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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### PRICE CONTROL.

The Federal Council has issued regulations concerning the supervision of prices. The following goods are affected:

Goods where the production, import or export, or their sale in Switzerland fall under the regulations of 14th October, 1933, in reference to economic measures as against foreign countries.

Goods where the free price movement is restricted by other federal measures of a protective or supporting character.

Goods where a free price movement is impossible or excessively restricted on account of trusts or trustlike conventions.

The price supervision aims at the prevention of unduly high levels for producer, seller and consumer alike. A price control board attached to the Federal Department of Public Economy takes charge.

#### NEW INITIATIVE.

A new initiative, backed by 58,852 signatures and calling for conservation of the constitutional rights of the citizen, has been handed in at the Federal Chancellery.

#### COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH ITALY.

On the 29th June the Federal Council ratified the commercial treaty concluded with Italy. The 3 per cent. surtax levied on Italian goods since 9th July, 1935, in retaliation for licence dues levied on Swiss goods by the Italian government is raised as from 1st July.

#### ARMY MANOEUVRES.

From 6th to 9th September, the second Division (commander Colonel v. Diesbach) will hold manoeuvres, commanded by Colonel v. Graffenreid, C.O. mountain Brigade 7; the exercises of the sixth Division (commander Colonel Lardelli) will be held from 20th to 23rd September, when the division will be led by Colonel Labhart.

#### ARMY REORGANISATION.

The Infantry of the Swiss field army, under the new scheme, will consist of 102 battalions "Auszug" and 19 battalions "Landwehr" — first call up, i.e., 121 battalions in all, of which 53 are mountain infantry units. In addition there will be frontier defence detachments, called "Grenzschatz."

The Infantry will be divided into 9 Divisions, Nos. 1-9 and 3 mountain Brigades, Nos. 10-12. The latter consist of: No. 10 6 batts. Valais and Vaud; No. 11 7 batts. Berne and Valais; No. 12 6 batts. St. Gall, Glarus and Grisons. The divisions are also of unequal strength, consisting of mountain infantry battalions, infantry battalions and attached battalions destined for special tasks in connection with the covering of the frontiers, but distinct from the "Grenzschatz" proper. Distinguishing these three classes by the letters M, I, and A, the various divisions are made up as follows:

No. 1 Vaud, Geneva, Fribourg, 3 battalions M, 6 I, 2 A; No. 2 Berne, Fribourg, Neuchâtel, 1 M, 10 I, 1 A; No. 3 Berne 9 M; No. 4 Soleure, Basel 1 M, 8 I, 2 A; No. 5 Aargau, Zurich 9 I, 3 A; No. 6 Zurich, Schaffhausen, Thurgau 12 I, 3 A; No. 7 Thurgau, St. Gall, Appenzell 9 I, 3 A of which 1 M; No. 8 Luzern, Unterwalden, Zug, Zurich 9 M; No. 9 Ticino, Schwyz, Unterwalden, Zug, Uri, Zurich 10 M.

The following battalions "Auszug" will be dissolved and replaced by "Landwehr" bearing the same numbers: Nos. 3 and 6 (Vaud), 20 (Neuchâtel), 27, 40 (Berne), 45 (Lucerne), 51 (Soleure), 53 (Baselland) and 76 and 79 (St. Gall). The other Landwehr battalions are Nos. 101, 102 and 105 to 111. All others from No. 1 to 99 and 101 to 111 are "Auszug", No. 1 to 11 "Schützen" battalions bring it up to 121.

#### SCHUPBACH v. DUTTWILER.

National Councillor Duttwiler has been found guilty of publicly insulting and slandering a member of the Federal Assembly, M. Schupbach, in his official capacity as President of the National Council; he has been sentenced to pay the maximum fine of 2,000 francs and costs. An appeal can be lodged within 10 days. M. Duttwiler is the head of the "Migros" concern and the moving spirit in the "Hotel-Plan" venture.

He entered Parliament at the last election at the head of a group of independents.

#### AVIATION.

A new service, Zurich-Budapest, as between Swissair and the Hungarian airline "Mallert" has been inaugurated.

#### SWISS GYMNASTS FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

After a series of eliminating contests the following eight have been chosen from 51 candidates to represent Switzerland at the Olympic Games in Berlin:

Bach W. (Zurich-Alte Sektion), Bachmann A. (Lucern-Bürger), Beck W. (Lucern-Bürger), Mack E. (Basel-Bürger), Miez G. (Chiasso), Reusch M. (Bern-Bürger), Steinemann E. (Flawil) and Walter Sepp (Zurich-Alte Sektion); Reserves are: Eberle K. (Flums) and Hafem R. (Biel-Stadt).

We wish them every success in their difficult task.

#### "LEIHKASSE" IN DIFFICULTIES.

It is stated that the Spar- und Leihkasse Steffisburg in the Canton of Berne, has been granted a moratorium for a period of two years by the Federal Council; it will take effect at once, and as long as it is in force the service of interest will be maintained. The Bank's share capital amounts to two million francs and the difficulties are said to be due to heavy withdrawals caused by adverse rumours.

#### MOTORISTS NOVEL STAY-IN STRIKE.

Last Sunday a strange hush fell on the streets of town and village alike: the motorist had disappeared from the roads! This demonstration had been staged as a protest against the high taxation on petrol and the latest edict calling for compulsory dilution of petrol with alcohol. The situation in the motor industry, employing about 40,000 hands, is such that over 70 per cent. of the undertakings cannot see their way to meet their engagements if things do not take a turn for the better. The price of petrol at the frontier is said to be about 7½ centimes per litre. By the time the harassed motorist makes his purchase at the pumps, it has been swollen to 43 centimes or approx. 2.6 per gallon, 23½ centimes of which represents tax. The new law, evidently meant to help to some extent the Alcohol Administration in their growing difficulties, is the last straw on the camels back.

The demonstration of "passive resistance" was very well organised and quite 98 per cent. efficient. With one fell swoop the Revenue lost 200,000 francs. What the incidental loss to the Hotel trade, etc., must amount to is difficult to estimate, but it must have been heavy. The innocent party usually suffers most in a dispute. Apart from that, it is of course, too much to hope that the restrictions will now be lifted. Anyhow, cyclists and hikers had the most wonderful Sunday ever!

#### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The philosophical faculty of Zurich University conferred the doctor title *hon. causa* on Mr. Daniel Jones, Professor of phonetics at the London University College, on the occasion of the centenary celebrations in London. The diploma was handed over by Prof. Dr. med. von Meyenburg, festival delegate of Zurich University.

\* \* \*

Lieut. J. Wälti, stationed at Dübendorf, in the course of aerobatic exercises, got into a spin and fell to death from a height of 400 meters.

#### BERNE.

Two Munich tourists, experienced mountaineers, in training for an attack on the Eigerwand in search of two friends who there lost their lives last year and have not been found, attempted to scale the Schneehornwand. After passing a night in the open, they were traversing the Silberhorngrat, when they fell a distance of several hundred feet. Hans Teufel was dead; his companion, Albert Herbst, escaped with a broken rib. He had to spend the night in a precarious position. His distress signals were seen the following day and a rescue party, consisting of seven guides succeeded in the difficult task of bringing down safely the injured mountaineer and the body of his unfortunate companion.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council appointed M. Ed. Drexler, Hochdorf, Director of the 6th circuit of the Federal Tariff Board in Geneva. M. Drexler was chief of the import section of the Department of Public Economy in Berne.

The chief editor of the "Berner Tagblatt," Dr. H. Wechlin has retired from his office after 12 years' service. Dr. R. Th. Weiss has joined the editorial staff.

#### LUCERNE.

A commemorative chapel was solemnly consecrated near Küssnacht, close to the spot where Queen Astrid of the Belgians so tragically lost her young life. A simple stone cross marking the fatal spot was covered in flowers. The Federal Council was represented by M. Motta; Vicomte du Pare represented the King of the Belgians. The ecclesiastical ritual was in the hands of Monsign. Colle. Simplicity characterised the ceremony, thereby rendering it all the more touching.

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The celebration of the 550th anniversary of the battle of Sempach took place on the 5th and 6th July, a patriotic demonstration of great intensity and let us add, very à propos in these days of world insanity.

#### SCHWYZ.

The Cantonal Council elected in its first session M. F. Christen (Conservative) as President. The accounts closing with a deficit of 387,000 francs were approved.

#### BASEL.

Prof. Hans Hunziker, chief of the Basel Board of Hygiene since its inception, has completed 25 years service.

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The well-known Basel Mission celebrated its 121st annual festival in the church of St. Peter.

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A comprehensive programme for the creation of employment for the workless has been outlined to the government of Basel-town by leading men of industry, science and of the trade unions. A levy of 1 centime per franc on all earned incomes is proposed. The sum raised would be applied exclusively in providing facilities for productive work and for payment of interest and amortisation of a loan to be raised for such purpose. A new law embodying these proposals is suggested, same to be put into force on 1st October next, for a duration of maximum ten years. A comprehensive building programme is a feature of the proposals.

#### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Otto Kühn, printer and publisher of the "Schaffhauser Tagblatt" has died at the early age of 51 years.

#### ST. GALLEN.

Six tourists from St. Gall, ascending the Ringelspitz in columns of three, were surprised by the fall of an avalanche. The first party escaped unhurt; the second were seriously injured. They were brought down by a rescue party and are now recovering in hospital.

\* \* \*

The military tribunal 6a sentenced First Lieut. H. K. Sonderegger, Heiden, the well-known "Freigeldler" and former representative of Appenzell a/Rh. in the States Council (he lost his seat at the last election to the then Landammann Walter Ackermann) to 14 days military imprisonment. He was found guilty of continued disobedience. It appears that he failed to pass on or return some important military documents that had been addressed to him by his C.O., ignoring four letters, two registered, demanding immediate reply.

#### AARAU.

The town of Brugg is actively pursuing the development of its amenities. A new bathing establishment is in course of erection. A new gymnastic hall is planned and the erection of a slaughterhouse at an estimated cost of 200,000 francs is under consideration. The Federal Military Dept. intends an expansion of its interests in Brugg.

\* \* \*

The late Dr. Emil Isler, chairman of the board of administration of the Cantonal Bank of Aargau has bequeathed the sum of 150,000 francs in favour of the reserve fund of that institution.

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The butchers of Aarau announce an increase in the price of cervelats from 20 to 25 centimes. (We are glad to know that the "Cervelats-Club, London" gets supplies from a different source. Ed. S.O.)