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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### SWITZERLAND AND LEAGUE REFORM.

Opposition to sanctions as at present provided for under article 16, is voiced in a document containing Switzerland's comments on reform of the League Covenant presented to the Secretary General by the Swiss Federal Council.

The document begins by calling attention to the need for universality in the League — a need which has been emphasised in nearly all the reform proposals so far received — and expresses the view that the achieving of universality should be the main object of any future reforms. This might entail changes which to some might appear in the light of sacrifices, but it is suggested that "what the Covenant would lose in judicial substance it would gain in moral force." The note continues:—

It must also be remembered that a League that is not universal is not merely a weaker and less effective institution, but an institution whose character is likely to deteriorate. It may change from a worldwide association for the development and defence of international law — which is what it always ought to have been — into an association of States likely in the nature of things to find itself at odds with countries that do not belong to it.

Sanctions provided for under article 16 have given rise to objections in many countries, it is claimed, and although the obligations assumed by each party are theoretically identical, the facts differ greatly according to whether they apply to a great or small Power: "For a small country the obligation of article 16 may be a matter of life and death."

The Swiss Government then warns the League that unless article 16 is modified it will be compelled to draw attention to its unique position already recognised by the Council of the League on the occasion of Swiss entry into the international organisation.

"The Federal Council must in any case point out once more," the note concludes, "that Switzerland cannot be held to sanctions, which, in their nature and through their effects, would seriously endanger her neutrality."

#### SWISS DEFENCE LOAN.

Details are now available regarding the Defence Loan which is to be issued by the Swiss Government to meet the cost of the extended military programme. In several respects the loan presents features which have not been usual in similar issues.

The amount is to be Frs. 235 million, but the first portion to be issued is limited to Frs. 80 million. The lists will open on 21st September and will be closed by 15th October.

The loan will be offered at 100 per cent. and bearing interest at the rate of 3 per cent. Redemption will be effected in 10 equal annual instalments.

The loan will be exempt from Federal stamp on new issues and will not be subject to Federal coupon tax, either present or future.

Subscribers who wish to pay in full at once may do so up to 30th November under discount at the rate of 1½ per cent., but should they prefer to extend their subscriptions over a period, they may pay in 10 equal monthly instalments.

Bonds will be issued in denominations of Frs. 100, Frs. 500, Frs. 1,000 and Frs. 5,000.

\* \* \*

A new series of stamps, known as "Swiss Defence Stamps," will be issued by the postal authorities at the end of September or the beginning of October. The new stamps are being issued

in connection with an internal loan of 235,000,000 Swiss francs (about £15,500,000), to be devoted exclusively to defence purposes. The stamps will cost more than their face value. The 10-centime stamps, for instance, will be sold at 15 centimes. The difference will go to pay for armaments.

#### SWISS BANK RATE.

The National Bank of Switzerland has reduced its discount rate from 2½ to 2 per cent., and its rate of advances on securities from 3½ to 3 per cent.

The rate of advances on collateral will be similarly reduced.

The reductions have been undertaken with the consent of the Committee of Banks.

The 2½ per cent. rate had been in force since May 3rd, 1935.

#### FEDERAL COUNCIL AND ITALIAN JOURNALISTS.

The Swiss Federal Council cancelled the order of banishment issued by the Geneva Government against the eight Italian journalists who created an incident at the meeting of the League Assembly in June. The order is held to be contrary to Federal law as well as to the Italo-Swiss Treaty of Establishment.

#### JOURNALISTS IN CONFERENCE.

M. Motta, Swiss Foreign Minister, delivered the opening address at the fourth congress of the International Federation of Journalists in Berne.

He declared that the liberty of the Press was one of the fundamental principles observed in Switzerland.

#### RECEPTION AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

M. Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation and M. Motta, Foreign Minister have received the newly appointed Turkish Minister, M. Bassi Mentes, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials.

#### THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AS PLAINTIFF.

The Federal Council has instructed the "Bundesanwaltschaft" to take proceedings against the following papers: "Arbeiter Zeitung," Basle, "Basler Vorwärts," and "Der Kämpfer," Zurich, for defamation of character. The Federal Council considers that these papers have overstepped the mark of fair criticism.

#### MUSICAL FESTIVALS FOR GENEVA.

Geneva is to have an annual music festival. The scheme, conceived this year, is to be carried into effect at once as the result of the activities of certain music enthusiasts who have received the backing, financial and otherwise, of the Cantonal authorities.

The Festival is to be devoted primarily to the works of French and Italian composers, both ancient and modern. This year's Festival, which is to last from September 18th to 28th, will include two presentations of Debussy's Pelleas et Melisande and two of Verdi's Falstaff. The conductor for Pelleas will be M. Ernest Ansermet, who is well known to London audiences. Falstaff will be conducted by the famous Italian conductor, Antonino Votto. In addition there will be at least two Symphony Concerts devoted mainly to the works of Debussy, Ravel and Stravinsky, and one Chamber Concert, at which there will be played Bach's Harpsichord Concerto for Four.

The artists retained for the operatic performances include Madeleine Dubuis, Madeleine Vhita, Roger Bourdin, of the Opéra Comique, and Bertrand Etcheverrey.

The utmost care will be taken to avoid any clash of dates with the existing musical festivals of Europe.

#### THE PORT OF BASLE.

Mr. Charles Koepke, Manager of the Basle Airport (Birsfelden), and Mr. Rüdisühl, architect of the Public Works Department of Basle,

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from  
Members of the Committee.

have been flying abroad in a Leopard moth (HB-ABA) to look at other airports. They visited Gatwick, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Malmö, Hanover, Frankfurt — all pleasant places at this time of the year.

Basle Airport has to move. Birsfelden, beside the Rhine, belongs to the electric-power company, and is needed for a new plant which will take its power from the river. And part of the land is wanted for extra docks to cope with Switzerland's increasing maritime import trade. Since the Rhine was opened to international traffic, barges have brought up most of Switzerland's cereals, coal and iron, and have gone back in ballast.

To find another airport site is not easy. One site is ruled out because it is partly on the French side of the frontier; another, the Hard, cannot be got because the citizens say it is their only piece of local forestry. Mr. Koepke has been trying to decide just how small a good aerodrome could be, for it is difficult to find land near Basle which has no alp nearby.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Bruno Puricelli, a twenty-four years old bank clerk, was killed and five persons seriously injured, when a motor-car collided with a stationary vehicle at Herrliberg.

#### BERNE.

M. Joh. Jenny, late National Councillor, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary at Worbäumen.

M. Jenny was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne from 1886-1926; he sat in Parliament (National Council) for 45 years (1890-1935).

\* \* \*

Dr. Tanner, Director of the Federal Alcohol Administration has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council.

\* \* \*

Doctor Fritz Lüdi, senior partner of the "Grossen Apotheke" in Burgdorf, has died, the deceased has rendered great services to his native town for a great number of years.

#### LUCERNE.

The 1935 accounts of the canton of Lucerne, close with a deficit of 735,254 frs.

\* \* \*

Terrific storms are reported to have taken place all over Switzerland during the last weekend. The "Entlebuch" district, (Ct. Lucerne) has suffered more than any other part.

At Emmenegg, the house of M. Alfred Rösti, farmer, was crushed owing to a landslip, seven members of the family lost their lives.

The railway service Berne-Lucerne, has been interrupted for some considerable time.

The material damage caused is considerable, the casualties amongst cattle is very heavy.

#### BASLE.

The Appeal Court of the canton of Basle has dismissed the appeal of Wesemann, who enticed the Journalist Jacob into Germany. The sentence of three years imprisonment thus remains unaltered. Wesemann will have to bear the costs of the Appeal.

#### GRISONS.

M. Joh. Künzle, who is known all over Switzerland under the name of "Kräuterfarrer" has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary at Chur.

#### ERNEST SAUVIN †.

(In one of our recent numbers we announced the passing of Pasteur Sauvin; through the courtesy of one of our readers, we are able to publish the biography of the deceased, who was known to more than one member of our Colony).

Samedi dernier, dans sa demeure du Chemin des Clochettes, à Champel, notre cher ami et collaborateur, le pasteur Ernest Sauvin, a été enlevé aux siens qui l'entouraient, après quelques semaines de maladie et de faiblesse croissante. Il y a déjà quelque temps que l'on pouvait prévoir ce départ, qui cause à tous ceux qui ont connu M. Sauvin une profonde tristesse.

Nous ne pouvons retracer ici, avec toute l'exactitude désirable, la carrière de ce frère, qui s'en va dans un bel âge puisqu'il était né en 1863 à Friederichsdorf, où son père était pasteur d'une