DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confedera-tion, and M. Motta, Chief of the Political Depart-ment have received the newly appointed Stamese Minister, M. Phya Rayawangsan, in special audi-ence on the occasion of his presenting his letters of credence.

### PASSES BLOCKED BY AVALANCHES.

PASSES BLOCKED BY AVALANCHES. Transport at St. Moritz has been temporarily disorganised by the heaviest snowfall since 1918. The railway lines are buried beneath six foot of snow, and many villages are completely cut off. All the mountain passes are blocked by ava-lanches, and gaugs of workmen with snow-ploughs are working feverishly to clear them.

# LOCAL.

**ZURICH.** An amount of 26,000frs. disappeared from an unlocked till at a Bank in Zurich. The police has not yet been able to trace the "intruder." BERNE.

The result of the "Schweizerische Geräte-meisterschaften" competition, which took place in Berne is as follows: 1st: Bach Walter (Zurich); 2nd: Schürmann Leo (Fribourg); 3rd: Pfister Otto (Berne); 4th: Eberle K. (Flums). \*

Colonel Johann Stuber, a partner in the firm Stuber and Co. A.G., timber merchants, has died at Schüpfen at the age of 65.

### LUCERNE.

Dr. Jakob Sigrist, member of the cantonal government has informed his party that he does not wish to stand as a candidate for the next election, he also resigns his seat in Parliament.

The Federal Music Festival has been fixed to take place in Lucerne, on July 27th-29th.

## BASLE

Mlle. Elisabeth Bernoulli, who has played a rôle in the "mouvement abstinent féminin see" has died in Basle at the age of 62. big suisse

M. A. C. Pettermand, for many years Pastor in Kleinhüningen has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

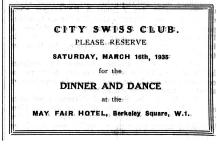
### GENEVA.

From Geneva comes the news of the death of M. Jules Mussard, a former President of the can-tonal government. M. Mussard, who had reached the age of 78, was a member of government of the canton of Geneva for 21 years.

### AARGAU,

AARGAU, A school-master in Laufen, C. Grieder, and his sweetheart, Tony Jöhry from Cazis near Thusis committed suicide by leaping from an aeroplane passing over Sissach. They both left letters addressed to their parents asking them for forgiveness for the sorrow which they were causing them. C. Grieder also left a letter ad-dressed to his former pupils asking them to transfer their affection to his successor. It is stated that a difference in the accounts

It is stated that a difference in the accounts of a Society of which Grieder was secretary was found, he was asked to give some information, which must have preved on his mind. The amount in question was, it is said, quite a small one, and



could have been settled by the amount of cash which was found on the body. Miss Jöhry was employed as attendant at a "Confiserie" in Basle

### The late M. Wilhelm Egloff-Stark from Baden

has left an amount of nearly 25,000 frs. to the town of Baden for charitable purposes. ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Eduard Naef has been appointed Director of the cantonal Asylum in Wil, in succession to Dr. Schiller who is retiring from his post. SOLOTHURN.

M. Mathias Studer in Egerkingen has cele-brated his 100th tor; bday anniversary.

### GRISONS.

Last Sunday the population of the canton of Grisons elected their two representatives to the States Council. (Ständerat). The two seats be-came vacant through the death of M. Huonder and the resignation of M. Laely. Dr. Lardelli (Democrat) and Dr. Willi (Cath. Cons.) have been clusted. M. Scherichter Correct District was elected a member of the cantonal government.

# VALAIS.

Colonel Wilh. von Kalbermatten has been appointed commandant of the town of Sitten in succession to Colonel Siedler. Colonel v. Kalber-matten previously held the command of a "Valaisans" regiment.

### VAUD.

The accounts for 1934 of the town of Lau-sanne close with a deficit of 1,582,411frs., a deficit of 2,721,056frs. was anticipated. TICINO.

M. Antigrini (conservative) has been elected President of the Grand Council, M. Arnoldo Bolla (liberal) and M. M. Zeli (socialist) have been nominated Vice-Presidents respectively.

## ZURICH IN 31 HOURS.

**ZURICH IN 34 HOURS.** A fleet of "flying hotels" is to operate a service, beginning on April 1st, which will bring Switzerland to within 34 hours to London. The service, operated by the "Swissair" ("Swissair Traffic Co. Ltd.), is to be run in conjunction with Imperial Airways, and with the existing British service, will provide a twice-daily schedule to and from Switzerland. The Swiss service will fly via Lifle and Basle to Zurich, while the British will Land at Paris and cut out Lille. The machines (Douglas DC2) have a cruising speed of 170 miles p.h. and are capable of 200 m.p.h., they are also fitted with robot pilots. They will have accommodation for 14 passengers and 1 pilot and wireless operator. The service will be in operation from the 1st of April until the 5th of October. Tickets for it, and for the ordinary Imperial Airways service, will be interchangeable. Imperial Airways will resume its London-Korich service on April 27th, starting from London in the morning. The machines will be of the Scylla class with a cruising speed of about 100 m.p.h.

m.p.h.

