

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1936)

Heft: 775

Rubrik: Personal

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They sign on for not less than eight weeks, and are occupied with work of utility to the community according to where they happen to be. Expenses have to a great extent been met by a national collection.

They make new roads and mountain tracks; they clear and drain the high lying pasture lands; they repair damage after flood, fire, or landslide. Others repair ancient buildings or conduct archaeological diggings.

Whatever is done, care is taken not to compete with the open market of those in ordinary work, and the wages paid are only slightly above what is given to other men out of work. The young men come for the love of it, and return home all the better physically because of the work done and all the better morally because of the discipline.

SCHWEIZERISCHE GENOSSENSCHAFTSBANK.

An agreement has been reached between the Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank (Banque Co-operative Suisse) and its creditors, which will permit the bank to reorganise. Great surprise was caused at the time when the bank announced its inability to pay. It was granted a moratorium for six months which was extended and will be in force until November 20th next.

According to the agreement the bank will be turned into a limited company, its name being changed to Schweizerische Spar- und Kredit-Bank (Banque Suisse d'Epargne et de Crédit). The new bank will take over all assets and liabilities of the old bank. The bank's capital of 18,662,000f. will be written off completely, but the partners are to receive so-called "bons de jouissance B" containing no indication as to their nominal value.

Of the reserves — amounting to 1,875,100f. — 575,100f. is used for depreciation, while the balance of 1,300,000f. will be carried forward.

By these measures losses are completely written off and, moreover, it is possible to put aside an amount of 6,600,000f. for contingencies.

Under the reorganisation, 20 per cent. of all bonds is to be converted into shares, 20 per cent. written off in exchange for "bons de jouissance A" for the same amount, but bearing no interest, and the remaining 60 per cent. exchanged for new 4 per Cent. Bonds.

Deposit and current accounts will be dealt with as follows: 20 per cent. is to be exchanged for shares, 20 per cent. for "bons de jouissance A," as above, and 60 per cent. transferred to a new deposit and current account respectively. Withdrawals from new deposit and current accounts may be made in accordance with a special plan.

Solely "privileged debtors" (savings accounts) will sustain no losses.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Doctor Marcel Grossmann, from 1907-1927 Professor of Geometry at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, has died at the age of 58. Professor Grossmann, who was a personal friend of Professor Einstein, enjoyed an international reputation as a scientist, he was also co-editor of the "Neue Schweizer Zeitung."

The "Sekundarschule" Wädenswil has celebrated last Sunday the 100th Anniversary of its existence. Members of the cantonal government were present, as well as a great number of former pupils, amongst them Dr. Haab, a former Federal-Councillor.

BERNE.

The Fire-Brigade of the town of Berne, has celebrated the 125th anniversary of its existence. On this occasion they have moved into their new barracks at the Victoria-Gothelfstrasse.

Dr. Alfred Meyer, General-Manager of the "Banque Populaire Suisse" is shortly retiring from his post, he will, however, join the Board of this institution. Dr. Hadorn, at present General Secretary has been nominated General-Manager, he will take up his new position at the beginning of next year.

M. Christian Gerber, a former editor of the "Berner Tagblatt" has died in Berne at the age of 79.

M. G. Kurz, keeper of the archives of the canton of Berne, and a noted historian, has resigned his post on having reached the age limit.

The cantonal government has decided to dismiss Dr. Zetzschke, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Berne and a German subject, owing to Nazi Propaganda. For the same reason, Dr. Michaelis, Professor of Theology at the Bernese University, has received six months notice.

BASLE.

At the age of 69, died in Basle, M. Fritz Stähelin-Bernoulli, a partner of the firm of Stähelin-Bernoulli. M. Stähelin was connected

for many years with the "Basler Kunstverein" of which he was President.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The schools of the town of Schaffhausen have been closed down for three weeks owing to an epidemic of infantile paralysis.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

The death occurred at the "Hofgut Waidli," near Liestal, of M. Eduard Heimis-Walser, at the age of 86. The deceased was for 21 years a teacher at the "Bezirksschule" in Waldenburg. In 1894 he entered the cantonal government of which he was a member until 1897. In the same year he was appointed Director of the "Strafanstalt," which post he held with great distinction until 1922.

VALAIS.

A motor-car, coming from the Great St. Bernard, left the road, near the village Liddes, falling down about 250 m. The two passengers, M. Gabriel Troillet, advocate, son of the President of the Tribunal in Martigny, and M. Robert Jost, watchmaker, both from Martigny, were killed. The driver of the car, M. Rouiller was seriously injured.

GRISONS.

The death is reported from Sils-Maria, of M. Karl Karinger, for many years Manager of the Hotel Alpenrose and Savoy Hotel at St. Moritz. M. Karinger was also connected for some years with the City Hotel in Basle.

Dr. Johann Hitz-Walser, State Prosecutor of the canton of Grisons, has died in Chur at the age of 51. Dr. Hitz, held the post of Grand Judge (Grossrichter) of the 4th Division.

AARGAU.

Mme. Marie Anna Ussprung-Riser, from Ueken, near Frick has celebrated on September 13th her 100th birthday anniversary.

TICINO.

M. G. Pattani, a member of the Grand Council of the canton Ticino, and secretary of the Federal Insurance Tribunal has died at Biasca at the age of 45.

NEW TRAIN FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND THE CONTINENT VIA DOVER - DUNKERQUE.

We are informed that a new Ferry Service between Dover and Dunkerque will shortly be introduced, which will no doubt be of interest especially to the Swiss commercial community in this country.

We are told that considerable works have been completed at both Dover and Dunkerque so that now, loading and unloading can be done at all states of the tide.

Three sister ships have been built, namely the T.S.S. "Twickenham Ferry," "Shepperton Ferry" and "Hampton Ferry." The vessels are 360 ft. long and 63 ft. wide, having an average speed of 15 knots, and capable of carrying 500 passengers.

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On the upper decks of the vessels there is the usual accommodation, dining saloon, smoking room, etc., for passengers and also an enclosed motor garage to accommodate 25 cars — the arrangements at each terminal being such that motorists will be able to drive their cars by means of an inclined road direct into the garage on the upper deck. This arrangement saves the craning of cars as at present.

PERSONAL.

The many friends of M. A. Tall of the Swiss Federal Railways, will sympathise with him in his bereavement, Mr. Tall's father having died at Schuls at the age of 64.

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on

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1936

at the

Trocadero Restaurant

Piccadilly Circus, W.1

In the chair: M. C. R. PARAVICINI, Swiss Minister.

RECEPTION at 6.15 p.m. DINNER at 6.45 p.m. DANCING 9.30 p.m. till midnight

TICKETS at 14/- can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6663). City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596).