

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1936)

Heft: 750

Rubrik: Home news

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 15—No. 750

London, MARCH 28, 1936.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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AND COLONIES	{	6 " " 12 "	6/6
SWITZERLAND	{	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Frs. 7.50
	{	12 " " 24 "	14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

SWISS CONVERSION LOAN.

The Conversion Loan of 100,000,000f. issued by the Swiss Confederation has met with a great success, and the amount will be raised by several millions in order to meet the demands of the subscribers.

MR. DE VALERA CONSULTS SWISS SPECIALIST.

Mr. De Valera, President of the Irish Free State has gone to Zurich, in order to consult the famous eye specialist, Dr. Vogt. Mr. De Valera is now to pay his second visit to Dr. Vogt. The first he paid three years ago, when he was attending a League of Nations meeting.

BANCA DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA.

The Banca della Svizzera Italiana, of Lugano (an affiliation of the Banca Commerciale Italiana) reports a profit of Swiss francs 525,067 for 1935 (against Swiss Francs 542,609 for 1934). A dividend of 63 per cent. is again to be paid and Swiss francs 97,766 is to be carried forward (against Swiss francs 96,953). The bank is taking over Creditare S.A., Zurich. The operation does not involve any increase of capital.

CONSUL HIRZEL.

M. Ernst, Gotthard Hirzel, since 1909, Honorary Swiss Consul in Leipzig, has died at the age of 78. M. Hirzel was a Partner in the firm Heinrich Hirzel, G. m. b. H.

SPRING SESSION OF SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The two Federal Chambers will assemble on April 14th for the spring session.

POLITICAL REFUGEES IN SWITZERLAND.

At the end of December, 1935, there were 118 Political Refugees residing in Switzerland. (1934: 122).

SWISS EMIGRATION.

According to figures just published, Swiss emigration is increasing. In the month of January six more persons left the country than in January 1935, and in February the increase was 70, i.e., altogether 126 Swiss (1935: 56) went overseas. From the 1st of January 1936 to 28th of February the figures given are 213 persons. (1935: 137).

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. Otto Lang, a well-known Judge has died at the age of 73 in Zurich. He was from 1888-1893 examining magistrate in Zurich, and until 1900 he officiated as a District Judge. In 1900, Dr. Lang was elected a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich over which he presided for 11 years. The deceased was for 46 years a member of the "Zürcher Kantonsrat."

GENEVA.

The Canton of Geneva has applied to the Federal authorities and its bondholders for a five-year interruption of the redemption of the consolidated debt and a 50 per cent. reduction in the rate of interest payable to bondholders and certain other creditors.

The difficulties of the Canton are not of recent date. Assistance had been given to its Treasury by the Federal Council and others in the past.

The savings which would be obtained by this moratorium would be used partly in reducing the floating debt and partly in financing unemployment assistance and strengthening of the Cantonal old age pension fund.

* * *

M. Jules Breitenstein, since 1909 Professor of Theology at the University of Geneva, has died at the age of 63.

BASLE.
The case against Dr. Wesemann, who enticed the German Journalist, Berthold Jacob, over the Frontier, will be heard next month in Basle.

LUCERNE.

At the age of 81, Colonel Kaspar Kopp, died. He was for 60 years in the service of the canton of Lucerne, and occupied the post of a judge of the Superior Court for over 30 years.

ST. GALLEN.

The death is reported from Buchs, of M. Gallus Schwander, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and from 1909-1919, a member of Parliament (National Council). He was 78 years of age.

GRISONI.

A motor-car accident happened last Sunday at the Versamer bridge, costing the life of two persons; namely: Dr. Breuer, a medical practitioner, who was on holiday in Saas (Prättigau), and Dr. Theodor Pestalozzi-Kutter from Zurich. The car fell down a slope into the river Tobel and was completely smashed.

Dr. Pestalozzi was born in 1889, and for some time was a teacher of History at the "Kantonschule" Schaffhausen.

In 1930 he was appointed a teacher of History at the "Töchterschule" in Zurich, where he enjoyed a great reputation. Dr. Breuer was born in 1909 and is of German nationality.

APPENZELL A-Rh.

The death has occurred in Herisau of M. Albert, Eugen Meyer, from 1894-1923, Professor at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, at the age of 79.

NEUCHATEL.

The firm of "Chocolat Suchard, S.A." in Serrières has declared a dividend of 4 per cent. for the year 1935.

FOOTBALL MATCH: SWITZERLAND v. IRELAND.

March 17th, 1936.

This year's St. Patrick's Day was of special significance to the Swiss Colony in the Irish Free State. Dublin had repeatedly had the visit of Swiss cavalrymen who participated in the jumping competitions organized by the Royal Dublin Society, but this was the first occasion on which the Swiss National Football Team came to this Island to play the Irish Internationals.

At the Congress of the FIFA (Fédération Internationale des Football Associations) which was held in Rome in 1934, the Irish delegates pointed out the difficulties for a new international team on the outskirts of Europe to meet the teams of other countries, and the Swiss Football Association at once expressed their readiness to enter into international competitions with the Free State team. The first match between the two countries was played at Basle in May, 1935, when the Swiss team won by one goal to 0. On returning to their homeland the Irish team were full of praise for the excellent reception which they were given at Basle and they have not forgotten and are not likely to ever forget the short but very enjoyable time they spent in Switzerland.

The "revanche" was fixed for the Irish National Day of 1936. The Swiss team which arrived at Kingstown on Sunday morning were received by M. Benziger, the Swiss Consul General and the officers of the Irish Association. The team evidently "meant business" and instead of having a well merited rest after a two nights' journey, they proceeded straight to the ground and had an hour's "muscle loosening."

Shortly after lunch they were received at the Mansion House by the popular and jovial Lord Mayor of the City. In the afternoon they were taken for a trip to the Dublin mountains and Bray, where for some time they watched a football match between two prominent Irish teams. In the evening a reception was given in their honour by the Swiss Consul General at his private residence. It was there that the Swiss colony were given an opportunity to meet the players and the officers of the Swiss Association, Dr. O. Regazzi (Locarno), M. Rinderer (Basle), M. Ammann (Neuchâtel) and M. W. Pfister (Soleure), who accompanied the team on their Irish tour. Amongst those present were also the Lord Mayor and a number of Irish personalities specially interested in Switzerland.

The following had been selected for the Swiss

team:— Schlegel; Minelli, Weiler; Defago, Jaccard, Müller; Diebold, Kielholz, Frigerio, Spagnoli and Aebi. For the first time in football history the Free State team played under the title of "Ireland" and the term was used in a very wide sense by the Selection Committee in making their choice amongst all football players born on Free State Territory. For posts which could not at the best advantage be filled by home players, men from Northern Ireland (Kelly: Derry City) and England (Turner: Southend United and Dunne: Arsenal) were obtained. With such players on the Irish side it would not have been reasonable to expect a great Swiss victory and the best one could hope for was a none too heavy defeat.

A record crowd of 32,000 people had gathered at Dalymount Park to assist the Competition. Everyone stood to attention while the Swiss and the Irish National Anthems were played. Ireland won the toss and the game opened at an uncommon pace, the Swiss making several advances to the opponents' goal in the first five minutes. The Irish attack was saved splendidly by Schlegel. An easy chance for Aebi was missed and now the Irish pressed hard on the Swiss goal and after 28 minutes Dunne, one of the outstanding men on the field, scored for his side. Up to half-time the Irish team kept the lead but the Swiss goalkeeper and full-backs defended beautifully.

The fast and thrilling pace of the first 45 minutes was not maintained during the second half. Frigerio and Kielholz changed places in the interval but the Irish centre forward proved to be too much for either of them. Nevertheless, as time progressed, the Swiss team started pushing once more, they held the field towards the close of the match but they did not succeed in breaking through the Irish defence. The play ended by an Irish victory of one goal to nil, a welcome victory to Ireland after a series of defeats on international grounds and maybe a well-deserved victory, inasmuch as the Irish forward line showed both better teamwork and individual effectiveness than their opponents. The Swiss as well as the Irish defence did clean and clever work but everything did not seem quite right with the Swiss forward line. However, the game brought two worthy, if not similarly constituted opponents together and the match was a thoroughly good and enjoyable one.

In the evening the Swiss Footballers were entertained by the Irish team at a banquet in the Royal Hibernian Hotel. Sir Osmonde Grattan Esmonde, the President of the Football Association of the Irish Free State, presided and on behalf of his Association presented the visiting team with a solid silver replica of an Irish loving cup. Dr. O. Regazzi, the leader of the Swiss party, responded to the toast of the Swiss Football Association and handed a beautiful bronze plaque to the President of the Irish Association. The toast of the latter Association was proposed by M. Benziger, and in responding the chairman of this body, expressed the wish that the two teams might meet again in a near future on Swiss ground. The evening function was a most pleasant one and had this in common with the afternoon meeting: It went far in strengthening the friendly bonds existing between the two Nations.

The Swiss team left Dublin on Wednesday morning, well pleased with their visit which Irish hospitality had made so enjoyable for them. They were good losers and look forward to their next encounter with the Irish Internationals.

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