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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

### PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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### FEDERAL.

#### SWITZERLAND AND JAKOB CASE.

The Swiss Federal Government's latest Note to the German Government in regard to the kidnapping of Herr Jakob states that as it will apparently not be possible to settle this dispute by the ordinary diplomatic methods, and as it is indispensable that the circumstances of the kidnapping be elucidated in order to prevent that regrettable incident having an adverse effect on the traditional friendly relations existing between the two countries, the Swiss Federal Government have resolved to have recourse to the 1921 German-Swiss Treaty of Arbitration and to submit the case to the arbitral procedure provided by that treaty.

The Swiss Federal Government note that Germany is ready to disapprove the violation of Swiss sovereignty by German officials, but that she contests that German authorities took part in the kidnapping of Herr Jakob. The Swiss Government (the Note continues) cannot understand how the German Government can say that the accomplices of Dr. Wesemann are unknown to the German authorities, for the papers of these men were examined by the frontier police at Weil, where they were stopped, together with Herr Jakob and one of the kidnappers, Dr. Richter, was an official of the German State Secret Police.

#### PROTOCOLS OF ZION.

When the trial relating to the so-called Protocols of the Elders of Zion was resumed in Berne, the Court heard a long anti-Jewish speech by Herr Ulrich Fleischhauer, of Erfurt. He is the expert nominated by the defence. His doctrine of intolerance, propounded sometimes in a voice which shook with fanatical fervour, was strangely out of place in the free democratic atmosphere of the Swiss Court.

The German expert argued that the so-called Protocols of Zion had been compiled long before the satire by a Parisian lawyer named Joly was written, and that Joly had merely repeated them in a new form. He did not say whom he considers to have been the author.

Herr Fleischhauer described the revelations, exploding the theories about the protocols which appeared in 1921 as "fairy tales," and spoke at great length of the alleged Jewish influence in the international Press. He accused, for example, certain well-known newsgencies as being subject to this influence.

This will be the first occasion on which a legal verdict will be passed on the much discussed protocols. For many years they have been the favourite weapon of anti-Semitic agitators.

They were alleged to have been formulated at secret meetings of a Zionist Congress in Basle in 1897. In 1921 the whole theory was exploded by the discovery of a satire printed in 1865 by a Parisian lawyer, M. Joly. The so-called protocols were shown to have been merely a copy of M. Joly's dialogue.

#### GERMAN-SWISS CLEARING AGREEMENT.

Substantial concessions by Germany's creditors in Switzerland in the interests of trade between the two countries are the feature of the new German-Swiss clearing agreement just concluded to take the place of that of July 26 last.

The new agreement became necessary in view of the decline of the German export surplus to Switzerland. The ratio of exports to imports in German trade with Switzerland had dropped from about 5 to 1 a few years ago to 2 to 1 in the first quarter of 1935.

The new agreement provides:—

(1) Swiss exports of goods to Germany will be limited to 14,000,000f. (£930,000) a month.

(2) From the monthly payments into the clearing account at Zurich another 1,500,000f. (£100,000) will be set aside for additional trading costs and 4,100,000f. (£270,000) for the Reichsbank principal for service of interest to standstill creditors.

(3) Amounts in excess of this 19,600,000f. will be paid as to 60 per cent. into the transfer fund for cash payments to Swiss capital creditors; 30 per cent. for amortization of German commodity debts to Switzerland; and 10 per cent. to the Reichsbank for its own use.

(4) The Swiss capital creditors will thus in future receive in cash only a portion of the 4½ per cent. interest to which they were previously entitled; the rest they will receive in bonds repayable in 10 years.

(5) Expenses of German tourists in Switzerland will be balanced as hitherto by deliveries of German coal.

(6) Swiss standstill creditors have agreed to reductions averaging ½ per cent. in their interest claims, thus abandoning their privileged position compared with the other creditors.

#### SWISS BANK RETURN.

The return of the National Bank of Switzerland for the week ended April 23rd shows the following changes:—

	Francs
ASSETS	Inc. or dec.
Gold holdings .....	1,402,229,585 ...
Gold exchanges .....	4,132,932 ...
Domestic bills .....	87,301,731 ...
Bills of the Swiss Con federate Loan Office ...	+ 17,343,633
Advances .....	26,500,000 ...
Security holdings .....	70,493,437 ...
Deposits with home and foreign banks .....	57,684,172 ...
Other assets .....	— 1,376
LIABILITIES	Francs
Capital .....	37,000,000 ...
Bank notes in circulation ...	Unchanged
Other sight liabilities .....	1,270,795,010 ...
Other liabilities .....	— 15,441,225
	327,784,383 ...
	— 20,672,673
	66,537,549 ...
	+ 140,520

#### LORD BEAVERBROOK TRAVELS BY "SWISSAIR."

Lord Beaverbrook has recently returned to London after ten days' travel in France and Spain. He covered a great deal of ground using a Douglas air liner of the "Swissair" piloted by our famous airmen Mr. Walter Mittelholzer. The distance between London and Paris, both outward and homeward, was accomplished at a record speed taking only an hour and ten minutes. At times the machine flew as high as 15,400ft.

#### DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Diplomatic Missions in Switzerland at the end of last month number 41, or one less than at the same period in 1934, as the Bulgarian Legation has been suspended.

The Diplomatic personnel of the Foreign missions in Berne numbers 138, at the League of Nations in Geneva 230 and at the International Labour Office, also at Geneva, 186.

#### DR. JÄGER'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

Dr. Jäger, Swiss Minister in Vienna has celebrated his 10th Anniversary as Minister in Vienna. The Swiss Colony in Vienna has offered a Banquet to Dr. Jäger at which over a hundred persons were present.

Telegrams were received from Federal Councillor Motta and late Federal Councillor Schuhhess. The Austrian Government sent a letter signed by President Miklas and Federal Chancellor Dr. Schuschnigg. The Austrian Foreign Minister Berger-Waldenegg and the Lord Mayor of Vienna also sent their congratulations.

#### "LANDSGEMEINDE."

At the "Landsgemeinde" of Appenzell A. Rh., which took place at Hundwil all the members of the cantonal government and tribunal were re-elected.

The "Landsgemeinde" of Glarus has confirmed the appointment of the Government for a further term of 3 years. The two members sitting in the States Council (Mercier and Hauser) were elected for a further term.

At Sarnen (Obwalden), M. W. Amstalden was elected "Landammann" and M. v. Ach, Chancellor.

#### THREE SWISS ARRESTED AT ALGIERS.

Three Swiss were arrested at Algiers by the French Police and charged with espionage. They are: M. Ernest Hanhart, doctor of medicine and a lecturer at the University in Zurich, Hans Buser, town councillor at Tobel (near Langnau s/Albis) and Mrs. Schaer of Zurich. A mistake must have been made by the French authorities as these three people were on a scientific expedition. The Federal Political Dept. has taken the matter up with the French Foreign Office.

#### SWITZERLAND'S 1934 BUDGET.

Switzerland has ended the financial year with a deficit of 26,660,000 francs. Expenditure amounted to 480,200,000 francs.

The Budget had estimated a deficit of 59,900,000 francs so the actual deficit has been reduced by more than a half.

#### FREEMASONRY IN SWITZERLAND.

An "initiative" has been signed by more than the required 50,000 electors who ask that an article be inserted in the Swiss Constitution to prohibit the existence or foundation of Masonic lodges in Switzerland. The "initiators" are of the opinion that Freemasonry has played, and is playing, a too important part in Swiss politics. The proposed amendment to the Constitution will probably be submitted to the electorate before the end of the year.

#### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

From Zurich comes the news of the death of M. Paul Römer, Publisher of the "Tagblatt der Stadt Zürich und Städtisches Amtsblatt."

The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich in 1933; he was for 25 years editor of the illustrated magazine, "Die Schweiz."

#### LUCERNE.

Surprise has been caused by the announcement that the "Volksbank of Willisau," a bank with a share capital of 2,100,000f. has applied for a moratorium. It is not expected that depositors and bondholders will lose any money, but a sacrifice will have to be made by shareholders.

The bank was founded in 1906 and has branches at Lucerne, Sursee, Zell and Grosswangen.

(The Swiss "Banking Law," which came into force on March 1st, 1935, enables the Swiss National Bank and a banking committee to supervise all banks by the inspection of balance-sheets at regular intervals. The danger of bank crashes will in future thus be reduced to a minimum).

\* \* \*

The death is reported of M. Georg Schnyder v. Wartensee since 1918 "Amtsstatthalter" of Sursee. The deceased has been for over 30 years in the services of the canton of Lucerne; he was for several years a member of the "Grand Council."

#### VALAIS.

States Councillor, Raymond Evéquoz has celebrated his 50th anniversary as a politician.

Born in 1863, he started his political career in the year of 1885 as "Préfet-Substitut" of the district Conthey. Three years later, he was appointed "Préfet," and at the same time he was elected a member of the Grand Council, over which he subsequently presided. In 1903, he was made a member of the National Council, over which he presided in 1924; a year later, he entered the States Council of which he is still a member.

M. Evéquoz is President of the Swiss Conservative Party.

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On the occasion of the 60th birthday anniversary of M. N. C. Tommasi, General-Manager of the Lonza-Works in Basle, the town of Visp has presented him with the Freedom of the town.

#### VAUD.

M. Charles Melley, a former Professor of the "Architect and Engineering School" at Lausanne has died at the age of 80.

#### SOLOTHURN.

The accounts of the canton of Solothurn for the year 1934 show a deficit of 2,624,534 frs. (A deficit of nearly 4 million francs was expected).