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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### NAZI ACTIVITIES RESTRICTED IN SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council took several decisions in regard to German Nazi organisations in Switzerland. In future no central administration of the German Nazi party is to be allowed either for the whole of Switzerland or for any part of it. The question whether foreign political organisations shall be tolerated in Switzerland at all was referred to the Department of Justice and Police, which is to present a report on the subject.

The Federal Government also decided to expel from Switzerland a German university student who has relations with the German secret police, and decided to take certain measures against two Germans and an Austrian whose names are not mentioned. One of them is to receive a warning, the second is to be expelled from Switzerland, and the third is to be forbidden to enter the country.

Further, the Federal Government gave instructions to the university authorities that a questionnaire that has been sent to German students in Swiss universities by the Nazi organisation is not to be allowed and that no third parties are to be permitted to interfere with the students' organisations.

These are the first steps towards the measures that have been unanimously demanded by the Swiss press, particularly since the murder of Gustloff, the party's chief agent in Switzerland, and his State funeral in Germany, but it is probable that they will not be considered to be sufficient. The " Neue Zürcher Zeitung " again demands the entire suppression of the German Nazi organisations in Switzerland, which has also been demanded by the " Bund " of Berne and the " Gazette de Lausanne," as well as by all the other leading papers in the country.

#### AIR INVASION FEAR IN SWITZERLAND.

The apprehension felt in Switzerland at the rapid rearmament of adjacent countries is revealed in an appeal made by M. Minger, Chief of the Swiss Military Department, for a reorganisation of the country's defences.

" In future wars," he said, " air attacks on cities and centres of communication will place the civilian population in jeopardy. To ignore such a danger is to invite belligerent States to violate our neutrality.

" A powerful Air Force would enable us to resist invasion."

It is announced that orders for a large number of powerful bombing aeroplanes will be put in hand shortly.

#### SWISS FINANCE AND TRADE.

In the Report of the Swiss Bank Corporation there is voiced an argument which will doubtless find a sympathetic echo elsewhere than in Swiss financial circles, for it touches upon the unfavourable treatment accorded to financial, as compared with commercial interest in the various Clearing Agreements concluded with other States. This, it claims, has proved injurious to the best interests of the country, for it points out that money transferred in respect of a merchandise transaction goes only in part to meet the cost of labour in the country and as to the rest in payment for imported materials. On the other hand, the full return from Switzerland's financial interests abroad would remain in the country, stimulating economic activity in general and benefiting the Exchequer by way of taxation. The policy followed by the Swiss Bank Corporation has been directed again to the accommodation of commercial and industrial concerns at home, while engagements abroad have been reduced, " sometimes at a loss," is a significant addition. Hence, in the balance-sheet, Bills Receivable have declined from 213 to 161 million

frances and cash is also lower, having been reduced from the disproportionately large sum of the year before. The Bank's profit last year was Sw.Frs. 7,116,142 and a dividend of 4½ per cent., costing Sw.Frs. 7,200,000 is proposed, leaving Sw.Frs. 1,056,085 to be carried forward.

#### ZURICH PROFESSOR AT NEWCASTLE.

Professor Arnold Heim, the famous geologist, of Zurich University, gave a lantern lecture on " My Expedition to Chinese Tibet — Experiences and Discoveries," at Armstrong College, Newcastle, on Saturday last.

He dealt chiefly with the customs of the Tibetans and the Tibetan Llamas. He showed many photographs of the interior of Tibet and explained the rugged nature of the country and the hardness of the natives.

" The natives," said Professor Heim, " can stand the most severe cold and think nothing of baring themselves from the waist upwards when the temperature is 15 degrees below freezing."

He is shortly to leave on an expedition to the Himalayas.

#### TO SWITZERLAND DIRECT.

From April 18th, Imperial Airways and Swissair are to run a Summer service between London and Switzerland which will be an improvement upon last year's schedule. The Imperial machines will fly direct, not stopping at Paris. They will leave Croydon at 8.30 and get to Basle at 12.15 and Zürich at 12.55. Leaving there at 15.30 and Basle at 16.10 they will put down at Croydon at 18.30.

The Swissair machines will leave Zürich at 9.00 and Basle at 9.40 and reach Croydon at 12.50. They will leave at 13.45 (only 55 mins. to turn round) and get to Basle at 16.45 and Zürich at 17.25.

The cheap fares will be continued — £8 2s. single and £13 16s. return (within 15 days). These fares on the Swissair Winter service are attracting much of the Winter sports traffic. Although the snow was spoilt in many resorts during January by the warm Föhn wind, which blew for nearly three weeks, Swissair carried 190 passengers to Switzerland on their 26 January trips. This averages 7.3 passengers per service, and the capacity of the Douglas D.C.2s (allowing for the heavy luggage which ski-ing enthusiasts generally take) is 12. The excess luggage in January was equal to about one extra passenger per trip.

On the 12 trips in December (from Dec. 16) they carried 137 passengers, averaging 11.4 passengers per trip. bookings improved in the first week of February when colder anti-cyclonic weather set in.

Visitors to the Austrian resorts discovered that by flying to Zürich and catching the 16.24 train they could get to such places as St. Anton, in the Vorarlberg, the same evening. The second-class boat-and-train fare to Zürich is £10 13s. 2d., which, after adding £4 for sleepers, comes to just 17s. 2d. more than the fare by Swissair. Even on the single fare 3d. is saved by flying!

The Summer season looks like being good for the air lines, for besides the cheap fares there will be the inclusive tours at really moderate rates.

#### SWISS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES FOR PERSIA.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Armin Daeniker to the post of Charge d'Affaires in Teheran.

#### SWISS UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD.

It was announced last week that at the end of January last there were 124,000 unemployed persons in Switzerland. This is the highest ever recorded.

#### BANQUE COMMERCIALE DE BASEL.

The Banque Commerciale de Basle (Basler Handelsbank), one of Switzerland's leading banks, announces a loss for 1935 of Sw.Frs. 9,834,000 (£655,600 at current rates), against a profit of Sw.Frs. 4,138,000 (£275,900) for 1934.

This unfavourable result is owing to the liquidation during the year of assets in countries with exchange restrictions, bringing about a loss of Sw.Frs. 12,000,000 (£800,000). During the period under review the bank's holding of such frozen assets could be reduced by Sw.Frs. 33,000,000 (£2,200,000).

Owing to its frozen assets the bank had to apply for a moratorium in June of 1935, which will terminate in June, 1937. The Board proposes to wipe out the loss shortly by a reduction of its capital.

#### OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES.

Although Switzerland has not piled up gold medals like Norway and Finland, she can be well satisfied with the balanced showing of her representatives.

Switzerland finished first and second in the four-man bob-sled Olympic Championship, and second in the two-man bob-sled event. An Olympic record for the run was set up by the Swiss No. 2 team, who returned 1 min. 19.88 secs. for their final trip, and ran into second place with an aggregate of 5 min. 30.64 secs.

#### 1935 TEXTILE EXPORTS DECLINE.

Textile exports from Switzerland during the past year totalled only 140,400,000 Swiss francs, which is practically 47,000,000 less than for the previous year. Declines took place under all headings but chiefly in: Cotton fabrics (13,800,000 frs.); silk fabrics (10,200,000 frs.); cotton yarns (6,300,000 frs.); rayon (7,500,000 frs.). This diminution in exports is stated to have reduced the anticipated effectiveness of import quotas in that competition among producers on the home market has been intensified. Imports of raw cotton, it is interesting to note, were slightly higher at 26,530 tons than in 1934 (26,480 tons). Imports of raw wool and cellulose for rayon fell on the other hand from 9,370 to 9,040 tons and 6,320 to 3,810 tons respectively.

#### SWISS STUDIO BATTLE.

The efforts being made by the Canton of Vaud, and the town of Montreux, in order that the latter shall be selected for the site of the National studios have resulted in both the County Council and the Municipality offering the required subsidies on condition that the Federal Government will vote a similar amount which is a foregone conclusion.

The amount which the Federal Council will be asked to offer is 500,000 francs, a sum equal to £20,000 at par or £33,000 at the present rate of exchange.

Montreux is so sure of its success that already a well-known Swiss architect has been sent to visit the studios of France and particularly those of Joinville in order to prepare plans for the required buildings.

Naturally there are two other candidates, the towns of Zurich and St. Gall, and the final decision is awaited with interest.

#### SWISS BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have been declared:

Banque Populaire Suisse, 2.128 per cent. (1934: 2.128%); Hypothekarbank in Winterthur, 6 per cent. (1934: 6%); Berner Handelsbank, no dividend; Bank in Ragaz, 6 per cent; Gewerbekasse in Bern, 7 per cent (1934: 8½%); Spar- und Leihkasse Frutigen, 6 per cent. (1934: 6%); Bank in Langenthal, 4 per cent. (1934: 4%); Crédit Sierrois, S.A. Sierre, 6 per cent; Leu A.G. Zurich, no dividend (1934: 3%); Crédit Foncier Neuchâtel, 5 per cent. (1934: 5%); Hypothekar- und Sparkasse, Aarau, 5 per cent. (1934: 5%); Solothurner Handelsbank, 5 per cent. (1934: 5%); Caisse d'Epargne du Canton de Genève, no dividend; Ersparniskasse Interlaken, 5 per cent. (1934: 5%); Solothurnische Leihkasse, 5.5 per cent. (1934: 6%).
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#### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

A man who went to prison for his brother at Zurich was charged for his " keep " when he was discovered.

A farmer of the Canton of Zurich was sentenced to imprisonment for 10 days for a trifling offence. He persuaded his brother to serve his sentence.

The brother had been in prison a week before officials discovered the trick. Then they arrested the farmer.

Meanwhile, the brother has been presented with a bill for the equivalent of 24s. to cover cost to the State of his " board and lodging."

\* \* \*

The " Kantons-Rat " has decided with 69 votes against 63 to levy a tax on bachelors.

\* \* \*

Dr. Bernhard Fehr, since 1922 Professor of English at the University of Zurich, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Dr. Fehr who hails from Basle, spent several years in England as a teacher. From 1904-1915 he was a lecturer at the Commercial University in St. Gall, and later on Professor of English at the Technical University in Dresden.

#### BERNE.

Doctor Alfred Good, for forty years a house surgeon at the Asylum in Münsingen, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

## FRIBOURG.

A Garage proprietor in Fribourg, who threw his car in the lake of Wohlen in order to get compensation from the Insurance Company, was condemned to one month's imprisonment.

## BASLE.

Last week, the World renowned firm of F. Hoffmann La Roche & Co. A.G., moved into their new premises at the Schaffhauserstrasse. To celebrate this event, members of the Board, Management and Staff, as well as a great number of guests from every corner of the world, assembled in the board-room, where speeches were made by Professor Salvisberg, Director Laepple, Professor Dr. Mangold.

At the same time the 40th service Jubilee of Dr. Emil Barell, General Manager of the firm was celebrated.

## GENEVA.

There was a display of passion last week in the Grand Council at Geneva, when M. Chalut, a deputy of the Right, launched a violent attack on the Socialist member, M. Leon Nicole, and in so doing used language which was held by the chairman to threaten M. Nicole with death.

The Chamber was at once in an uproar and the sitting was suspended for 20 minutes while ushers strove to keep the disputants apart.

Eventually the session was resumed and M. Chalut, who tried to explain that his threats of death were only conditional on certain action on the part of his Socialist opponent, was suspended for the current session of the Council, a sentence which was received with hoots of derision by the Socialist Party.

\* \* \*

Two Swiss anarchists, Tronchet and Moret, who attempted last January to blow up the monument erected in Geneva to the memory of the Genevese soldiers who died from 1914 to 1918 during the mobilization of the Swiss Army have been sentenced, the one to two years' and the other to 15 months' imprisonment.

## GRISONS.

The Davos Executive Council has formally expressed its desire for the removal of the headquarters of the German Nazi party in Switzerland from the commune of Davos.

## NEUCHATEL.

Several people who were skating on the lake of Les Brenets, were thrown into the water, when the ice suddenly gave way.

All were saved, but a M. Herren from La Chaux-de-Fonds, who tried to rescue one of the skaters was drowned, he leaves a widow and six children.

## VALAIS.

Serious defalcations in a clog factory at Martigny were discovered; the business has been closed, it is intimated that the losses are in the neighbourhood of 540,000frs.

\* \* \*

M. and Mme. Stanislas Delaloye at Ardon, have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

## VAUD.

Serious damage was caused by a fire which broke out at the town-hall in Lausanne. A number of panels of great historical value were damaged.

\* \* \*

Doctor Pierre Warney, a medical practitioner in Morges was run over by a motor-car and badly injured.

## FOOTBALL.

16th February, 1936.

Almost two thirds of the 1935-36 Champion ship are completed and it behoves us, perhaps, to cast a fleeting glimpse on our old friends in Switzerland, be it to rejoice in their prowess and good fortune, or to commiserate with their outrageous bad luck.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE.

	P	W	D	L	for agst	Goals	
						28	17
Lausanne	18	12	4	2	49	17	28
Young Fellows	17	11	4	2	44	22	26
Grasshoppers	17	9	4	3	36	16	22
Biel	17	9	3	5	38	25	21
Bern	16	8	3	5	44	29	19
Young Boys	17	7	4	6	24	23	18
Servette	17	7	3	7	22	22	17
Lugano	17	5	6	6	24	27	16
St. Gallen	17	7	2	8	24	34	16
Basel	18	7	2	9	37	34	16
Nordstern	16	6	2	8	23	34	14
Aarau	18	3	4	11	32	68	10
Chaux-de-Fonds	15	1	5	9	22	41	7
Locarno	16	2	2	12	17	44	6

Once again we find last year's Champions, Lausanne, at the head of the table, closely followed by Young Fellows, (Zurich), only two points behind with a game in hand. It is a long, long time since Young Fellows had such a thrusful team. A large measure of their success is due to Frigerio at centre forward who is in top form this season. That Grasshoppers would not be far behind was to be expected. Biel have come to the fore this season; last week they lost in Zurich against Y.F. 3:6 and that rather spoiled their record. Last week's results were altogether unpleasant. Young Boys had a shock when lowly Nordstern beat them in Basel by five clear goals. At the same time Bern had the impertinence to send St. Gall home with a packet of nine goals to one and thereby advancing to the coveted fourth place. Why coveted? Because the first four at the end of the season will, for the first time, participate in the "Mitropa-Cup" competition. This may mean a gold mine for the clubs concerned; for the players it is sure to mean more games, almost all the year round, summer and winter. Who would not be a Swiss footballer? Servette are deplored the loss of some of their best players, such as Sécheyah, goal, to Lausanne, Kiehlholz, centre forward, to Bern and others. Lausanne beat them 2:0 last Sunday; still, they are gradually fighting their way back and have reached the semi-final stage in the Swiss Cup, where they will meet F. C. Bern. F. C. Bern and Young Fellows are the other semi-finalists. By the way, Bern had to play Biel three times in the last round, before they won through in mid-week by the only goal scored; this is a record for Switzerland.

What of the rest? Lugano, St. Gall and Basel, all with 16 points, are comfortably safe (thank goodness): Nordstern are doing better and Aarau, who were at the wrong end of the table for weeks on end, have also outdistanced the two relegation places. Chaux-de-Fonds managed to register their first win on Sunday, 1:0 against Basel. They thus passed the red lantern on to Locarno, yet there seems but little hope left for these two. Still, you never can tell.

In the First League East, Juventus (Zurich) lead, followed closely by Chiasso, Luzern and Brühl (St. Gall); one of these should pull it off. Winterthur and Seebach are in trouble at the other end. In the western group Grenchen and Solothurn lead, both with 21 points, followed by Montreux, 17 and Cantonal (Neuchâtel) 16 points. A bad last, with but three points from 13 games, is Carouge, with Racing (Lausanne), 7 points, companion in distress. It is to be remembered that the two final group-leaders will play for the Championship of the First League, with promotion for the winner only, as but one club will go up, whilst two National League clubs will be relegated for the next two years in order to reduce the top class to 12 clubs.

Of that more anon.

M.G.

## AFFAIRES VALAISANNES.

C'est toujours avec précaution qu'il faut aborder le sujet de la politique d'un canton dont l'on n'est pas rassortissant. D'autant qu'à Genève nous avons mille raisons de ne pas paraître faire la leçon à autrui; nous nous exposerions à nous entendre rappeler la paille et la poutre de l'Évangile. Toutefois, nos sentiments personnels à l'égard du Valais, et ceux de ce journal, qui compte dans la vallée du Rhône nombre de lecteurs et d'amis, sont assez connus de nos confédérés de cette région pour qu'on n'imagine pas que nous soyons inspirés par la malveillance lorsque nous nous occupons de ce qui se passe au pied des collines hiératiques de Valère et de Tourbillon.

Au contraire, c'est parce que nous aimons le Valais, parce que nous nous intéressons à son développement — très considérable au cours du dernier quart de siècle —, parce que nous voudrions même le voir jouer, dans le concert des cantons romands, une partie toujours plus importante (car il y peut apporter une contribution fort utile) que nous avons été amenés à déplorer quelquefois les dissenssions profonds qui opposent, au sein du parti majoritaire, deux fractions rivales, le tout, en définitive, au détriment, non seulement de ce parti, mais de la collectivité.

La dernière session du Grand Conseil a illustré, une fois de plus, cette vérité d'évidence. Certes, elle s'est terminée mieux qu'on ne l'eût pu prévoir et tout espoir d'un apaisement, souhaité par l'opinion publique et ses interprètes les plus autorisés, n'est pas absolument perdu. Et pourtant, la situation demeure trouble et confuse, pour la plus grande inquiétude des esprits modérés et avisés, pour la joie des extrémistes de gauche, qui se promettent, non sans quelque apparence de raison, de tirer finalement tout le bénéfice de la discorde.

On sait que, depuis longtemps, le Conseil d'Etat du Valais, qui compte cinq membres, tous conservateurs, est divisé en une majorité, composée de MM. Troillet, Loréan et de Cocatrix, et une minorité, formée de MM. Escher et Pitteloud. C'est manifestement un élément de faiblesse pour l'autorité exécutive: la tâche, en soi difficile, d'un gouvernement devient bien malaisée lorsque les magistrats ne s'entendent pas entre eux.

Mais une circonstance imprévue est venue compliquer encore l'imbroglio: M. de Cocatrix, tombé gravement malade, ne peut plus prendre part aux délibérations, si bien que la précaire majorité n'existe plus et que les conseillers en fonction se trouvent deux contre deux. On discerne sans peine ce qu'une telle position a d'intenable.

L'effet de cette thébaïde, où il y a deux Etéocle et deux Polynice, fut assez curieux (on en rira si le fond du débat n'était pas des plus sérieux!); deux projets de budget ont été présentés à l'Assemblée législative, par les deux fractions adverses du gouvernement. Il y eut un budget Troillet-Loréan et un budget Escher-Pitteloud. Le fait est probablement unique dans les annales de nos petites républiques. L'un et l'autre projets s'efforçaient de rétablir l'équilibre financier, mais, tandis que le premier qu'à une aussi bien à des réductions de dépenses qu'à une augmentation des recettes, et notamment à un impôt de crise, le second voulait tout obtenir de la compression.

C'est la commission des finances, où M. Maurice de Torrente semble avoir manœuvré avec beaucoup d'adresse et de savoir-faire, qui a arbitré le conflit et cherché à concilier les deux manières. Tout en élargissant la part des économies prévues par le budget numéro 1, elle n'a pas repoussé le principe d'un impôt de crise; mais, finalement, la discussion de ce point particulier a été renvoyée à une session ultérieure, avec l'espérance de réaliser, d'ici là, une entente à ce sujet.

Les personnes des magistrats ne sont pas en cause, en ce sens que tous quatre sont fort capables. M. Troillet, tout spécialement, a travaillé pour son canton avec une intelligence et un zèle qui méritent le respect et l'estime.

Qui ne voit, cependant, combien le désaccord, au sein du gouvernement, est fauché? Pendant que l'on s'entre-déchire, au Conseil d'Etat, l'opposition se frotte les mains: c'est elle qui récoltera les semaines de l'ivraie.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève).

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

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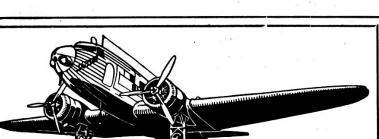
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