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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND AND GERMANY.

It has not perhaps been sufficiently realised that Switzerland is directly affected by the German violation of the treaty of Locarno, for the demilitarised zone borders the Swiss frontier for a little more than thirty miles along the Rhine from Basle to Waldshut. Lörrach, which is only a couple of miles from Basle, was one of the places occupied by German troops recently.

The leading articles in the "Gazette de Lausanne" reflect the general anxiety in Switzerland. On the 12th the paper criticised what it considered to be the fallacious optimism of official quarters in Berne, where they seemed, it said, to be quite satisfied because Switzerland was not directly involved in the present dispute, and even to congratulate themselves that the question of sanctions against Germany would not be raised in Switzerland.

Yet the "Gazette de Lausanne" declared the preoccupation that should predominate was that of the immense insecurity that was now more than ever the result of the immediate neighbourhood of Switzerland to a nation that claimed the right to repudiate its signature at any time. If the Swiss allowed themselves to be persuaded by the policy of the League of Nations to accept the fait accompli in return for illusory and fallacious advantages after having participated in the sanctions against Italy, they would be dupes.

In another leading article the "Gazette de Lausanne" protests against criticisms of the French attitude in two Berne papers, the "Bund," and the "Berner Tageblatt," which reproached the French Government with its obstinacy and lack of conciliation.

This point of view (the "Gazette de Lausanne" says) is incompatible with the international statute of Switzerland whose security depends on the strict observance of international engagements. If Germany, encouraged by the success of its brutality, thought fit to repudiate its guarantee of Swiss neutrality, how could the Swiss appeal to the world to help them if they had even tacitly but indirectly approved the repudiation of the Treaty of Locarno.

SWISS REARMAMENT.

The Committee of National Defence has decided to hasten the completion of the scheme agreed on last year for rearming and modernising the Swiss Army, and developing in particular technical and artillery units and aviation.

ANXIETY ON SWISS FRONTIER.

The Swiss newspapers reveal great anxiety about developments in the Rhineland. They publish reports of the building of huge barracks, partly subterranean, in the territories adjoining the Swiss cantons. These barracks are said to be at Constance, Wollmatigen and Radolfzell.

Movements of large bodies of troops within the last few days are also reported.

A number of pontoons have, it is added, been assembled on the German Rhine frontier and on Lake Constance.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The return of the Swiss National Bank for the second week of March shows an increase in the gold stock of 18,000,000fr., to 1,500,000,000fr. The increase is partly due to the influx of French and German money in connexion with the present political tension. Gold exchange, however, had dropped by 7,000,000fr., to 11,000,000fr. On March 14 the total short-term commitments of the Bank were covered by 85.2 per cent., against 84.8 per cent. a week previously.

SWISS FOOTBALLERS IN DUBLIN.

The members of the Swiss Association football team, which met the Free State F. A. at Dalymount Park on Tuesday last, were previous to the match received by the Lord Mayor of Dublin at the Mansion House, Dublin. The Lord Mayor addressed the visitors, and his daughter, Moira, welcomed them in Irish; they were also entertained to tea at the Swiss Consulate, by the Swiss Consul General and Madame Benziger.

The Swiss team was beaten by one goal to nil before an attendance of 35,000 spectators. (Dunne of Arsenal being the scorer.) The Swiss team lined up as follows: G. Aebi (Servette); Spagnoli (Lausanne); Frigerio (Young Fellows); Kielholz (Bern); Diebold (Young Fellows); Müller (Young Fellows); Jaccard (Basel); Defago (Berne); M. Weiler (Grasshoppers); Minelli (Grasshoppers); Schlegel (Young Fellows). We hope to publish an account of the game in our next issue.

This is the second meeting of the countries. At Basle in 1934, in the World's Cup, Switzerland won by the only goal scored. M. Langenus (Belgium) was the referee.

NEOLITHIC HOUSE.

Workmen engaged in digging a trench at La Praille, near Geneva, came across a framing of timber lying at a depth of 12ft. It was examined by M. Louis Blondel, the Cantonal archaeologist, who found that it was a prehistoric dwelling, 54ft. long, and well preserved owing to the fact that it was lying in a subterranean stream.

Several stone imprints were found on the site — axes, fishing hooks, ploughshares — and also a bow. The dwelling was propped against an oak tree. One of the transversal beams shows the notches and mortises which supported a two-faced roof. Except for the construction of the angles and the squaring of the logs, the architecture of the hut is similar to that employed in the building of the Alpine chalets of to-day. The likeness is completed by the existence in front of the dwelling of a fountain hewn in an uprooted tree, to which the water was brought through a wooden pipe.

This is the first discovery in Switzerland of a big Neolithic dwelling built on dry land and not on a lake shore or near a bog.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

On Friday last a demonstration of the unemployed of the canton of Berne took place outside the Palais fédérale. The participants numbered about 6,000 and they were addressed by National Councillor Grimm and other speakers who sharply denounced the unemployment policy of the Government.

* * *

Dr. Albert Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation has celebrated his 66th birthday anniversary; he was born in 1870 at Fällanden (Zurich). He studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin, in 1895 he took his degrees as *doctor juris utriusque*, as well as *doctor juris publice et rerum cameratae* at the University of Zurich.

In 1897 he joined the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" where he edited the commercial pages of the paper. From 1915-1929, Dr. Meyer was Editor in chief of the N.Z.Z., he entered the Municipal Council of Zurich in 1907, over which he presided in 1912; three years later he was elected to Parliament. (National Council). From 1923-1929, Dr. Meyer acted as President of the central committee of the Liberal Democratic Party of Switzerland, from 1927-1929 he was a member of the Board of the National Bank. He was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1929 in succession to Federal Councillor Haab. In the army he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel of Infantry.

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From Berne comes the news of the death of M. Hans Blaser, late National Councillor, at the age of 58. The deceased was for many years a well-known preacher in Langenthal and Berne (Heiliggeistkirche), in 1922 he took up politics and for 13 years he was a member of the "Gemeinderat." He entered Parliament in 1922 and resigned his seat in 1928.

ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Adolf Roemer, since 1919 Secretary of the "St. Gallischen Erziehungs Dept.", and Dr. Josef Riedener, public prosecutor of the canton of St. Gall, have been elected members of the cantonal government.

ZURICH.

Mme. Frida A. Haab-Sidler, the widow of the well-known eye specialist, Professor, Dr. Otto Haab, has celebrated her 70th birthday anniversary. Mme. Haab has played an important part to raise funds for various childrens' institutions throughout Switzerland. During the General strike 1918/19 she opened her large house for sick officers and soldiers, and her appeal brought in over half a million francs.

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The accounts for 1935 of the canton of Zurich show a deficit of 5,293,525 frs.

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Dr. J. Büchi, from Bischofzell (Thurgau) at present a lecturer at the Technical University in Zurich, has been appointed a Professor at this University.

LUCERNE.

The death is reported from Schüpfheim of M. Josef, Anton Balmer, late National Councillor, at the age of 77. M. Balmer was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne from 1887-1935. He entered Parliament in 1907 and resigned his seat in 1929.

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On the occasion of the 100th birthday anniversary of the late Colonel Alphons Pfyffer v. Attishofen, a former chief of the General Staff of the Swiss Army, a meeting was held at Lucerne, which was attended by over 200 Swiss officers. Amongst the guests were present the colonels of division, Pfyffer, v. Salis and Tissot. Colonel Pfyffer, thanked the company for having honoured his father's work.

BASLE.

Mme. Anne Walter-Strauss, one of the most celebrated Swiss singers, has celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary. Mme. Walter was in the seventies; heard on all the continental concert platforms, where she enjoyed a great reputation.

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Dr. August Huber, "Staatsarchivar" in Basle, has died at the age of 68, he was since 1917, keeper of the archives, and previously he was for 25 years assistant registrar.

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Professor Karl Barth, the well-known Swiss theologian, has been invited to give a series of lectures at the four Scottish Universities; it is the first time that a Swiss has been thus honoured.

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M. Emil Suter-Dardenne, an optician of world-wide repute has died in Basle at the age of 85.

VAUD.

After being lost alone in the Alps for four days without food, a young girl ski-er, of Vevey, has now found her way back to civilisation.

Exhausted, frozen, and famished, she struggled on till she came upon a little chalet some 20 miles from the place whence she had started.

At nightfall on the first day her wandering she lay down under a rock and slept as best she could in the bitter cold, beneath a covering of old newspaper.

For three more whole days and nights she wandered through the mountains, and all hopes for her safety were abandoned. After getting food and rest, however, she now seems little the worse for her experience.

GRISONS.

A tourist from Zurich, M. Otto Suter-Grat, fell into a crevice on the Sella glacier and was killed.

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Dr. Kaspar Laely, Editor of the "Davoser Zeitung" has been elected "Landammann" of Davos in succession to Dr. Branger, who has been recently appointed Manager of the "Rätischen Bank."

SCHWYZ.

The Sparkasse Arth, which is a private concern, has got into trouble; a revision of the accounts have shown a loss of 370,000 frs. A receiver has been appointed, it is reckoned that about 400 of the Bank's clients will be affected.

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M. Rudolf Sidler, a member of the cantonal government, has resigned from his post for reasons of age, he is 73 years old.

VALAIS.

M. Pierroz, the well-known Swiss aviator, has been appointed chief of the Airport in Sion.