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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

BASLE TO CROYDON IN 2hr. 29min.

Travelling non-stop at 195 m.p.h., a Douglas air liner of the Swiss Air Traffic Company on Monday put up a record by covering the 485 miles between Basle and Croydon in 2hr. 29min.

There were 15 people on board, including the pilot, M. Zimmerman, chief pilot of the Swiss company.

The machine was making a trial trip preparatory to the starting on April 1st of a new service between Switzerland and this country.

The new service, which will be run in conjunction with Imperial Airways, Ltd., will provide for a stop at Lille.

SWISS CRITICISMS OF GERMANY.

The action of Germany is severely condemned by the Swiss press, and it has deprived Germany of most of the friends that she still had in Switzerland. The "Journal de Genève" in its two editions published strong leading articles. The paper says that for years the Germans had been denounced as liars those who said that they were rearming in violation of the Treaty of Versailles, but now they have thrown off the mask, and it was shown that they were the liars. It was true that Germany was promised equality of rights, but only in a system of security for all nations. Instead of helping to establish such a system Germany left Geneva.

In the opinion of the "Journal de Genève" the League of Nations has every right to intervene in the matter. It could be said without paradox, the paper adds, that Hitler's act was of great value to France, for it had shown the whole world how completely French distrust of Germany was justified.

The "Journal de Genève" concludes its leading article as follows:—"In 1914 England understood too late to stop a conflagration. In 1935 she is late in understanding, but there is still time. On her firmness the fate of Europe depends."

SWISS ASTRONOMER HONOURED.

Dr. Hans Odermatt, until lately, collaborator at the observatory at Neuchâtel has been appointed Director of the Observatory in Quito (Ecuador).

ALPINE RESCUE STATIONS AND SEARCH PARTIES.

There are 111 official Rescue Stations in the Alps belonging to the Swiss Alpine Club, besides a further 200 Information Offices which are exclusively occupied with receiving and reporting mountain accidents in Switzerland. Each of the numerous Club Huts contains implements for the rescue of climbers in summer or winter. A complete list of all these stations and their leaders — who are mountain guides — can be obtained from the Committee of the Swiss Alpine Club, Baden (Aargau). These Rescue Stations are regularly controlled, so that there should be nothing lacking, also in ambulance material.

The leader of a Rescue Station is obliged, immediately on receiving news of a mountain accident, to form Search Parties. These consist of guides, porters and other natives, who are well acquainted with the Alps in their vicinity. At the same time the leader has to report the accident to the Cantonal Police, before the Search Party starts off. If it is necessary and possible, the Search Party is aided by an aeroplane, that can be demanded by the leader or a member of the Central Committee of the S.A.C. The latter Committee supervises all rescue work.

The expenses incurred by such work have to be paid by the rescued person or his heirs, as the Swiss Alpine Club is financially so engaged by its organisations, that it cannot undertake further obligations. For the salvage of corpses, which is

often carried out with tremendous risk of life, the responsibilities are fixed by Cantonal Law.

Those desiring to climb the Alps, should first make sure that they are fit and competent and well-guided. The weather is of supreme importance too. The Alps only reveal their grandeur and beauty to those who approach them with reverence, while they will rebuff the haughty with-out mercy.

EXTENSION OF SWISS NATIONAL MUSEUM.

A large wing of the great building, in which the Swiss National Museum has its home, was for many years the seat of the Zurich Museum of Decorative Art. As the latter obtained a modern new building of its own two years ago, the halls it had occupied for several decades became free for the National Museum. After careful re-construction and adaptation to the necessities of the latter, important collections, as well as the administration offices have now been installed in this large wing.

The new parts of the Museum building will be opened to the public at the end of March. Here the Pre-historic Collections (Stone Age and Bronze Age) and the Roman excavations will be seen, as well as the Treasury, Coins and Medals. In the older building the Section of Ecclesiastic Art is considerably enlarged and of great interest. The Section of Swiss Ceramics has also been enlarged.

END OF TRADE WAR.

Negotiations in Rome during the past week have succeeded in bringing to an end a short but sharp trade war between Italy and Switzerland.

In the middle of February the Italian Government published a decree prohibiting the importation of foreign merchandise. As a neighbouring country Switzerland was seriously affected by this new measure, and the Federal Government at Berne at once retaliated by suspending the issue of licences for the importation of Italian goods. At the same time the Swiss Minister in Rome was instructed to open negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement. He was in a strong position, for, in relation to Switzerland, Italy had last year a favourable trade balance of about 40,000,000 francs.

The negotiations were satisfactorily concluded this week by the signing of an agreement under which Swiss goods will be permitted to enter Italy up to the same quantity registered during 1934. These imports will be regulated every four months. On the Swiss side the importation of Italian goods will continue as before.

NEW MANAGERS OF THE NATIONAL BANK.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Paul Rossi Manager of the National Bank in Berne. M. Rossi was, until recently, financial expert of the Federal Finance Dept. M. Karl Reimann will take over the management of the Zurich Branch of the National Bank.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Paul Keller "Staatschreiber" of the canton of Zurich has resigned from his post, which he held for the last 22 years; M. Keller has been altogether 37 years in the service of the canton of Zurich.

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The accounts of the canton of Zurich for the year 1934 show a deficit of 8½ million francs.

BERNE.

M. Arnold Bühler, late National Councillor, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary at Frutigen. M. Bühler was for more than 50 years active in the political life of the canton Berne, he was a member of the Grand Council for nearly 40 years and from 1889-1912 he sat in Parliament. In the army he reached the rank of a colonel.

LUCERNE.

M. Paul Ilg, the well-known novelist and dramatist has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary at Lucerne.

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The population of the town of Lucerne at the end of February numbered 52,033 persons.

ZUG.

The death is reported from Zug of M. Josef Hildebrand, late States Councillor at the age of 80. The deceased was born in 1855 at Cham, and studied law at the Universities of Louvain, Munich and Strassburg; from 1878-1909 he was Public Prosecutor, and later on became a member of the cantonal government. Since 1881 he had

sat in the Grand Council over which he presided three times. M. Hildebrand entered Parliament in 1886 (States Council), in 1898/99 he presided over this body, he resigned his seat in 1934.

BASLE.

Dr. Theodor Moosberr, the esteemed pedagogue and scientist has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Dr. Moosberr was born at St. Gall, he studied theology at the Universities of Basle and Jena. Later on he went to the Universities of Berlin and Zurich to study philosophy. In 1894 he was appointed teacher at the "Basler Töchterschule" and a year later he took up a position as teacher of the German language and history at the "Obere Realschule." In 1905 he returned to the "Töchterschule." For 37 years he taught at various schools in Basle, and in 1930 he retired. Dr. Moosberr was twice President of the "Basler Schulsynode."

SOLOTHURN.

Colonel Rudolf Frey who was killed together with M. Schmidheiny was born in 1873 at Basle. On finishing his studies at the Technical University at Zurich, he was engaged by a mining concern at Metz. Later on he was appointed manager of the cement-factory Wylihof at Luterbach; like M. Schmidheiny, he enjoyed a great reputation in the Swiss Cement Industry. Colonel Frey was at one time in command of the 2nd Artillery Brigade.

FRIBOURG.

The death is reported from Fribourg of Dr. Paul de Weck, the Doyen of the medical practitioners at Fribourg at the age of 83.

AARAU.

The accounts for 1934 of the canton of Aargau show a surplus of 45,468 frs.

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The well-known Inn the "Rössli" at Obermumpf has been completely destroyed by fire.

NEUCHATEL.

The death is reported from Neuchâtel of M. Frédéric Cuanillon, watch manufacturer, at the age of 102, the deceased attended to his business until recently.

ST. GALLEN.

The news of the death of M. Ernst Schmidheiny which occurred near Cairo, through an aeroplane crash, has caused great sorrow in the town of St. Gall.

M. Schmidheiny was born in Heerbrugg in 1871, he received his schooling at St. Gall and Neuchâtel and afterwards travelled extensively abroad. He was the founder of the Rheinthalische Zementfabrik Heerbrugg, and enjoyed the reputation of an authority in the Swiss Cement Industry. M. Schmidheiny was also President of the Board of the "Holderbank Financière Glarus A.G." He was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton St. Gall and from 1911-1919 he sat in Parliament (Nat. Council). In the army he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel of artillery.

THURGAU.

The result of the election for the cantonal government is as follows: elected are Dr. P. Altweg, R. Freyemuth and A. Schmid, (former members); Dr. J. Müller and Dr. Willy Stähelin (new). The candidate of the socialist party, Dr. Roth was defeated. The new government of the canton Thurgau thus consists of four Liberals and one Conservative-catholic.

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From Frauenfeld comes the news of the death of Dr. Adolf Koch a member of the cantonal government.

The deceased was born in 1883 in Sommeri, he studied law at the Universities of Zurich and Munich, and afterwards established himself as an advocate at Frauenfeld. In 1923 he entered the Government of the canton of Frauenfeld in succession to M. Wiesli.

VALAIS.

Mme. Oggier-Vorier at Sion has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

VAUD.

M. Charles Niess, a former Manager of the Banque Populaire has died at Lausanne at the age of 66.

TICINO.

Mr. Riva (conservative) and M. Bertoni (liberal) have been re-elected members of the States Council.