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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

OUR "DEMOCRATIC" PRESIDENT

On the occasion of the return journey from a holiday stay at one of the seaside resorts of the Bretagne, the French government put a first class train compartment at the disposal of M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation. It so happened, that the train was packed and many passengers had to stand in the corridor. M. Motta invited some of the passengers to share his compartment, an offer which was greatly appreciated, although they were unaware of the identity of their fellow passenger.

VICTOR, M. REY +

M. Victor, M. Rey, General Manager, of the world famous Hotel Ritz in Paris, has died in Paris at the age of 76.

M. Rey who was born at Sion in 1871 entered the Ritz Hotel in 1899 as head of the reception office; on the death of César Ritz, the founder of the many Ritz concerns, he was appointed in 1925 General Manager.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR THE LATE QUEEN ASTRID

On Sunday last, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the death of the late Queen Astrid a commemoration service was held at the chapel near Küssnacht.

Mass was celebrated in the presence of the Belgian Minister, Count d'Ursel, and the Belgian Consul in Lucerne. Dr. Zimmerli, Mayor of Lucerne attended, as well as a large number of people of the district. A delegation from the Belgian "Association Nationale des Invalides de Guerre" took part in the service.

FOREIGN OFFICERS AT SWISS MANOEUVRES

A large number of distinguished Foreign officers are attending the manoeuvres of the 1st division, which are taking place from the 4th—8th September.

France has delegated Marshal Pétain, General Schweigenthal, Assistant chief of the General Staff, Colonel Vauthier, chief of staff to Marshal Pétain, Lieutenant-colonel De La Forest-Divonne, military attaché in Berne.

Colonel of division Borel, commander of the 1st division, will be in charge of the Foreign military missions, which number about 30 officers.

M. ARNOLD DOLMETSCH HONOURED

Shortly after the English government had honoured our countryman, Arnold Dolmetsch, by granting him a pension for his work for old English instrumental music, the French Government has just nominated him a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. M. Dolmetsch, to whom we extend heartiest congratulations, lives at Haslemere, (Surrey).

SWISS KILLED IN SHANGHAI

M. Alfred, Ulrich Brunner, aged 30, married, representative since 1935 of the Chemical works Sandoz Basle in Shanghai was killed during an air raid. M. Brunner was a citizen from Zurich.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS DELEGATE FOR SHANGHAI

Colonel Charles de Wattenwyl of Berne, has left by aeroplane for Shanghai, where he will act as delegate of the International Red Cross.

TICKET 1,000,000

The Trübsee Cable Railway which takes tourists up the Titlis mountain at Engelberg, has just carried its millionth passenger. The ticket was issued to one of a party of English tourists, Mr. Young, of Redhill, organised by Sir Henry Lunn Ltd.

THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE RIGI RAILWAY

It is now sixty-six years ago since the first rack railway in Europe, the Rigi railway,

between Vitznau on the Lake of Lucerne and the top of the Rigi, was opened. It will be electrified in the autumn of the present year and will be brought into line with the latest modern requirements. The new motor-coaches will be light and comfortable, and the increase in speed will shorten the trip considerably. Fewer employees will be required as the preliminary work done in starting up the steam locomotives will be done away with and because it is easier to supervise electric vehicles. One-man control also suffices in the motor-coaches. When peak track conditions occur some of the existing steam locomotives can be used, and these are kept as a useful stand-by. The electric equipment of the motor-coaches will be built by Brown, Boveri and Co., Ltd., Baden, while the mechanical part and coachwork will be constructed by the Swiss Locomotive Works at Winterthur. Direct current will be used at a pressure of 1,500 volts and the average running speed will be about nine miles per hour. On the up-grade, the highest running speed is about eleven miles an hour and on the down-grade about seven miles an hour. The difference in altitude between the Vitznau and Rigi Kulm stations is about 4,300 feet, and the steepest gradient is 25 per cent. In the *Brown Boveri Review* of March, diagrams of the new coaches are shown. The braking devices comprise electric resistance braking as service brake on the down-grade and two hand brakes independent of one another and actuated by spindle from either driver cab. When the brake is applied on the up-grade it prevents the coach running backwards should the current fail. There is also an overspeed brake which operates on a brake drum on the motor and only acts on down-grade running. In emergencies it is put into action by a safety device.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

With the Assembly of the League of Nations this month, Swiss women are launching a new drive at Geneva for the vote, and a member of prominent British Suffragists are going over to lend a hand. Indeed, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is to open a temporary office in Geneva. It will be in the middle of a brilliant shopping arcade.

SWISS OFFICERS AT FOREIGN MANOEUVRES

Army-Corps commander Labhart, chief of the Swiss General Staff, and Lieutenant-colonel Dubois are attending the manoeuvres of the Czechoslovakian Army.

CAMPBELL BREAKS THE WATERSPEED RECORD

Sir Malcolm Campbell has broken the World's water-speed record. He travelled at 129.50 m.p.h. on Lake Maggiore in his 2,350 h.p. speed-boat Bluebird.

The previous record of 124.91 m.p.h. was set up by Commodore Gar Wood in Miss America X at Algonac (Michigan) on September 20th 1932.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

At the venerable age of 89 died in Zurich Professor, Dr. Albert Heim. The deceased was born in Zurich in 1849, and for over 40 years he was a lecturer of Geology at the two Universities in Zurich. He retired from his posts as a lecturer in 1911, but has since written a work in three parts of the "Geologie der Schweiz" which is considered both at home and abroad as a standard work. Professor Heim was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Oxford and the holder of the Marcel-Benoist Price.

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The death is reported from Winterthur of M. J. Müller, who held the post of District Engineer for 35 years. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" and President of the "Sekundarschulpflege."

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National-Councillor Dr. Ernst Wetter has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary; he entered Parliament in 1929 after having for many years occupied the post of General Secretary of the "Fidg. Volkswirtschafts Dept." in Berne.

* * *

Dr. Hermann Escher, late Director of the "Zentralbibliothek" in Zurich has reached the age of 80. Dr. Escher has rendered for many years eminent services to this institution, he has also been an active collaborator of the "Landesbibliothek."

BERNE.

M. U. W. Zürcher, the well-known painter and author has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Sigriswil.

LUCERNE.

Mrs. James Roosevelt, the mother of President Roosevelt has left Lucerne after a prolonged stay in this town. On her departure she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Municipal authorities by two children dressed in National costume.

URI.

The Swiss Alpine Club hut, erected in 1899 on the Hüfi glacier at a height of 2,340 m. has been closed; a new hut will be built shortly in the immediate neighbourhood.

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The Bishop of Basle and Lugano, Dr. Franz von Streng has paid an official visit to the government of the canton of Zug. He was received by "Landammann" Karl Staub who expressed his satisfaction on the cordial relations which exist between the church and the government authorities in the canton of Zug.

FRIBOURG.

M. Léon Monney from Misery, will succeed to the seat in the National-Council, which became vacant through the death of M. Benninger.

ST. GALL.

The late Doctor J. Mäder-Schubiger has left an amount of 30,000 frs. for various charitable institutions in the canton of St. Gall.

* * *

Dr. Gottlieb Baumgartner has celebrated his 25th anniversary as a member of the cantonal government.

VALAIS.

The death is reported from St. Gall, of M. Adolf Bürke, French Vice-Consul, at the age of 66. The deceased was for many years interested in the Embroidery trade, and later on took up Insurance work, he was an ardent supporter of the League of Nations Union in St. Gall.

NEUCHATEL.

During target bombing practice of a section of the Swiss Flying Corps, a bomb fell accidentally on the village of Forel, causing considerable damage. Fortunately nobody was hurt.

GENEVA.

M. Edouard Bonny, for over 40 years a teacher at the academy of music in Geneva, and organist at the church of St. Gervais was killed on a climbing expedition on the Salève; he was 61 years old.

LA POLITIQUE

Vers un enterrement

Comme on le sait, la conférence des chefs des départements cantonaux des finances s'est réunie à Berne mercredi. Elle avait plusieurs objets à son ordre du jour, notamment le problème de l'alcool. Cependant, l'attention était surtout attirée par l'attitude qu'elle adopterait à l'égard du fameux projet d'impôt fédéral sur l'augmentation de la fortune.

Certes, la conférence a un rôle purement consultatif: ses décisions ne lient, bien entendu, ni le Conseil fédéral ni les Chambres. Mais il n'en est pas moins évident que l'opinion qu'elle exprime, surtout si ses membres sont unanimes ou presque, est d'un grand poids, et qu'il serait très difficile au département fédéral de soutenir et de faire triompher devant le parlement une mesure rejetée par ces représentants des gouvernements cantonaux. Ces derniers exercent, au Conseil des Etats, une influence notable, dont l'on est bien forcés de tenir compte en haut lieu. Il est certain que l'impôt sur l'augmentation de fortune ne trouvera pas grâce devant le Sénat, s'il n'est pas retiré d'ici la prochaine session. D'ailleurs, son sort au National n'est guère plus rassurant pour ses auteurs. L'impopularité de la nouvelle taille est manifeste, dans tout le pays.