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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

NEW SWISS-GERMAN AGREEMENT.

Negotiations between Switzerland and Germany have led to an agreement on mutual trade matters which is mainly on the same lines of the treaty which recently expired. The quota for Swiss exports to Germany remains unaltered at £835,000, while German exports to Switzerland are to be increased to pay off Swiss creditors. Certain restrictions on German goods will be cancelled and quotas increased.

As far as tourist traffic is concerned, the existing arrangement will continue. 21 million francs have been allotted to this purpose for the second half of the year. Switzerland will import German coal, in exchange for which German tourists will be able to buy coupons for Swiss hotels up to £1 per month and person.

Swiss creditors will receive 800,000 francs a month for interest dues on first mortgages, and the amount set aside for second mortgages will be 10 p.c. higher than hitherto. There is no change in the position of creditors whose demands fall under the stand-still agreement. The new agreement came into force on July 1st, but will expire at the end of December so that Swiss-German trade relations will have to undergo a thorough revision before that time.

FOOLHARDINESS IN THE ALPS.

Following the recent accident on the north face of the Eiger, which caused the death of four persons, the Swiss Federal Council is contemplating the complete prohibition of all attempts to ascend the Eiger by this route, and has asked the local guides committee to submit a report on the subject.

The recent fatal accident was only the last of a series of death falls during the last few years from the north face of the Eiger. The mountain has never yet been ascended by this face.

The Federal Council's attitude will not cause much heart searching in mountaineering circles. The summit of the Eiger has often been reached by other ways, and to attempt it by the terrible north face is merely risking death — and risking also death to rescue parties. Many mountaineers feel that there is a limit to what should be attempted by climbers, especially since the burden of an accident falls upon others.

The utmost caution should be exercised in Switzerland this summer on all mountain excursions, and in all cases the local guides and experts should be consulted before any serious climb is undertaken. The lateness of the summer and the prevailing uncertainty of the weather make such precautions the most elementary wisdom.

VISIT AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

The newly appointed Spanish Minister, Monsieur José María Aguinaga y Barona, was received by Monsieur Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials to the chief magistrate.

SWISS ENGINEER KILLED IN SPAIN.

M. Paul Matile, born 1883 at La Chaux-de-Fonds, representative of the firm Brown, Boveri & Cie., was killed by a bullet in Madrid, when going to the firm's headquarters.

Another Swiss was wounded but not seriously. The Swiss Legation at Madrid reports that all other Swiss are safe.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. D. Schindler-Huber, formerly General-Manager of the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon" has recently celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. Dr. Schindler has for many years been one of the leading men in Swiss Industrial circles and has rendered, on several occasions, great services to our country; he was for a considerable time a member of the "Kantonsrat," in the army he reached the rank of colonel of artillery. In 1931 the Technical University in Zurich bestowed on him the title of *doctor honoris causa*.

* * *

M. Duttweiler, National-Councillor has lodged an appeal against the verdict which has been passed against him, in the action brought by M. Schüpbach, late President of the National Council. M. Duttweiler had been sentenced to pay the maximum fine of 2,000 francs and costs.

* * *

The Federal Gymnastic Festival held at Winterthur came to an end on July 22nd. M. Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation delivered a patriotic speech on the conclusion of the very successful Festival.

BERNE.

Nearly five million francs (4.87) is the deficit for the year 1935 of the canton of Berne.

* * *

Dr. Kurt Hallauer, at present a lecturer at the medical faculty of the University of Basle, has been appointed Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology at the University of Berne. Dr. H. Hüttenlocher has been appointed Professor of mineralogy at the same University. Professor Dr. J. U. Dürst will act as rector during 1936-1937.

GLARUS.

M. Karl Felchlin, aged 50 from Zurich was killed when ascending the Tödi.

ZUG.

Mlle. Sophie Keiser, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zug has celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary.

BASLE.

M. Ch. Balmer-Sterchi, from 1886-1923 a teacher at the "Knabensekundar Schule" in Basle, has died at the age of 81.

* * *

The death is reported from Basle of M. Isaac Dreyfus-Strauss, chief partner of the banking firm Dreyfus & Sons in Basle, at the age of 80. The deceased was a great benefactor to the Swiss Jewish community.

GRISONI.

The trial of David Frankfurter, the twenty-seven-year-old Yugoslav Jewish student who shot Wilhelm Gustloff, head of the Nazi organisation, last February, has been put on the calendar of the Grisons Cantonal Court for the October term. Frankfurter is charged with premeditated murder and is liable to a maximum penalty of fifteen years' imprisonment. His defence will be in the hands of Dr. Eugen Curti, a noted Zurich advocate. Frankfurter is detained in the Sennhof Prison at Chur. His health, it is stated, allowing for the incurable illness from which he is suffering, is satisfactory.

THURGAU.

During a violent storm on the lake of Constance, three small motor boats sank and five of the passengers were drowned. The names of the victims are: Mr. and Mrs. Meyer-Popelin, Kreuzlingen; Mrs. Reichert, Mannheim; Hans Hürlmann, Kreuzlingen; E. Geissbühler, Kreuzlingen. Several of the occupants were saved after having been in the water for several hours.

VAUD.

Mlle. Valentine Borgeaud, a school teacher from Lausanne, was killed on the Dents de Veveyse by a falling stone, she was 29 years of age.

NEUCHATEL.

It is reported that the following communities in the canton of Neuchâtel are unable to pay the yearly interest on their loans: Les Bayards, Boveresse, Buttes, Cézard, Saint Martin, Hauts-Geneveys, Pasquier and Les Ponts-de-Martel.

* * *

Mme. Sandoz-Scheurer, from Neuchâtel met with a fatal accident, when accompanying a relation to the station, she was caught by the moving train and killed instantaneously, she was 76 years of age.

GENEVA.

Three men, stated to be agents of the Soviet Government, have been sentenced to imprisonment by a Geneva court for alleged spying on a Ukrainian whom the Russian and Polish police suspected of plotting the assassination of M. Litvinov, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, and Col. Beck (Polish Foreign Minister).

The charge was that the accused "imperilled the safety of the Swiss Confederation by carrying out espionage for a foreign Government."

According to evidence by the Chief of Police of Geneva, the men were employed to watch the house of Col. Konovalek, the Ukrainian mentioned (who fought against the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War), and it was he who was suspected of the murder plot against the Polish and Russian Ministers while they were in Geneva to attend the League Council.

Konovalek is in Amsterdam, but he sent a telegram to the President of the Court saying he is ready to return to Geneva to "denounce Bolshevik intrigues."

Two of the three men were not in court, for they escaped while released on £1,200 bail. In their absence they were sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

The third man (a Swiss Communist) received a sentence of 45 days, as he was considered to be a dupe.

NIDWALDEN.

The accounts for 1935 of the canton of Nidwalden close with a deficit of 74,129 frs.

SIR ARNOLD THEILER †.

The "Swiss Observer" deeply regrets to announce the death of Sir Arnold Theiler, the famous veterinary scientist, which occurred in London on Friday, July 24th, at the age of 69.

Sir Arnold, who was a countryman of ours (Entlebucher) enjoyed a universal reputation as a veterinary surgeon and his passing away has caused widespread regrets in scientific circles at home and abroad.

The deceased was no stranger in the Swiss Colony, as recently as February 6th, 1934, he was the guest of the City Swiss Club, when our Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, extended to him a hearty welcome.

The funeral took place on Monday last (July 27th) at the Golders Green Crematorium.

Among those present were:

Lady Theiler (widow), Dr. and Mrs. Max Theiler (son and daughter-in-law), Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Theiler (brother and sister-in-law).

The High Commissioner for South Africa and Mrs. Te Water, Dr. F. Bullock (Registrar of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons), Dr. Bisschop, Dr. W. Cullen (University of Witwatersrand), Mr. Henry Gray, Miss Evelyn Gray, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Green, Mrs. Horsfall, Mr. H. E. Hornby.

Sir Frederick Hobday (representing the council and staff of the Royal Veterinary College), Mr. Alex Holm (also representing Major Sir Humphrey Leggett), Dr. A. D. McEwen, Mr. W. A. Pool (representing the Imperial Bureau of Animal Health), Mr. E. J. Pullinger (representing the Second International Congress on Microbiology).

Mrs. Pettavel, Dr. C. Remington (Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Laboratory, Pretoria) and Mrs. Remington, Mr. F. B. Smith, Mr. J. Willett (President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons), and Major H. Vischer (representing the International African Institute).

The Swiss Minister was, owing to pressure of business, unable to attend, but he forwarded a personal letter of condolence to Lady Theiler.

The Swiss Colony was represented by Mr. P. F. Boehringer, President of the City Swiss Club, Mr. J. J. Schneider represented the Swiss Mercantile Society, of which Sir Arnold Theiler was a contributing member. Mr. A. Stauffer, was present on behalf of the "Swiss Observer."

Dr. A. Lätt, President of the "Ausland-schweizer-Kommission der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft" has addressed the following letter to the "Trauerfamilie":