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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

DR. JACOB'S ARREST.

Germany has rejected curtly, almost discourteously, the strongly-worded Swiss demand for the return to Switzerland of Dr. Berthold Jacob, a German refugee — peculiarly obnoxious to the Third Reich — who recently was decoyed into Germany; and shortly, if Hitler has his way, will pay the penalty. (As he is "a traitor of the worst kind ... there is nothing to be done but to allow the trial to take its course.") The technical case of Germany, originally, was that Dr. Jacob went back to Germany of his own free will. That was rather badly blown on by the Swiss Note of April 1st. The technical case of Germany, now, is that Dr. Jacob was abducted or kidnapped or decoyed — the particular method of transfer does not matter very much — without the intervention of "German official sources." Dr. Wesemann, having done his job, is to-day "a person of doubtful character." And Switzerland can do what she likes with Hitler's emissary if Hitler can do what he likes with the emissary's dupe. Obviously, the civilised world cannot accept this second edition of the German case against Dr. Jacob. Even though he had come back to Germany, to certain trial and equally certain punishment, through the agency of a *provocateur* whom Germany now disavows, there would be something still to be said about the methods of the Third Reich. But in fact Switzerland still denies that Jacob went back to Germany of his own free will, even though he discovered, too late, what Germany now admits — that Dr. Wesemann was a "doubtful" person to deal with. Her case still stands — that, somehow or other, a refugee from Switzerland was trapped or forced back into Germany; that, somehow or other, the right of asylum must be upheld. The German Note has made a very bad impression throughout Switzerland.

GERMANS EXPEL SWISS JOURNALIST.

The bad effect on Swiss opinion caused by the German Government's reply to the Swiss Note about the kidnapping of Dr. Jakob is increased by the news that Mr. Behrens, the Berlin correspondent of the "Nationalzeitung," one of the leading Basle papers, has been expelled from Germany.

It appears that the Foreign Press Association of Berlin has had to intervene so that Mr. Behrens might be given time to make proper arrangements for his departure.

Mr. Behrens, who was formerly Rome correspondent of the "Nationalzeitung," has shown himself to be very well-informed, and that, no doubt, is the reason of his expulsion.

LESS UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

The unemployment figures at the end of March are stated to be 82,214 or 20,696 less than the previous month. They are, however, still higher by 12,100 than at the same period in 1934.

LOCAL.

GENEVA.

The accounts of the town of Geneva at the end of 1934 show a deficit of 2,674,000 frs.

BERNE.

Dr. h. c. Emile Lohner, "directeur du comité central pour les transports internationaux par chemin de fer," has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

* * *

M. Walter Kraft, "directeur du Bureau fédéral pour la propriété internationale" in Berne, has informed the Federal Council that he wishes to relinquish his post at the end of next August.

Professor Leon Asher, head of the Physiological Department of the University of Berne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Professor Asher has been a teacher at the University for the last 40 years.

* * *

A dinner was offered by the Federal Council at the "Wattenwil Haus" to Dr. Schulthess, the former Federal Councillor.

BASEL.

M. Wilhelm Ursprung-Fenner, Chairman of the Forwarding firm A. G. Chs. Natural and Vice-Chairman of the Crowe & Co., A.G., has died at the age of 62.

* * *

From Basle comes the news of the death of M. Emil Hummel-Leiber, partner of the Watch firm "Adolf Hummel Söhne" at the age of 58.

ZURICH.

Dr. Albert Junod a former Swiss Minister at St. Petersburg, and late Manager of the "office suisse du tourisme" has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

* * *

The elections for the new Grand Council numbering 180 members (old council 220) show the following result: 39 Peasant Party (49); 15 Christian Socialist Party (16); 22 Democrat Party (26); 4 Evangelical Party (5); 30 Radical Party (41); 2 Young Peasant Party (0); 2 Communist Party (6); 1 Socialist left Party (0); 6 Fronten Party (0); 59 Socialist Party (77).

* * *

The death is reported from Zurich of M. Karl Burger-Kehl, proprietors of the P.K.Z. firm, at the age of 57.

GRISONS.

The elections for the cantonal government show no change, the following members having been elected: Dr. Liver and Dr. Nadig, (Liberals); M. Capaul and Dr. Albrecht (Conservatives); Dr. Lardelli (Democrat).

* * *

Two people were killed by an avalanche which swept down between Versam and Safien-Tenna; much damage was caused.

THURGAU.

There is practically no change in the composition of the newly elected Grand Council. The parties are represented as follows: 82 Peasant and Radical Party (82); 30 Catholics (29); 34 Socialists (30); 1 Democrat (3); 1 Evangelical (1); 2 Free Money Party (0).

* * *

The "Thurgauer Zeitung" has been prohibited in Germany until the 30th of June.

FOOTBALL.

7th April, 1935.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Lugano	5	Nordstern	0
Basel	2	Young Fellows	2
Lausanne	3	Carouge	1
Servette	3	Bern	2
Young Boys	0	Biel	1
Concordia	1	Chaux-de-Fonds	2

The race for the championship continues unabated, the first three, Servette, Lausanne, Lugano all making full points. Then come four clubs with 25 points, (six points behind Lugano) viz. Basel, Grasshoppers, Young Fellows and Biel; Bern with 24 points ranks eighth. The last six clubs again are at a distance: 9th and 10th, 18 points, Locarno and Chaux-de-Fonds; then Nordstern, 16 points, Young Boys 15, Concordia 12, Carouge 4 points.

Young Boys will thank their lucky stars that Concordia lost at home as well! In a way Y. B. were unlucky, having the misfortune to score the only goal of the match by placing the ball into their own net. But they did not play at all well and will have to improve in their last three fixtures if they want to keep their place in the National League. They have yet to visit Carouge which should yield, or rather must yield two points; then they receive their keenest rivals, Concordia which may prove the deciding match, for their last game against Grasshoppers in Zurich does not look very promising. Concordia, apart from their fixture against Y. B. have still to meet their local rivals, Basel and Nordstern, as well as Biel, all away (well, we shall see).

Grasshoppers reopened their enlarged ground and rebuilt grand-stand with a "friendly" match against F.C. Nürnberg, losing by 1 goal to three. Their ground is now the largest in Switzerland,

giving standing room for 30,200, seats in the stand numbering 2,500 with an additional 5,000 emergency seats for special occasions, such as for instance next Sunday's international match against Hungary.

In the First League Aarau settled one of their nearest rivals, Grenchen, beating them 3:2 away. In Group "East" Luzern returned to winning ways by beating Seebach 3:0 away, rather luckily, as Seebach scored twice for them and the third came from a somewhat questionable penalty decision. St. Gall beat Brühl in the local derby by 3:0 and return to second place, 6 points behind Luzern with two games in hand and five more to play.

M.G.

EASTER 1935.

(By Kyburg).

I am one of those who, in an amateurish way, are able to solve a lot of life's problems to their own, if to nobody else's satisfaction. A sign, some say, of a shallow mind, a gift, say kindlier souls, of the Gods!, and, say I, a dangerous gift, because, all too often, alas, it leads me into no end of errors.

Why should our English hosts call the anniversary of the crucifixion of our Lord GOOD Friday? Is it, perhaps, because they like to look ahead and to see beyond the immediate future? Is it, because they know that EASTER, the feast of the Resurrection follows two days later and is it that they prefer to focus your and their own attention on that day of hope and glory?

SPRING, Nature's Easter is upon us. In our part of the Country, where the icy Easterly winds have made even rounds of Golf somewhat of an heroic performance lately, flowers and trees are somewhat backward compared with other parts of these Isles. But even in South East Essex the hedges are as if the fairy Elves had emptied countless jugs of cream over them. The blackthorn is crowned with blossoms and in the copses and woods where the big trees still look gaunt and wintry, the undergrowth has, during the last week or so, traced a lovely embroidery of green leaves and it only wants a ray of sunshine to penetrate the shady glades of an afternoon to reveal the magical beauty of the young foliage.

And, as winter is Nature's GOOD FRIDAY, and is inevitably followed by the ever wonderful SPRING or EASTER TIDE, so may we take it, that after the frightful Depression of these last years, after our economical Good Friday, we shall witness, those among us who live long enough, the arrival of EASTER the return of good years.

I confess, it requires all the optimism, of which, happily, the human mind is capable, to keep one's faith in the belief that our modern world and especially our modern EUROPE will one day return to sane, orderly, peaceful times.

It would be extremely easy to give way to rank despair and, even if one does not possess any shares in any arms manufacturing concerns, to embrace the politics of those who shout day in day out that to arm is the best defence.

But I do think, seriously and earnestly, that that fallacy has been exposed sufficiently. What is more, even the Churches are beginning to feel uneasy about the "sacred duty" of piling up armaments, giving them the blessings of the Church and all to find other ways of composing their difference of opinion than by the sword.

Of course, if we take a look around Europe and find, as we must, if we do not blind ourselves to facts, that Europe has fallen back to almost the conditions which prevailed in the dark so-called Middle-Ages, with Democracy killed in many countries and only just alive and frighteningly sick in others, we might again become frightened and ask ourselves whether this is the beginning of the end?

To my mind of thinking, however, the Dictators, Autocrats and other enemies of Democracy are playing a loosing game. Such Governments did in fact succeed for a time in the old days when the populations of the various countries were far less than to-day. To-day, when, thanks to our machine age and its mass-production, which, in turn has enabled most countries to raise their standard of living beyond the wildest dreams any of those ancestors living in the Middle-Ages might have dreamt, when populations have increased forty-fold and more in most countries, the Economic Factors are the real Dictators and the political Dictators are bound to be vanquished by them in time.