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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

NESTLE COMPANY'S PROPOSALS.

In consequence of the policy of decentralization followed in recent years the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company's direct trading activities are small compared with its interests in allied companies. Outside the Swiss market the manufacturing and selling branches retained by the company are now of relatively minor importance. The directors propose to complete the conversion of the company into a holding company by transferring those industrial and commercial activities that are still retained to a new affiliated company in Switzerland to be called Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company and having a capital of 5,000,000 Swiss francs. At the same time the title of the present company will be changed to Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding Company.

As forecast at the annual meeting in April last a company has been formed by various associated companies abroad to develop new lines of food specialities more particularly intended for the American and oversea markets. This new company is registered in the Panama with the title of Unilac Inc., and has a capital of \$7,500,000, of which \$540,000 is in Founders shares carrying sole voting rights, and \$6,960,000 in Common shares, being 579,550 \$12 shares and 9,000 60 cent shares. These Common shares are held by the Nestlé Company and it is proposed to distribute them to shareholders of that company in the proportion of one Unilac \$12 share for every Nestlé 200f. share and one Unilac 60c. share for every Nestlé 10f. share. The Unilac shares will have the same distinctive numbers as the Nestlé shares and will be transferable only with the corresponding Nestlé share.

To cover shareholders' liability to Federal coupon tax of 6 per cent. and other fiscal charges involved in this free share distribution the directors propose to pay a bonus which will equal about 5f. on each 200f. share and about 25c. on each 10f. share.

A meeting to consider the proposals will be held on November 27th at Cham.

SWISS FRONTIER DEFENCE.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to form a company of volunteers for the permanent manning of the new fortifications built along the northern frontier. If the attempt is successful more companies will be formed before the end of the year.

ANTI-NAZI BOOKS IN SWITZERLAND.

A firm of publishers in Zurich had arranged to publish a book by Dr. Helmut Klotz, a former German naval officer, in which information is given about the plans of the German General Staff for invading Switzerland and Holland in the event of war between Germany and France. The Federal Government has prohibited the printing and publishing of this book in Switzerland on the ground that it might "disturb the good international relations" of the country.

The Federal Government has also prohibited the further sale in Switzerland of a book on the assassination at Davos of Gustloff, the leader of the Nazi organisation in Switzerland, by Herr Emile Ludwig, who is of Swiss nationality. At the same time it is alleged that the sale in Switzerland of another book on the same subject by a German Nazi called Dierwege is to be allowed.

INCREASED TELEPHONE CHARGES.

The Swiss Government is to increase all telephone trunk call charges from Switzerland to places abroad by 20 per cent. as from this month.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

The unemployment figures just published, show that at the end of October, 86,866 unemployed were registered, or 3,904 more than at the same period in October 1935.

ELECTION OF NEW BISHOP.

M. Franz v. Streng, priest at the St. Clara church of Basle has been elected Bishop of Basle and Lugano, in succession to the late Dr. Ambühl.

Bishop von Streng was born at Sirnach on the 24th of February, 1884, the son of a former National Councillor. He was ordained at Sirnach (Thurgau) in 1908, for nearly 11 years he officiated as vicar in Berne; in 1919 he was transferred to Basle. (St. Clara church).

CUSTOMS EXPERT COMMISSION.

The Federal Council has appointed two additional members to the Customs Expert Commission, namely, late National-Councillor Gattiker from Richterswil and Director, Dr. F. Ehrenspurger from Zurich.

NO INCREASE IN HOTEL PRICES.

The Delegates Meeting held in Zurich of the Swiss Hotel Association, under the chairmanship of Dr. H. Seiler (Zermatt), has unanimously decided not to increase the Hotel prices.

FRENCH DIPLOMAT'S DEPARTURE.

The French Ambassador, Count Clauzel, has given a farewell dinner to the French Colony in Berne, at which several high Swiss Government officials were present. The departure of Count Clauzel, who was an untiring worker for a closer collaboration between the two countries, is much regretted in Swiss Government circles.

SWISS ANXIETIES.

Germany's sudden repudiation of the Rhine River Navigation Act of 1931 causes great anxiety in Swiss shipping interests, mainly at Basle, where large sums of money have been invested within the last 25 years in building piers and docks. Two new docks were started only a few days ago in expectation of increased traffic on the open Rhine. The old Treaty of Mannheim of 1868, confirmed by the Treaty of Versailles, guaranteed free international navigation from Switzerland to the sea. Switzerland hopes to negotiate a new treaty, as Germany intends to extend the Rhine navigation through Swiss territory to Lake Constance.

JOURNALIST'S ARREST.

The Zurich correspondent of the "Basler National Zeitung" has been imprisoned by the Swiss authorities for refusing to divulge the source of certain information which he telephoned to his newspaper. The message, which was published, dealt with the arrest of several Communists.

It is alleged by the authorities that the journalist obtained the information "from an indiscret official." Every effort was made by the court to discover the identity of this official.

The journalist is now charged with contempt of the judicial authorities.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

In Berne died at the age of 77, M. Fritz Haller-Born. The deceased was the proprietor of the "Hallerischen Buchdruckerei" and Publisher of the "Berner Intelligenzblatt." In the army Mr. Haller reached the rank of Colonel.

* * *

Doctor Guggisberg, Professor of medicine at the University of Berne, and surgeon-in-chief of the maternity hospital in Berne, has celebrated his 25th service anniversary.

* * *

Professor Dr. von Waldkirch, from the Federal Military Department, has been appointed chief of the "Abteilung für Passiven Luftschutz."

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Dr. Henry Cariere, Director of the "Eidgenössischen Gesundheitsamtes" has tendered his

THE EVENT OF THE COLONY

CITY SWISS CLUB.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

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

resignation to the Federal Council, the latter has accepted it, whith thanks for services rendered.

BASLE.

Pastor A. Waldburger, since 1920 preacher at the "Elisabethengemeinde" has retired from his post. Pastor Waldburger has studied Theology at the University of Basle, Tübingen and Zurich; he officiated, previous to his appointment in Basle (1916), at Marthalen, Rheinau and Ragaz.

* * *

In the Cantonal poll at Basle, which took place on Sunday last, the electorate accepted a Bill excluding Communists from positions in the Civil Service.

SOLOTHURN.

Doctor Hans Herzog, a noted medical practitioner and President of the Medical Association of the canton of Solothurn, has died at a clinic in Zurich at the age of 59.

VAUD.

The death has occurred at Cully, of M. Albert Rochat, for many years editor of the "Educateur" at the age of 56.

* * *

Dr. Paul Kasser, Federal-Judge has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

ST. GALLEN.

The death is reported from St. Gall of Lieutenant-Colonel Konrad Fels at the age of 82; the deceased was for many years a member of the Federal Instruction Corps.

VALAIS.

Colonel Louis de Courten from Siders, who was from 1878-1901, commander of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican, has celebrated his 102nd birthday anniversary.

NEUCHATEL.

Two Swiss citizens have been taken in custody by the Neuchâtel judicial authorities on a charge of espionage.

LA POLITIQUE.

Le budget fédéral de 1937.

Le Conseil fédéral présente à l'Assemblée fédérale le projet de budget de 1937. Nos lecteurs ont pu lire dans les colonnes de ce journal les chiffres les plus importants qu'énumère le document en question; nous ne les répéterons pas, et nous nous bornerons à les faire suivre de quelques commentaires.

L'impression générale est celle d'une profonde déception.

La discussion — laborieuse entre toutes — du deuxième plan financier avait fait naître l'espérance d'un sérieux redressement. Il semblait que l'on renoncerait une fois pour toutes aux dépenses non compensées par des recettes équivalentes et que l'on limiterait les subventions jusqu'à les réduire au strict minimum. Toutes les réformes souhaitables n'ont pas pu être réalisées à l'occasion de ce débat, qui se prolongea, on s'en souvient, en janvier; du moins avait-on le sentiment d'un effort réel pour rééquilibrer les finances du pays.

Le cours des mois qui suivirent, il parut plusieurs fois que l'on oubliait un peu les préceptes de sagesse et de prudence dont l'on s'était opportunément réclamé durant l'hiver. La politique d'économies substantielles paraissait bien lente à se réaliser, tandis que celle des subventions et des dépenses dites "extraordinaires" (elles le sont, en effet, à tous les sens du mot) croissait et embellissait. Puis vint la dévaluation, acte dictatorial du Conseil fédéral dont nous n'avons pas voulu dire trop de mal, d'abord parce que c'était été inutile, la décision une fois prise, ensuite, parce que c'était une solution acceptable en soi, à condition qu'on ne se laissât pas aller ensuite au fil de l'eau, comme le célèbre "chien crev" évoqué jadis par un grand polémiste français, mais que l'on tirât, du nouveau statut de la monnaie, tous les effets qu'elle peut produire.

On s'est évidemment préoccupé, fort activement d'en diminuer, à l'intérieur, les inconvénients. Mais, pour le reste, il semble que l'on s'en rapporte au hasard, ou à la Providence, ce qui, en matière de finance, est tout un, car il est fort douteux que le Père Eternel se soucie de nos budgets. L'optimisme du Conseil fédéral nous surprend. Pour présenter son affair sous le jour le plus avantageux il nous confie que si l'on déduit du déficit de 42 millions et demi le total