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INCREASED CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The customs receipts for the first 8 months of 1937 amounted to 170.5 million francs, as against 159.5 million last year. For the month of August there is a small decrease from 20 to 19.4 million francs to be registered.

COST OF LIVING INDEX.

At the end of August the cost of living index stood at 137.0 taking June 1914 at 100, an increase of 5.2% over August 1936. The cost of food at 130.3 shows a decrease of 0.2% as against July, but an increase of 8.4% against a year ago. The figures for clothing 120, rent 175, remain unchanged.

The wholesale trade index for food, industrial and agricultural raw materials reached 110.8 (July 1914 = 100) or 77.4 when taking the average of the years 1926/27 = 100 as basis. Compared with a year ago there is an increase of 18.6% (20.8 = at the end of July) to be noted.

COMPTOIR SUISSE, LAUSANNE.

The 18th Swiss Fair will take place at Lausanne from 11th to 26th September. The various branches of agriculture, trade and industry are housed in 9 halls, arranged in 16 groups. Sport and the touring industry are specially represented. The amusement park provides a novelty with a tower 42 metres in height whence parachute jumping will excite the venturesome. It's quite safe, of course. The official day is the 16th September, when President Motta will attend.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The engineering works Escher Wyss A.G. are increasing wages by 3½% for time and 4% for piece work.

* * *

A terrific cloudburst is reported from Zurich, where torrents of rain water caused considerable damage. The Bahnhofplatz was for a time flooded to the depth of one foot.

* * *

Alt-Betriebschef (3rd district, Federal Railways) Max Otto Wild died at the age of 74 at Zurich. Born at St. Gall, he first served the "Vereinigung Schweizerbahnen" and from 1909 to 1936 as Betriebschef of the Federal Railways in Zurich. He was a great authority in the complicated matter of time-tables. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel.

BERNE.

An aeroplane of the Bernese aviation company, "Alpar," crashed while flying from Bern to Basel. In dense fog the plane hit the top of a tree in the Jura mountains (Passwang) near Waldenburg, at a height of about 3,800 feet. The pilot, Capt. Eberschweiler, one of our best aviators with 14 years experience, and the two passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Streeter, of Oxford, England, lost their lives. The wireless operator, Hugger, lies severely injured in hospital at Liestal. He is expected to recover.

* * *

The Spar- and Leihkasse Steffisburg, a savings and loan bank, has terminated the two years' moratorium which was granted in July, 1936, by the Swiss Federal Council.

The bank's difficulties were due to heavy withdrawals caused by harmful rumours. While the moratorium has been in force, the bank has been able to again attain a sound basis.

A dividend of 4 per cent. has been declared in respect of the trading year 1936-37.

The bank's share capital amounts to Sw.Frs. 2,000,000.

LUCERNE.

The Association of Swiss Catholic Students held their annual festival at Lucerne. Bishop Dr. Franz von Streng addressed the meeting and received an enthusiastic welcome. At the Veterans-day, President Motta, himself a Veteran of the association, spoke, apologising for the unavoidable absence of Federal Councillor Etter, also an old member. He stressed the value of loyalty, to the faith, to the country and to their association. Thunderous applause was his reward.

BASEL.

During the three months, June to August, 25,585 motor-cars, including char-a-bancs, with a total of 176,000 passengers entered Switzerland at Basel alone. This number is almost identical with that published by the railways for visitors arriving at Basel by rail. "Swissair" also report a manifold increase of arrivals over last year. All in all a most welcome revival of one of our greatest industries and a great help in the balancing of our unfavourable trade balance.

* * *

An extension of the Basel hospital is under consideration. A first proposal providing for an increase in the number of beds from 776 to 1,350, at an estimated cost of 40 million francs, has been cut down to 1,050 beds at about half the outlay afores mentioned.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

In a by-election for the town council the liberal candidate, Fritz Moser, supported by all the bourgeois parties, defeated his socialist opponent H. Gamper, by 2,275 against 1,849 votes.

APPENZELL.

Bishop Aloisius Scheiwyler (St. Gall) consecrated Herisau's new catholic church. Ständerat Walter Ackermann, among others, addressed the congregation.

* * *

Joh. Baptist Dörig, the well-known host of the inn on the Säntis, lost his life by falling into the Schwendibach, having missed his footing in the dark. He was aged 69.

ST. GALL.

So as to equalise the conditions for granting citizenship to foreigners, the cantonal home-office has directed the communes that, as a rule, foreigners should not be admitted for naturalisation unless they have resided in Switzerland for a minimum of 10 years, Asiatics 15 years. Naturalisation must not become a business and sale of rights. Only persons who have adapted themselves to Swiss customs, conditions and way of thinking, and who do not constitute an obviously foreign element, are to be considered worthy applicants.

* * *

The new law and regulations for the conduct of inns, restaurants, etc., embodying a Schnapsverbot before 8 a.m. (!), new licensing rates and proposals aiming at a gradual reduction in the number of inns to 1 for every 300 inhabitants, and which had been passed by an overwhelming majority by the cantonal Grand-Council, was thrown out by the "vox populi" with 35,795 no. against 16,736 yes. Of all the communes, Weesen was the only one to show a majority for the measure and that majority was just ten votes. All the political parties had either declared for the measure, or gave a free vote. Only "mine host" was not having any and his influence has surprised many an old politician.

GRISONS.

A young Viennese, named Mandel, missed his way when climbing the Scesaplana and finally got into a position where he could neither climb on nor retreat. His cries for help were heard, but owing to darkness falling nothing could be done until next morning. He was then detected in an exposed position. A rope was lowered which he fixed round himself. On being pulled to safety he expired from sheer exhaustion.

NEUCHATEL.

Lieut. Max Baumann, in military service at Payerne, piloting a single seater fighter, crashed over the lake of Neuchâtel and was killed. Loss of flying speed appears to have caused the fatal accident.

* * *

A group of Bankers, Swiss Bank Corporation, Banque Populaire and the Cantonal Banks of Bern and Neuchâtel have taken over a new 4% 5 million franc loan issue of Ebauches S.A. This is now being offered for conversion to the holders of the 5½% 8 million franc issue of 1930, to be repaid on April 30th next and is not available for cash subscriptions. Ebauches S.A. is the trust concern of the manufacturers of rough movements for the watch industry, with a paid-up capital of 12 million francs and a general reserve fund amounting to 582,000 francs. A dividend of 4% was paid for the year 1936.

GENEVA.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of General Dufours, renowned citizen of Geneva, will be duly celebrated on September 15th, when it is hoped representatives from every canton will participate.

FOOTBALL.

12th September, 1937.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Basel	4	Lausanne	0
Grasshoppers	1	Lugano	0
Grenchen	1	Bern	1
Luzern	4	Biel	1
Servette	2	Nordstern	0
Young Boys	4	Young Fellows	0

The Swiss football season 1937-38 is only three weeks old. It is therefore somewhat early to arrive at definite conclusions as to the playing strength of the various clubs. Yet there are unmistakable signs of a great improvement in F.C. Basel's eleven, where some of the young blood introduced is shaping well. Full marks from 3 games, 8 goals for and 1 against is, at any rate, a jolly good start, after escaping relegation at the end of last season by a mere hair's breadth. Grasshoppers, the champions, have also won their three games; 4 goals to 1 shows a certain lack of penetrative power. Next in order we find Servette who dropped one point at Lausanne, a good performance nevertheless. Young Boys and Luzern both won two and lost one match, (the Y.B. at Lugano and Luzern at home against the Y.B.) Having scored 10 goals against four, Y.B. are

well away. Lugano and Lausanne have 3 points each in the locker. Nordstern and Bern 2 each; the new-comer, Grenchen, got his first point against Bern who are not up to their usual standard. And at the bottom languish without a point to their credit F. C. Biel and F. C. Young Fellows, with adverse scores of 3 to 11 and 1 to 8 goals. And last season those two finished fifth and third respectively. But as I said before, these are early days and anything can happen by next June.

M.G.

"FESTA FAMILIARE."

As yet another splendid holiday season is inexorably drawing to a close the "UNIONE TICINESE" are this autumn setting the social ball rolling. Their Dance Evening, the "Festa Familiare," will be held at the Schweizerbund (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.1, on Thursday, September 30th next, at 8 p.m.

Rather than a strictly "ticinese" function the evening will have this year a wider appeal to the whole Colony as, for the music, newly founded Swiss Accordeon Club are lending their collaboration.

The proceeds will go to the Benevolent Fund of the "Unione Ticinese." Tickets at the moderate price of 2s. 6d. will not only mark a contribution to a deserving cause but also provide the purchasers with an enjoyable evening. They are obtainable from all Committee Members or direct from the Secretary, Mr. P. De Maria, 4, Luxemburg Gardens, W.6.

ACADEMY CINEMA.

Oxford Street.

The new production at The Academy Cinema is "Le Roman d'un Tricheur" by Sacha Guitry, and I strongly recommend everyone to go and see this film. Most people have seen and admired Sacha Guitry on the stage and will therefore be interested to see his work on the screen.

The same qualities of light comedy, wit and humour are present, but Guitry has introduced a technique of his own which is a success in his hands and makes a welcome change from the ordinary technique in general use. Guitry's work has been compared to that of René Clair but I think this is a mistake as there is none of the extravagance of the latter's films. Contrary to my usual custom, I am not going to spoil things by describing the technique employed or by telling the story. The film is too good and must be seen to be appreciated.

Guitry, Delubac and Moreno all take part in the film.

Recently during a visit to France I saw another of Guitry's films, "Les perles de la Couronne" and although a similar technique is employed, Le Roman d'un Tricheur makes perhaps the better story as it is shorter and less disconnected.

Guitry is a lover of the country side and in the course of the story there are numerous scenes in French villages and on the coast of the Mediterranean.

ck.

DER FLUGZEUGFUNKER. DIE RECHTE

HAND DES PILOTEN.

(Anfang in der letztwöchigen Ausgabe.)

Auch bei uns in der Schweiz wurde diesem Beispiel Folge geleistet. Einige erprobte Mechaniker, die schon öfters als Bordmonteur Kurs geflogen hatten, wurden während der langen Wintermonate zur Ausbildung an die Spezialfunktenschule nach Berlin geschickt. Vorher hatte man sich an der ausgewiesenen Arbeit, die Funker Christian Schaaf—auf dem Flugplatz kurz "Chrigel" genannt—leistete, überzeugen müssen, dass dieser Entwicklungsgang wirklich zum Nutzen der Gesellschaft war. Christian Schaaf, der erste Funker der Swissair hatte damals aus eigener privater Initiative während seiner Freizeit sich zum perfekten Telegraphisten ausgebildet und auch mit Erfolg die Prüfung der Obertelegraphendirektion bestanden. Hente ist "Chrigel" Cheffunker der Swissair und neben ihm ist eine Stammgruppe von drei Funkern auf den grossen Linien der Swissair tätig, die alle zwischen 600-700'000 Flugkilometer hinter sich haben. Werner Wegmann, der Begleiter Walter Mittelholzer's auf seinem Kilimandjaro—und Tschadseeflug, und Jules Gloor gehören noch zur "alten Gilde," die als erste diesen Beruf ergriffen, während Paul Auberson eigentlich schon den jüngeren zu zählen ist, aber ebenfalls schon über eine grosse Erfahrung als Bordfunker verfügt.

Seit 2 Jahren sind nun durch die Obertelegraphen-Direktion auch in der Schweiz Kurse zur Ausbildung von Bordfunkern abgehalten worden und eine Reihe weiterer junger Leute, die im Flugbetrieb als Mechaniker tätig waren, hat diese Ausbildungsmöglichkeit benutzt und mit Erfolg die bezüglichen strengen Examens bestanden.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

To Monsieur le Pasteur René Hoffmann-de Visme,

September 13th, 1937, at the Eglise Suisse, Endell Street, W.C.

Almost exactly three years ago not only the Swiss Church in London, nay, the whole Colony, united in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their well-beloved senior Pastor, René Hoffmann-de Visme.

A great and distinguished gathering assembled at Endell Street, on Sunday, October 28th, 1934, to return thanks to the Almighty for the many blessings upon our Pastor and his congregation during his memorable ministry extending over 25 years.

Who amongst those present would have thought it possible that only another short span of life should lie in front of our leader? But three brief years! Is it surprising then that we can barely realise that he should be no more in our midst, that we shall no longer hear his sonorous voice and gaze upon his kindly face?

A week ago he was called before his Master and to-day the little church at Endell Street was filled once more — to over-flowing — by all his faithful, who came to do him homage and to pay him a last, fervent, farewell. From 11.30 onwards a steady stream of followers passed through the portals, young and old, rich and poor, all deeply conscious of the great and irreparable loss sustained. They felt the loss to the community, but they also knew — each one of them — to have lost a very dear personal friend.

The service, which began at 12 noon, was moving in its very simplicity and enhanced by the beautiful floral decorations, all in white.

After an Organ prelude, Pastor U. Emery opened the service with a beautiful prayer and an appropriate passage from Holy Scripture. His voice betrayed the deep emotion he must have felt on this solemn, sad, occasion, for had he not worked over a long number of years in close collaboration with the dear departed? And now, it fell to his lot, to open the Memorial Service for one so much younger in years and still in the prime of his manhood when God recalled him.

The principal address to the mourners was delivered by M. F. Christol, Pasteur of the French Protestant Church of London (Soho Square, W.1.)

It was an oration which will be unforgettable to all those who were present and real justice to it could only be rendered by giving it in extenso. We are not, unfortunately, in a position to put it before our readers to-day, but hope that it may appear in print, as a wonderfully fitting tribute to an earnest Christian and a great man. We would wish that the Consistoire might seek permission to have it published in leaflet form, for distribution among the parishioners of both the Swiss Churches in London, as a lasting souvenir.

M. Christol's text was:— Hebreux 11, 5.
"Ou ne le trouva plus, parce que Dieu l'avait enlevé."

He, too, gave expression to the seeming unreality of the sad facts; he, too, said that he could not realise — no one could — the dread loss we had sustained and were called upon to bear. He went on in most beautiful and touching language, enlarging on what this loss meant: to the dear children of the departed, the five daughters and only son, to his self-sacrificing helper over so many years, Mlle. Matthey; to his relatives and nearest friends; to his Parish — so very dear to him — and to the Swiss Colony in London as a whole, not to speak of his countless admirers and friends in Switzerland and elsewhere.

Die Funker haben während des Streckenfluges ein reichliches Mass an Arbeit zu leisten. Neben der ständigen Ueberwachung der Motoren während des Fluges, haben sie stets Wettermeldungen aufzufangen, die für den Piloten von Wichtigkeit sind, den Bodenstationen Meldungen über den Fortschritt des Fluges durchzugeben, genaue Standortbestimmungen der Maschine bei ihrem Fluge hoch über den Wolken vorzunehmen und durch fortwährende Eigenpeilungen den Flugkurs dauernd zu kontrollieren. Alle diese Meldungen werden in einem Code durchgegeben, der aus drei Buchstaben besteht und der absolut beherrscht werden muss. Eine grosse Verantwortung ruht auf diesen Männern,

M. Christol next spoke of M. Hoffmann in connection with his great and fervent patriotism; his work and the love and enthusiasm he brought to bear on all his undertakings. Of his oratorical powers and his ability to deliver great and powerful sermons in various languages; of his great organising abilities and how he managed to infuse some of his own zeal and enthusiasm into those who were ever ready to help him.

Tribute was paid to M. Hoffmann's great and lasting social work and to the magnitude of the field he covered, but, above everything, M. Christol said, our leader had been a true Christian, faithful unto the end and, during his lifetime, ever ready to help all those who needed assistance, advice and ministration. He was, too, a great believer and therefore able to assist all those who came to him in doubt or trouble.

Was it surprising, then, that this tremendous worker in the vineyard of the Lord should have overtaxed his strength, shaken as he had been, by the sad loss of his dear wife, five years ago, whose great love, whose constant help and devotion, had meant everything to him throughout the years? And finally, M. Christol spoke of the last few months, during which our Pastor hoped to regain his health and strength in his dear native land, but it was God's will to call him to higher things.

And though he is now no longer among the living, he will remain with us in spirit, his work will live on and his memory will ever be deeply enshrined in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

When M. Christol had finished his beautiful and moving oration, there were, indeed, no eyes undimmed and the soft strains of the organ floated like balm on our sad and troubled hearts.

The Rev. C. T. Hahn then followed with a loving and generous tribute to his dear departed colleague, whose untimely loss he deeply deplored. From his own experience he is better able than any one to appreciate the wonderful task achieved by his late spiritual fellow-worker. He pointed out that, without strength and inspiration from above, no one could possibly have carried on his shoulders the work and burden M. Hoffmann did, year after year, through the best part of his lifetime. He expressed deep sympathy with the family and in his peroration exhorted the parishioners to bear their great loss with Christian fortitude.

M. Chas. de Jenner spoke in the absence of the Swiss Minister and expressed his sense of the great loss to M. Paravicini and to himself personally, as well as to the Swiss Legation, to whom M. Hoffmann had ever proved himself a tower of strength in all matters spiritual and social. He pointed out that, by this sad loss, a gap had been left in our ranks which it would be almost impossible to fill again, seeing what a unique position M. Hoffmann had occupied and how very greatly he had endeared himself to every one.

Pastor Emery concluded the service by prayer and the benediction and asked the congregation to sing the last verse of Cantique 236: "Vers le ciel," the first two verses of which had reverberated through the little church after the reading of the Scripture. And how bravely they sang, repressing the rising tears,

Quel bonheur, quel bonheur.
Ineffable pour mon cœur.
D'entrer dans la cité sainte.
Affranchi de toute crainte!...
Tu nous l'as promis, Seigneur.

So the service came to its close and, amidst the strains of the organ, the bereaved family filed out, followed by the relatives and the many distinguished representatives, who, apart from the vast congregation, had come to pay their last respects to one, who will never be forgotten and who will ever remain beloved by all who had the good fortune to come into touch with him.

The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh, blessed be His name!

Gallus.

On nous écrit de Paris:

Une cérémonie digne par sa simplicité s'est déroulée à la Chapelle du Cimetière du Père-Lachaise, mercredi le huit septembre.

Les circonstances tant pénibles de sa mort subite à Paris, empêchent nombre de parents et amis d'assister au Service funèbre et à l'incinération de M. le pasteur René Hoffmann-de Visme.

La dépouille mortelle fut pourtant entourée de deux de ses enfants, de plusieurs membres proches des familles Hoffmann et de Visme, ainsi que de quelques amis dont un représentant du Consistoire de l'Eglise Suisse de Londres.

M. le pasteur Boury rappela dans son oraison funèbre les débuts que le défunt fit à Paris comme vicaire de la paroisse de St. Jean et le regret qui fut déjà exprimé alors, quand l'appel de Londres lui parvint.

M. Roger de Visme, pasteur à Houilles s/Seine, (et frère de feu Madame Suzanne Hoffmann-de Visme) resserra davantage l'intimité qui régnait parmi les personnes présentes. Il retrouva de façon simple et pourtant émouvante l'activité du défunt durant son long ministère à Londres et souligna surtout l'exemple frappant qu'il était toujours pour les siens et tous ceux qui avaient eu le privilège de le connaître.

Après l'incinération, l'urne qui contenait les cendres du défunt fut déposée dans un caveau temporaire en attendant qu'elle puisse être transportée en Suisse et placée au Cimetière de Chardonne, où reposent déjà les cendres de feu Madame Suzanne Hoffmann-de Visme.

IN MEMORIAM.

(Le Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme.)

We cannot fathom yet that you have passed
From life and work to everlasting rest,
The while we prayed you might be spared — And
bless'd

We would have been once more, as in the past.

Alas! 't was not to be. — Who can forecast
The length of years upon our earthly quest?
This human life — when on its highest crest —
Droops like a flower, touch'd by wintry blast.

Your ashes now rest on Lac Léman's shore,
As you'd have wished, beside your faithful mate;
Eternally united, peaceful, still...

And yet, with us in spirit evermore,
Your noble life-work shall illuminate
The path we are to tread, to do God's will.

Sept. 13th, 1937.

GALLUS.

Dienst herzustellen und allfällige Mängel zu melden, damit sofort für deren Behebung gesorgt werden kann. Von Zeit zu Zeit sieht man auch die Funker in heimlichen Hangar als Mechaniker an der Arbeit. Damit sie die Vertrautheit mit den Maschinen, insbesondere den Motoren nicht verlieren, kommen sie nämlich eine Zeit lang nicht auf die Strecke, sondern werden in der Werkstätte beschäftigt.

Wenn Sie also das nächste Mal fliegen, denken Sie daran, dass vorne zwei sitzen: ein Pilot und ein Funker, die beide in unzähligen Flugstunden die Meisterschaft in ihrem Fach erreicht haben und damit die Grundlage unseres regelmässigen Luftverkehrs schufen.

SVZ.