

Home news

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FOREIGN FUNDS.

At a meeting in Berne on Friday last the Council of the Swiss National Bank unanimously approved the proposal made by the chairman with the aim of preventing, in the interests of the country, a new influx of foreign funds and of inducing the withdrawal of foreign capital which has taken refuge in Switzerland in excessive quantities.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The Engineering Works Oerlikon have increased their rate of pay by 4 centimes an hour for adult workers and 3 centimes for juvenile and female hands. The rates for piece work are increased by 4½%. Since the beginning of this year the firm has given additional employment to over 400 workers.

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At the post office Fraumünster a novel idea has been put into practice. You insert a two-penny piece in an automatic machine, press a lever, and have at your disposal a type writer for the space of 15 minutes. Progressive indeed!

BERN.

The Municipal Council of Bern has resolved to present the city of Berlin with a bear. Germany's metropolis with its coat of arms of a bear rampant is to follow Bern's example, by erecting, or rather excavating a den for bears.

GLARUS.

The former National Councillor Heinrich Jenny of Ennenda is retiring from his post as president of the cantonal bank of Glarus, a position which he has occupied since 1920.

BASEL.

Mr. A. Müller-Jäggi, for twenty years in charge of the station buffet at Basel, is retiring at the end of this year. From a multitude of applicants, Director J. Seiler-Bovin, for the last seven years director of the crack hotel of the East, the King David Hotel at Jerusalem, has been chosen as his successor.

ST. GALLEN.

Some time ago a small book was published in St. Gall dialect under the title "Chomm, mer wend us freue" which was very favourably received. Several of the poems have now been set to music and will be published shortly under the title "Chomm mit us ginge." These ventures, for preserving our dialect, can be thoroughly recommended to all friends of Sanggallerdütsch.

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The final accounts of the Cantonal Singing Festival shows a net profit of 15,378 francs.

* * *

The appointment of Dr. jur. et phil. W. A. Jöhr as lecturer in national economy at the Commercial High-school in St. Gall has let loose a storm of indignation on the part of the populace, on the grounds that Dr. Jöhr was at one time actively identified with the National Front and that from his writings as well as from his speeches he may be said to be opposed to the existing democratic form of state and liberty. The Municipal Council will have to deal with the matter.

GRISONS.

Heavy rains caused a landslide near Silvaplana whereby a part of the Julier pass was blocked up. Traffic has been interrupted.

* * *

Dr. med. Carl Spengler, director of the Alexanderhaus, Davos, a well-known specialist in tubercular disease, died at Davos. Medical science has lost an eminent research worker. His father, a German emigrant during the troublous days of 1848, was the first to recognise the beneficial climatic advantages of Davos for diseases of the lung and may be said to have been one of the most prominent founders of the now world famous health resort in the Grisons. His son worthily upheld the tradition set by his sire.

* * *

Work is expected to begin next month on the construction of a funicular railway from the Pass above Pontresina to the famous Diavolezza Glacier. The proposed railway, which will rise 3,000 ft. in 1½ miles, will connect with the Bernina line running from St. Moritz, past Celerina and Pontresina over the Bernina Pass into Italy. The cost of the funicular is estimated at 2,200,000 Swiss francs.

AARGAU.

Mrs. Marianne Ursprung-Ryser of Ueken has celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth in perfect health.

THURGAU.

"Mostindien" has been blessed this year with an abundance of fruit. Especially the apple trees are fully laden and the value of the crop is estimated at five million francs. Altogether the farmer has had a very good year.

TICINO.

Persistently bad weather has caused a threatening rise in the level of the lake Maggiore and the waters have inundated many of the villages on its shore. From Cannobio valley come reports of several houses having collapsed; the road has been blocked by falls of rock.

* * *

Ezio Gianferrari, from Bellinzona, a winner of many motor cycling events, was fatally injured near the village of Grono when he lost control of his machine and was thrown into the shallow waters of the Calanca.

AN APPRECIATION OF
PASTOR HOFFMANN-DE VISMÉ.

By the death of Pastor Hoffmann-de Visme the Swiss Colony in London has lost one of the stoutest pillars it possessed. The tragedy is still oppressing our minds:—his sad passing, away from his family and away from his homeland alike, alone in Paris in the surgeon's hands. Both here and in Switzerland services were held for Divine Intercession and the recovery of his health. The gradual weakening of his resistance after the dreadful shock of the death of his beloved wife and the subsequent nervous breakdowns, apart from habitual overwork, — these were the reasons for bringing to an untimely end a life and a personality precious to the colony at large. Those of us who have taken his singular devotion to us for granted for so long perhaps recognise now that we have not valued, not honoured the man sufficiently in his lifetime. As we go along, we shall feel an increasing sense of loss, a void which it will take a long time to fill and to forget.

Pastor Hoffmann-de Visme's activities in our colony were so extended and diversified, so intermingled with every aspect of our social life, that many of us knew him better as the man than the priest. He, our spiritual head, unassuming but always optimistic, incurious yet always helpful, with his fine gift of speech, with his deep knowledge of the colony, never assumed direction or guidance where another good man filled a place usefully. Never idle for one moment, thoughtless of his own convenience or health, he devoted himself unsparringly to his never ending work; he carried with him constantly the worries of his calling. I know that the segregation of a portion of the German speaking colony from his church in Endell Street and the later relations between the two churches was, apart from the loss of his wife, the greatest sorrow in his latter years. He did not desire this schism, he regretted it wholeheartedly, knowing that it could not be for the good of the colony in the long run.

He who had received during his London residence no less than 26 different appeals from various parts of the world to accept ministries elsewhere, with a fine and noble loyalty to his London colony steadfastly refused to accept any of them.

Perhaps the most difficult of all human professions is that of a Minister of the Church. There are other professions, such as the medical one, entirely devoted to the service of others, but none calls for such complete self denial, such absolute selfishness as that of a Minister. It is not only the essence of his calling to assist, sustain and comfort at all times, it is often enough incumbent upon him also to find the funds to be able to do so and this latter necessity is probably the greatest worry in the life of a minister. By it he may be exposed to the criticism of the very people who could be his greatest help, whose assistance he has invoked, but who do not fully approve of his schemes.

Pastor Hoffmann-de Visme was therefore often faced with difficulties not of his own making, but which his dominant nature urged him to solve, single handedly if necessary. To this end he sacrificed a great deal of his none too abundant leisure, depriving himself of the comfort of contemplation and the care of his nerves. The calls upon him became ever more insistent, with the result that he of the giant stature and apparently unbounded vitality was worn out before his time. It may be truly said that this was done in the service of his Faith and of humanity.

Pastor Hoffmann-de Visme and the writer were intimate friends. They were together in all manner of circumstances, sometimes at the church in Endell Street sometimes at the Sunday school outings to a favoured spot in Surrey, at other times on Committees and again in private intercourse. Yet whenever and wherever they met, the writer has never known him to complain either about his work or his health. His outlook was ever hopeful, his judgment sound and lenient, his faith paramount. Regrets he had few, only connected with his life's great tragedy, but he never spoke of them, though they might be in his eyes and voice. He loved sunshine, greenery, peace, and one glimpse of them would apparently suffice to keep him going for another week, another month.

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