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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS CHECK TO "HOT" MONEY.

At the meeting of Central Bank Governors at the Bank for International Settlements, Professor Bachmann, of the Swiss National Bank, announced that drastic measures had been taken to stop the influx into Switzerland of refugee capital from abroad.

No interest is to be paid on refugee capital placed in Swiss banks for withdrawal at sight. Such short-term money is to be converted into deposits, which can only be withdrawn at three months' notice. New refugee capital is only to be accepted from depositors who agree to three months' notice.

Commission of 1 per cent. will be charged if the deposit is for less than six months. Interest will only be paid if refugee capital is placed with the banks for a minimum period of nine months.

In order that ordinary commercial transactions with foreign countries should sustain no harm by these measures, certain exceptions are to be made.

Swiss banks will no longer accept any Swiss paper money from foreigners for the sole purpose of having it kept in a safe.

The Association of Swiss Bankers has already approved the above measures, so that all Swiss banks and other institutions coming under the Swiss Bank Act will have to sign an undertaking to carry out the new measures.

These are of vital importance to Switzerland, as they will to a great extent protect the Swiss currency in future. Huge sums of sight money have in previous years been transferred to Switzerland in consequence of monetary disturbances abroad. As soon as these conditions had come to an end the money was withdrawn, which resulted in substantial gold losses to the Swiss National Bank and heavy pressure on the Swiss franc.

Foreigners having refugee capital in Switzerland will be notified of the new measures by their respective banks in due course.

No official statistics of the total refugee money at present in Switzerland have been issued, but the aggregate amount is unofficially estimated at over one milliard Swiss francs, or, say, £50,000,000.

SWISS AIR RAID DEFENCES.

The Swiss Government and population have been organizing the anti-aircraft defence of the country, and numerous rehearsals of black-outs have already taken place in all cantons. A further stage has now been reached. From 6 p.m. on last Wednesday night to 7 a.m. on Thursday there was a complete black-out in eastern Switzerland over an area of about 7,000 square miles.

On Friday the same rehearsal took place in western Switzerland over nearly 6,900 square miles, and on Saturday central Switzerland was all black. The results of the rehearsals have been very satisfactory, and trains and tramways have been running without any delay. The whole of Switzerland will be plunged into darkness for 12 hours some time next week.

OSCAR GUHL †.

M. Oscar Guhl, senior partner of the Banking firm Guhl & Co., in Zurich, has died at the age of 67.

M. Guhl was born on the 24th of February, 1870, in Romanshorn, the son of Heinrich Guhl, proprietor of the Hotel Bodan in Romanshorn. After having attended the schools at Romanshorn as well as the "Kantonsschule" in Frauenfeld and Lausanne, he made his apprenticeship with the Banking firm of Zündel & Co. in Schaffhausen.

For three years he was employed at the Smyrna Branch of the "Crédit Lyonnais." In 1894 he returned to Switzerland, where he started the Banking firm of Guhl & Co. in Zurich, which establishment, thanks to his great initiative, enjoys to-day a great reputation.

RESIGNATION FROM THE SWISS DELEGATION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

States Councillor Klöti, Mayor of the town of Zurich, has tendered his resignation as a member of the Swiss delegation to the League of Nations owing to his many engagements. Dr. Klöti was the first Socialist appointed to this delegation.

GENEVA CELEBRATES THE MEMORY OF GENERAL DUFOUR.

The town of Geneva celebrated on Sunday last the 150th birthday anniversary of General Dufour.

In the morning delegations from the various Army units marched past the monument of General Dufour on the Place Neuve, and a service was held later on at the St. Pierre cathedral.

The Banquet which was arranged by the Officers Association of Geneva, was attended by 270 visitors, amongst the guests were M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, Army-Corps Commander Guisan and Miescher, the President of the National Council and the Vice-President of the States Council, Professor Rappard, rector of the University of Geneva, and representatives of the cantonal government.

M. Motta made a speech in which he pointed out the great services which General Dufour had rendered the country not only as a soldier but by giving a map which bears his name.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the official procession took place, in which military and patriotic associations took part; a great number of wreaths were deposited at the monument of General Dufour.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of M. Max Boller, joint proprietor in the Music Publishing firm Hug & Cie., at the age of 57. Until 1929 the deceased was in charge of the Branch Establishment in Basle. M. Boller played an important part in the Music life of Basle and Zurich and his death is rightly deplored as a great loss.

* * *

In Zurich, died at the age of 66, M. G. Wegmann, he was for many years President of the Engineering Works Rütti, and a founder of the firm R. & E. Huber, in Pfäffikon. The deceased was for 15 years Hungarian Consul in Zurich.

BERNE.

An upholsterer in Langnau, when repairing a mattress belonging to an old man, who recently died, found a bag containing gold coins to the value of 53,000 frs.

* * *

Mme. Trunsel, who played an important part in the Swiss women movement, has died at the age of 55 in Berne. The deceased was the founder of the Primary schools in Berne.

URI.

In Erstfeld, died at the age of 75, M. Joseph Wipfli, a former Landammann. The deceased was a member of the "Landrat" from 1892-1908, and a member of the cantonal government from 1908-1920. He was Landammann in 1913-1914.

FRIBOURG.

A fire, which broke out at Fribourg, partly destroyed the Franciscan cloister in Fribourg.

The Franciscan church and cloister was founded in the year 1237 by the counts of Kyburg.

CITY SWISS CLUB

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26th

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane W.1.

Admission by ticket only obtainable from Members of the Committee.

VAUD.

The electric railway Rolle-Gimel has ceased to exist, instead a bus service will be maintained between the two towns.

DISCOURS DE M. MOTTA.

President de la Confédération à l'occasion des Cérémonies à la Mémoire du général Dufour et des soldats de Genève morts pour la Patrie.

Nous allons nous rendre d'ici peu au parc Mon-Repos, et de là vous parlerez au peuple de Genève pour évoquer devant lui la grande mémoire du général Dufour et pour rappeler à son souvenir fidèle les soldats morts au service du pays. Vous y parlerez seul et je vous en loue, car la multiplicité des discours diminuerait l'austérité de la cérémonie. La parole qui s'impose la concision est seule à même d'exprimer la substance profonde de la pensée.

Mais j'aurais l'impression de n'avoir pas rempli entièrement le devoir de mes fonctions si, étant venu officiellement et comme délégué du Conseil fédéral parmi vous, je ne profitais de ce banquet pour offrir à la mémoire du général Dufour l'hommage de reconnaissance que lui envoie la Patrie suisse dans sa ferveur.

Merci à vous, Monsieur le conseiller d'Etat Picot, du salut amical dont vous m'avez honoré. Me permettrez-vous de dire qu'entre Genève et le président actuel de la Confédération il y a des liens moraux dépassant en force les liens ordinaires qui relient un citoyen confédéré à un canton qui par le sang n'est pas le sien?

Je viens à Genève depuis dix-sept ans, chaque automne, en mission régulière. Votre paysage, qui est une des merveilles de la nature, m'enchanté et le mobile esprit de votre libre cité me séduit toujours et me réconforte souvent. C'est ici, dans les assemblées de la Société des Nations, qu'il m'a été donné, par un privilège de mon destin, de plaider, au nom de la Suisse, les plus nobles des causes: celle de l'arbitrage international et celle de la mutuelle compréhension entre les Etats.

Au moment où le canton de Genève célèbre la naissance de Guillaume-Henri Dufour, le canton d'Unterwald vient de clore l'année jubilaire qu'il a consacrée à la mort du Frère Nicolas. Ces deux figures, éloignées de trois siècles dans le temps, symbolisent ensemble, comme si elles étaient proches l'une de l'autre, les qualités de sagesse supérieure et de patriotisme ardent qui sauveront, à travers les vicissitudes parfois orageuses de l'histoire, l'intégrité et l'épanouissement de la Confédération. Ces deux noms — celui du grand soldat et celui de l'ascète agenouillé dans la contemplation de Dieu — je les unis dans nos cours et je les salue avec un même élan de gratitude.

Réfléchissons. Le général Dufour a travaillé comme nul autre à former notre armée et il s'y est appliqué avec cette précision technique qui lui venait de ses ancêtres horlogers et avec cet amour de la science qu'il avait trouvé dans son milieu. Il nous a donné deux fois nos drapeaux : celui de la Croix blanche et celui de la Croix rouge, l'une évoquant le Christ de l'immolation, l'autre le Christ de la pitié, la première étant notre signe national, la seconde représentant notre mission de neutralité politique ennoblie par l'esprit de charité. Dufour a dessiné et gravé, par la carte topographique qui porte son nom, l'aspect de notre sol, les courbes de nos lacs, les lignes de nos plaines et de nos vallées, l'emplacement de nos villes et de nos villages, et il a voulu cette œuvre pour que la Patrie nous apparût dans ses traits permanents comme une richesse commune et durable, la plus précieuse entre toutes et que nous avons à défendre jusqu'au sacrifice de nos vies terrestres passagères.

Mais là où le génie moral du Genevois se révèle dans toute sa grandeur, ce fut en 1847, lorsque, nommé général par la Diète, il commanda l'armée appelée à dissoudre la Ligue séparée des sept cantons catholiques. Dufour s'éleva alors au-dessus de lui-même. Il empêcha, par la rapidité des opérations militaires, toute velléité d'intervention étrangère. La guerre fut courte et resta humaine. Les passions politiques surexéciées à l'extrême dans les deux camps rôdaienent autour du chef, mais celui-ci sut les calmer et les