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Che Swiss Observer

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PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM $\begin{cases} 3 \text{ Months (13 issues, post free)} \\ 6 & (26 &$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} 6 \ {\rm Months} \ (26 \ {\rm issues.} \ {\rm post} \ {\rm free}) & - \ {\rm Frs.} \ 7.50 \\ 12 \ \ (52 \ \) & - \ 14.- \end{array} \right.$ SWITZERLAND

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FEDERAL.

SWISS ARMY TO BE INCREASED.

A stronger army, greater mechanisation, and strengthened defence against "sudden attacks," are some of the new rearmannent measures to cost 235 million francs (£10,500,000 approximately) provided for in a Bill which has been passed unanimously by the Swiss Parliament.

The reorganisation of the country's defences will take effect as from January 1st, 1938.

The present army of six divisions is to be in-creased to nine divisions, and in addition three mountain brigades and special "frontier protec-tion" brigades will be formed.

It will be the latter's task to protect the frontiers while mobilisation is proceeding.

The "Landwehr" (Reservists) will be divided into first and second classes. Battalions of the first class, men from 32 to 36 years old, will be incorporated in the crack regiments, comprising men within the age limit 20 to 32.

Further measures envisaged are :

(1) The provision of many more machine guns to increase firing power.

(2) The creation of light mechanised units. The prime object of the re-organisation is to increase the Army's mobility, and at the same time ensure rapid mobilisation by a system of de-centralisation when need occurs.

The programme represents the third stage in the re-organisation of national defence instituted after the failure of the Disarmament Conference.

swiss UNIONS' REBUFF TO COMMUNISTS. The Congress of Swiss Trade Unions, at its annual meeting at Berne, decided almost unani-mously against the creation of a united front with mously against the creation of a united front with the Communists and against any other form of collaboration with them or with organizations under their influence. The Congress voted a resolution to the effect that it is firmly resolved to defend Swiss democracy by all means, and that it will not collaborate with any anti-democratic organization. organization.

THE VILLA LAMMERMOOR FOR GENEVA

The Swiss Federal Council accepted the bequest of the Villa Lammermoor, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva made to the Confederation by the late Mrs. Barton. The possession of the villa and grounds will be given to the town of Geneva for 15 years.

Mrs. Barton, a granddaughter of Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister, and widow of a former British Consul in Geneva, died last December in Brussels.

Mrs. Barton had established at the Villa Lammermoor a salon which was a meeting place for diplomatists, League delegates, and members of the League Secretariat.

B.I.S. AND DEVALUATION.

The Council of the Bank of International Settlements discussed the situation result-ing from the devaluation of the French, Swiss, Dutch and other currencies.

The Council unarimously passed a resolution which took note of the recent steps taken and the declarations made by Governments relating to the modification of a certain number of monetary systems, and called attention once more "to the present measuring of comming mean-disclikition" urgent necessity of assuring general stability of exchanges."

The Council will next meet on November 9.

SWISS BANK IN DIFFICULTY. It is announced that the Spar-und Leihkasse des Antsbezirkes Laufen (Laufen Savings and Loan Bank) has stopped payment. The bank's difficulties are attributed to embezzlement by a manager. A moratorium has already been applied for.

The bank has a share capital of Frs. 200,000 (about £9,400 at current rates). The balance-sheet total at 31st December, 1935, amounted to Frs. 1,539,000 (£72,400).

CHEAP SWISS RAILWAY TICKETS.

The Swiss Government has decided notwith-standing the devaluation of the Swiss franc, to continue the reduction of 30 per cent. on railway tickets to foreign tourists.

SWISS RADIO WEEK.

We observe that the Swiss broadcasting authorities have organised an interesting series of programmes under the heading "Swiss Radio Week." Most of the broadcasts are taken by all three Swiss stations, and include a number of items which are characteristic of the part of Switthree Swiss stations, and include a number of items which are characteristic of the part of Swit-zerland whence they emanate. On Sunday the principal evening transmission is entitled "Rivers rise at the St. Gotthard and flow into the world." This is followed by a concert of Tessin popular nusic. In Tuesday's programmes there is a transmission illustrating the latest develop-ments of broadcasting in general and of Swiss broadcasting in particular. The programmes have been made still more interesting by the ad-dition of a novel feature. The authorities have arranged for a broadcast to be taken by all three stations from a different country on each day throughout the week (except Saturday). That of Sunday comes from the Deutschlandsender, Monday's from U.S.A., Tuesday's from France, Wednesday's from Great Britain (Regional Pro-gramme), Thursday's broadcast had not been made known at the time of going to press. The Swiss broadcasting authorities are to be con-gratulated on having arranged a week's broad-casts which, in addition to being original, should certainly be fall of interest.

NEW CHIEF OF THE SWISS AVIATION CORPS. The Federal Council has appointed Colonel H. Bandi to be the new Chief of the Swiss Flying

11. Bandi to be the new Chief of the Swiss Flying Corps. Colonel Bandi was born in 1882 in Oberwil near Büren, he entered the Federal Instruction Corps in 1908 (Artillery). On reaching the rank of captain, he was appointed to the command of the 20th Field Battery, and soon affer was trans-ferred to the General Staff, in which capacity he acted as a member of the Hauenstein fortress staff. In 1924 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, taking over the command of the 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment. Six years later, on reaching the rank of Colonel he com-manded for two years the 4th Artillery Brigade. In 1930 he acted as chief of staff of the 3rd manœuvre Division. During the war he was sent to the Italian-Austrian front and in 1920 he spent some time with the German "Reichswehr." **TWO SWISS AVIATORS KILLED.** Ernest Moret, Manager of the Motor-car

Ernest Moret, Manager of the Motor-car works Schneiter & Cie in Berne, and H. Lauri photographer also from Berne were killed during a flight to Berlin, arranged by the "Sportflieger Olady Heiden in arranged by the "Sportflieger Club," which is an anateur Association. Their machine crashed in the "Thüringer" forest near Scheiz. Engine trouble seemed to be the cause of the disaster.

DIPLOMATIC NEWS.

DIPLOMATIC NEWS. M. Meyer, President of the Swiss Confedera-tion, accompanied by M. Motta, head of the political Dept. received the newly appointed Greek Minister, Monsleur Konstautin Psaroudas, on the occasion of the presenting of his credentials. M. Psaroudas was formerly Greek Minister at Moscow.

THREE SOLDIERS KILLED.

Three SOLDIERS KILLED. – Three gunners were killed at Bière, during bomb throwing exercises, their names are : Ph. Saussaz, (Bex): Samuel Krähenbühl (Colombier) and W. Hauenstein (Neuchâtel).

LOCAL.

ZURICH. M. Ernst Haegi, from Affloltern, has been elected President of the "Bankrat" of the "Kantonal Bank," in succession to Dr. H. Ruegg who recently resigned.

BERNE.

BERNE. A terrible tragedy occurred in Berne lasst Friday, when a certain Willi Herzig shot his wife, and severely woundned three other members of the family, one of whom has since died. The murderer then took to flight pursued by the Police; after having fired several shots at them, he was killed by a shot from one of the Policemen.

URI. An explosion took place at the Munition works in Altdorf, costing the life of three work-men, two men were more or less seriously injured.

PRICE 3d.

BASLE.

Dr. Hans Rupe, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Schaff-hausen, Mme. Margarete Gysel-Hediger, has died at Wilchingen. Two months ago, the deceased celebrated her 100th birthday antiversary.

AARGAU. The cantonal government has decided to erect a new Library building in Aarau at the cost of over half a million francs.

ST. GALL

Mme. Anna Marie Brändle in St. Gall has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

VAUD

VAUD. M. Maurice Lugeon, Professor of Geology at the University of Lausanne, has been made a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Liège. Professor Lugeon is already a doctor honoris causa of the Universities of Paris, Louvain and Strasbourg. In 1935 he received the "Prix Benoist." Benoist.' *

M. Edonard Savary, Director of the 1st District of the Swiss Federal Railways has died in Lausanne at the age of 52.

In Lausanne at the age of 52. * * * In Lausanne, died after a long illness, in his 56th year, Colonel Reni-Charles Hauert of Wangen, near Büren. Colonel Hauert, was during the last 20 years, manager of the "Brasserie de Beauregard" in Lausanne, he was at one time Commander of the 1st cavalry brigade. VALAIS.

VALAIS. The death is reported from Sitten, of M. Joseph Dufour, architecte; the deceased was one of the Founders of the Chamber of Commerce of the canton of Valais, over which institution he presided from 1920-1930.

NIDWALDEN.

M. Gaston Guex, Manager of the Stansstad-Engelberg Rallway, has died in Stans at the age of 58. M. Guex, who had held his post since 1924 enjoyed a great reputation in his profession. In the army he reached the rank of colonel. (Engineering corps).

LA NEUTRALITE.

Au point de vue international, la Suisse est neutre.

neutre. Elle est neutre de sa propre volonté. Cette neutralité est conforme à d'anciennes traditions, inaugurées après la défaite des troupes mer-cenaires suisses à Marignan en 1515 (guerre de l'Antriche et de l'Espagne contre la France). Ce fut le fruit de la défaite essuyée en terre étran-gère. Depuis lors, les Confédérés se tiennent à l'écart des conflits entre puissances étrangères. C'est à cette attitude de neutralité devenue un principe directeur de leur politique extérieure, que nos ancêtres durent de ne pas être entraînés dans la guerre de Trente Ans. dans la guerre de Trente Ans.

dans la guerre de trente Ans. Cette neutralité fut érigée pour la première fois en principe de droit public formel, en 1647/48, l'année où l'indépendance de la Confédération fut reconnue par le Congrès de Munster en West-phalie. Dès lors, la Suïsse s'est toujours abstenue de toute combinaison politique contraire à la contralité. neutralité.

La situation stratégique du pays, au cœur de l'Europe, au carrefour des races latines et ger-maniques, a engagé les puissances à s'interdire l'accès du territoire suisse, qui autrement serait devenu un objet de compétitions et une pomme de discorde.

discorde. La neutralité suisse a été reconnue à la de-mande de la Confédération au Congrès de Vienne. La Concention de Paris du 20 norembre 1815 "portant reconnaissance et garantie de la neutralité perpétuelle de la Suisse et de l'inviola-bilité de son territoire "fut signée par les grandes puissances : Autriche, France, Angleterre, Russie et Prusse. Plus tard, l'Espagne, le Portugal et la Suède y adhérèrent. Quand éclata la guerre franco-allemande, en 1870, l'Empire allemand notifia au gouvernement suisse qu'il se considérait comme lié par la signature de la Prusse. Denuis lors neutralité suisse est un des

Depuis lors, neutralité suisse est un des facteurs de l'équilibre européen.