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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### SWISS DEFENCE LOAN.

The Federal Council has decided to accept not only the first instalment of the National Defence Loan of Frs. 80,000,000 (about £3,800,000) but the whole sum of Frs. 332,000,000 (£16,000,000) subscribed by the Swiss people.

Approximately a sum of Frs. 100,000,000 (£4,800,000) will be paid into a special fund to meet further needs in connection with national defence.

The following particulars regarding the subscriptions to this loan have been published.

Amounts subscribed

Cantons.	Number of subscribers	in Mill. Frs.
Zürich	41,436	104,490,300
Bern	29,167	37,545,800
Luzern	7,738	9,340,800
Uri	724	623,000
Schwyz	1,689	1,714,000
Nidwalden	341	371,000
Obwalden	640	551,000
Glarus	2,502	5,071,000
Zug	1,715	2,124,100
Fribourg	2,762	2,567,300
Solothurn	6,809	8,480,000
Baselstadt	11,354	42,782,700
Baselland	3,125	4,254,700
Schaffhausen	3,601	5,876,700
Appenzell I.-Rh.	193	211,700
Appenzell A.-Rh.	1,302	2,395,100
St. Gallen	13,846	18,119,200
Graubünden	3,346	4,218,600
Aargau	10,842	14,846,600
Thurgau	6,252	8,746,900
Tessin	6,660	6,017,800
Waadt	19,541	18,112,200
Wallis	2,988	1,974,600
Neuenburg	4,302	5,522,200
Genf	7,460	13,387,000
Various subscribers	41	13,679,800
Total	190,366	332,055,100

#### GROWING DEFICIT OF SWISS RAILWAYS.

Estimates of the Swiss Federal Railways just issued reveal that there will be a deficit of Frs. 79,000,000 (£3,709,000) for the current trading year, despite the fact that expenses have been reduced as far as possible. The loss last year was Frs. 64,000,000. Since revenue has decreased during the present year, it may be anticipated that the loss will have increased by the end of December.

An elaborate scheme was put before the electorate last year whereby it was hoped to stop competition between rail and road, but the proposal was not carried. A new scheme is under consideration which aims at reorganising the whole of Switzerland's traffic.

It is felt that drastic legislation must be introduced in order to wipe out the Federal Railways' deficits, which now exceed Frs. 3,000,000,000 (£140,800,000).

#### LEON VON MEYENBURG +.

Leon von Meyenburg, who was principally known as a writer of poetry has died at the early age of 50. He was born in Schaffhausen in 1886 and studied at the Universities of Zurich and Florence. He was for many years Editor of the "Schweizerland." Some of his novels, "Gilles der Weichherzige" (1923) and "Der Hagestolz" went into several editions. M. v. Meyenburg also made a name for himself by translating the war book "Le Feu" by Barbusse.

#### EXPULSION OF FOREIGN COMMUNISTS.

The Federal Council has decided to expel altogether ten foreign communists, who were residing in Switzerland with faked passports.

#### STREET ACCIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

According to statistics just published 4,900 people have been injured in street accidents during the last six months (January-June) of which 263 were fatal.

#### LOCAL.

##### BERNE.

Dr. Ernst Blumenstein, Professor at the University in Berne has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

\* \* \*

M. Joseph Studer, senior-partner of the firm Studer A. G., Wine Merchants in Interlaken, has died at the age of 64. The deceased was formerly President of the Tribunal in Eschholzmatt.

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Berne of M. Paul Adrian, formerly Director of the Federal Mint, at the age of 78.

##### LUCERNE.

M. Rogger, Director of the "Seminar" in Lucerne, celebrated his 25th service Jubilee on the 27th of this month.

##### URI.

An explosion occurred at the Munition Works in Altdorf, two workmen were seriously injured and one killed.

##### THURGAU.

As a result of an operation in a nursing home in Vienna, the death has occurred of M. Hippolyte Saurer, a director of Messrs. Saurer A. G. in Arbon. M. Saurer was one of the leading personalities in Swiss industrial circles.

##### SOLOTHURN.

The "Kantonal Bank" Solothurn has celebrated on the 24th of this month its 50th Anniversary since its foundation.

##### APPENZELL A-Rh.

M. J. J. Tobler, a former "Landammann" of the canton of Appenzell a. Rh., and from 1910-1918 a member of the cantonal government has died in Herisau at the age of 83. The deceased was for many years a leading personality in political circles of his native canton.

##### BASLE.

From Basle comes the news of the death of Pastor Hermann Schachenmann, who was a preacher at St. Leonhard and St. Paulus for 27 years. The deceased who reached the age of 69, enjoyed a great reputation as a preacher and a sincere churchman.

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the "Erasmusfeier" of the University of Basle, which took place last week, the following were honoured with degrees of *Doctor honoris causa*: Mrs. Helen, Mary Allen, Oxford, Ernest Staehelin, Professor of Theology at the University in Basle, Professor H. Wölfin, Zurich, Professor E. His, Basle, Pastor D. K. Gauss, Liestal, Professor Blondel, Geneva.

##### ST. GALLEN.

During practice shooting with Maxim guns at Wallenstadt a marksman was killed.

\* \* \*

Three houses were burnt down in Ittenried, the damage caused is estimated at 70,000 frs.

##### GRISONI.

All employees in the service of the cantonal administration will be pensioned off at the age of 65, according to an act passed by the "Kleine Rat."

\* \* \*

Dr. R. Domenig, editor of the "Fremdenblatt für Graubünden" has been appointed editor-in-chief of the "Freie Rätier," in succession to M. Andreas Laely, late States Councillor.

\* \* \*

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

##### PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th

for the

##### ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

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#### VAUD.

During a trial flight, with a Czechoslovakian machine at the aerodrome Blécherette, captain Dr. E. Lorétan, was killed. It is reported that the accident was due to some acrobatic stunt flying to which the machine was not suitable. Captain Lorétan, who was married, was an assistant of Professor Michaud at the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne.

#### VALAIS.

In Sitten died M. Raoul de Riedmatten, Banker, and for many years an eminent personality in the political sphere of the canton of Valais.

M. de Riedmatten was a member of the Grand Council for 32 years, (1880-1912) and a well-known alpinist. He was at one time commander of the Battalion 88.

#### TICINO.

In Bellinzona died, at the age of 64, M. Florino Tamo, a member of the Grand Council of the canton Ticino, and the Municipal Council of Bellinzona.

#### LA POLITIQUE.

##### Le succès de l'emprunt.

Le succès de l'emprunt pour la défense nationale a dépassé toutes les prévisions, même les plus optimistes. On peut dire que c'est un triomphe du patriotisme helvétique. Jamais consultation populaire relative à l'armée n'a donné un résultat aussi magnifique; car, en l'occurrence, il ne s'agissait pas de déposer simplement un bulletin de vote dans l'urne; il fallait ouvrir son porte-monnaie. Le plébiscite — c'en était un, véritablement — prouve que le peuple suisse, dans son immense majorité, reste fidèle à son armée, lui maintient sa confiance, place en elle ses espoirs pour le jour où il faudrait courir la frontière —, hypothèse qui n'a hélas rien d'inraissemblable par le temps qui court.

Logique avec lui-même, le peuple a compris que, l'efficacité de l'action de nos milices étant subordonnée au perfectionnement des moyens techniques dont elles disposent, un sacrifice s'imposait. En agissant ainsi, il a manifesté une fois de plus son noble civisme et sa maturité politique. Toutefois, on ne pouvait s'attendre à un pareil concours. Il y a là une réconfortante surprise, qui stimulera l'énergie de nos chefs et les incitera à mener grand train l'œuvre si nécessaire dont la base matérielle se trouve désormais assurée.

Personne, on presque, ne doutait de la bonne volonté des citoyens, et dès le début de la campagne de propagande, en dépit des difficultés économiques, on escamait la couverture de la première tranche de 80 millions. D'aucuns, il est vrai, soit qu'ils suivissaient une tendance naturelle au pessimisme, soit qu'ils eussent le secret et mauvais désir d'un échec, semaient des rumeurs décourageantes. Ils en furent pour leurs frais. Bientôt, on apprenait que les souscriptions affluaient et que, contrairement aux assertions des prophéties de malheur, elles émanait de tous les milieux. La grande industrie, la banque, s'inscrivait pour de fortes sommes; les sociétés les plus diverses assuraient leur contribution; les particuliers s'empressaient aux guichets afin de donner leur signature. Et loin de se ralentir, le mouvement allait croissant en intensité à mesure que le dernier délai approchait. La dévaluation, le premier moment de stupeur passé, fut si peu une entrave que le plus grand nombre de souscriptions fut recueilli en ce mois d'octobre. L'emprunt, on le sait, a été couvert tout entier et dépassé de 95 millions. La première tranche de 80 millions est couverte plus de quatre fois. La réponse est si claire et si nette qu'elle peut se passer de commentaires.

La question se pose maintenant de savoir si le Conseil fédéral acceptera le total de la somme fournie, ou seulement les 235 millions prévus au budget. A cet égard, nous partageons l'avise exprimé par le comité d'action, lequel estime qu'il ne faut procéder à aucune réduction des souscriptions, quitte à constituer un fonds spécial avec le surplus. Cet argent est prêté à la Confédération pour la défense nationale; il doit être utilisé pour celle-ci; et un jour viendra où l'on sera content de recourir à cette réserve.

Puisque nous parlons du comité d'action, disons qu'il a fort bien travaillé, en multipliant le moins possible la paperasserie et en éveillant l'intérêt de la population d'une manière intelligente et pratique. Toutefois, c'eût été vain, si la cause n'avait été une bonne cause, celle peut-être pour laquelle on est toujours le plus prêt à vibrer dans nos cantons.

Le Conseil fédéral, de son côté, peut être légitimement fier de la confiance populaire qui lui est renouvelée par cet acte solennel. Il saura en tirer les conclusions qui s'imposent, en plaçant la réorganisation et le rééquipement des troupes au tout premier rang de ses préoccupations et en passant aux actes sans retard.

Le chef du département militaire, si ardemment dévoué à l'Armée, qu'il a trouvée bien affaiblie en 1929 et à laquelle il a déjà fait réaliser maints progrès par son énergie et son savoir-faire, est à l'honneur en ces journées; et nous nous en réjouissons d'autant plus que tout récemment, une feuille hebdomadaire, paraissant à Neuchâtel, publiait contre l'excellent M. Minger un article ignoble, tissu d'injures stupides et de sottes calomnies. Et pour comble, cet article serait dû, paraît-il, à la plume d'un fonctionnaire fédéral!

Mais M. Minger peut mépriser comme elles le méritent ces vilaines. La Suisse a parlé assez haut pour faire taire les ennemis de l'Armée et les dénigreurs systématiques de l'autorité.

*Léon Savary.  
(Tribune de Genève.)*

#### THE SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE DEVALUATION OF THE FRANC. \*

The Swiss Chamber of Commerce assembled on the 20th October for its 131st Meeting, its President, Dr. Hans Sulzer being in the Chair. After a discussion on the economic position created by the devaluation of the Franc, the Chamber passed the following Resolution:

"The Swiss Chamber of Commerce has again and again asserted that the restoration of the ability of the export industry to compete on the world market was the cardinal factor of our economic life. It perceived only one right course for achieving this object, that of cutting down costs in private and public management. It has always pointed out that if this path was not consistently followed, one would be finally forced to bring about the adjustment through the medium of the currency. It asserts to-day that those who opposed retrenchment and thus barred the natural way to a restoration of our ability to compete on the world market, were responsible for the devaluation.

To-day the Franc is devalued. It is necessary to face the fact. It must, however, now be seen that devaluation is utilised to its full extent as medium of adaptation, and for the purpose of reviving industry, bringing about a substantial reduction of unemployment and lowering rates of interest. It is necessary to take the strongest steps to prevent all increases in prices, so far as they are not necessary due to devaluation, and any considerable rise in cost of living. The regaining of our ability to compete on the world market must not be rendered more difficult by an increase in wages. Our duties and taxes, which more than anything else affect the cost of living and production costs, must be lowered. We fully endorse the measures taken by the Federal Council since the devaluation, and expect of it that it will continue in this path. The import restrictions should be relaxed or removed, in so far as they have not proved necessary from a trade and clearing point of view. As a trade policy, we should aim at closer relations above all with the countries that do not place in our way difficulties for payments and exchange restrictions. Industry must be freed once more from the tutelage, interference and support by the State. All assistance and subsidies must be reconsidered with a view to seeing whether they have not become superfluous owing to the adjustment of currency, or can be reduced. The object must be to give again more scope to private initiative and to cause the State to return to its proper sphere of duties.

No efforts must be spared to bring, as soon as possible, into a state of equilibrium the finances of State, Cantons and Local Authorities through a suitable reduction of the unbearable fiscal burdens. This must be achieved by the reduction of all direct and indirect assistance and also by strict economy in State administration and, where necessary by a continuance of differential retrenchment. The discrepancy which in part still exists between certain rates of remuneration by the State and those for the same output in private enterprise cannot be borne in the long run by our weakened structure.

Devaluation has not solved the economic problems. The keeping down of the level of cost of living and consequently of production costs, and relentless economy in State administration together with reduction of the burdens of industry, such are the needs of the moment. Government, Parliament and people must understand that the next few months will show whether devaluation is to mark the beginning of an improvement of the economic position of our country or whether it is only the first step towards our doom. Never before have all members of the community been faced with so heavy a responsibility in the sphere of politics and in industry.

\* \* \*

\*) Translated from the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," No. 1814, of the 21st October, 1936.

#### DIE HAENDE MEINER MUTTER.

Wie seltsam! Schier dreissig Jahre habe ich mein Auge geblübt, geschult am wundersamen Spiele der Linien, der Formen, der Schönheit, angefangen in der Wiege mit dem Spiele meiner Händchen im Sonnenlicht. Aber trotz all des Schönen im reiferen Leben bin ich über eine der stärksten Empfindungen meiner Kindheit nicht hinausgekommen. Ja, die Kultivierung der Sinne hat offenbar nur dazu gedient, das unbewusst-bewusste Schöne jenes kindlichen Erlebnisses in der Erinnerung vollends ins reife Bewusstsein emporzuheben.

Man ist zwar geneigt zu glauben, dass ein Kind das Schöne nur hinsichtlich Zuständlichkeit empfinden und beurteilen könne. Und doch fesselte mich in der Kindheit ein Gegenstand so stark, dass ich darüber noch heute das Empfinden des Glückes, der Größe, der Reinheit, der Erhabenheit mit Entzücken verspürte. Ich sehe heute noch meine Mutter, wie sie, leicht zum Fenster hinausgelehnt, mit der erhobenen flachen Hand am Fensterkreuz sich stützte. Wie ein Fächer breiten ihre elfenbein-weissen, schwungvoll zugespitzten Finger sich aus. Nichts in meiner weiten Phantasie imponiert mir so eindrücklich, so respektvoll, so überlegen, kraftvoll, gleichzeitig aber auch so vornehm und fein wie ihre wohlgebildete, feine, weiche Hand. Aber, seltsam genug, ich kann nicht sagen, warum das so ist. Es ist eine Art Hypnose: ich staune still, finde keine Worte der Bewunderung, aber die Erinnerung des Glücks, der Überlegenheit, der Kraft, der Schönheit bleibt.

Ich habe niemals wieder im Leben eine so — über jeden Mangel erhabene, harmonische, durchgeistigte Hand gesehen, und nie werde ich eine so einsige, wackere, herrische Hand antreffen. — Aber jenen ebenmässigen, feingeschnittenen Wunderhänden war das Dienen nicht erspart geblieben, früh genug haben sie es gelernt, aber sie wurden geadelt. Mit elf Jahren assen sie fremdes, selbstverdientes Brot. Im kalten Winter Anno 1879/80 haben sie das Wasser vom vereisten Brunnen geholt, vom "Schneckenbrunnen," er steht heute noch.

Aber diese flinken, diegenden Hände haben später auch befehlen und kämpfen gelernt, tapferer selbst als Männer vor und nach ihnen an der gleichen Stelle es zu tun vermochten! Und auch erfolgreicher! Diese selbe Hand, deren Schrift durch ihr edles Formenviva den Schriftkundigen verblüfft, hat Sitte und Anstand, Recht und Gerechtigkeit verteidigt vor Bauern und Städtern, vor Räten und Richtern, hat Offizieren getrotzt. Und wie diese Hand strafen konnte, hart — meine Hose weiss es — aber gerecht!

Diese Hände, von vielen bewundert, welche die Zier selbst einer Königin hätten sein können, haben für harte, oft nächtelange Arbeit ein Vermögen eingetauscht. Wieviel Wein haben sie geschenkt, wie oft das Hochzeitsmal für hunderte zubereitet, was für Berge von Handarbeiten haben sie geschaffen, oft bis in die tiefe Nacht hinein, bis das letzte Bäuerlein, bis der letzte Sänger ging! Und welcher Dank ziemt nicht zuletzt der Wohl-tätigkeit dieser hilfreichen, altnos freudlichen Hand, wie manchen armen Kranken liess sie laben! Wenn es eine Symbolik der Hand gibt, dann nirgends reiner als hier: Das Herz verrät die Hand und die Hand das Herz, und in ihrem Bunde war eine Stimme, wie ein Glöcklein so hell und klar, selbst in ihrem siebzigsten Lebensjahr.

Und wie oft ist Mutter herzugeilt, wenn Nachbarn angstvoll verzögert beim Eintritt des Würgers Tod! Manch einem, in ihren Armen entschlummern, hat sie den letzten Dienst erwiesen, wenn ihre weiche, weisse Hand sanft für immer ein Paar Augen schloss! Ich setze ein Denkmal hier zugleich meiner reinsten Jugenderinnerung und der schönsten, liebevollsten, stärksten Hand: Es gibt kein Himmel, wenn nicht dereinst dieses irdische Kunstwerk vor dem Schöpfer erstrahlt!

*Aemilius Müller.  
(Das Aufgebot).*

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Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

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