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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

M. MOTTA GUEST OF THE CONSULAR CORPS.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation was the guest of the Consular Corps, at a dinner arranged in Berne in his honour.

The doyen of the Consular Corps, M. J. Klawin-Ellansky expressed on behalf of his colleagues the appreciation for the consideration they have always received from M. Motta.

DIPLOMATIC NEWS.

The Federal Council has arranged a farewell dinner to Monsieur Carel van Rappard, the Dutch Minister, who is shortly vacating his post.

JUBILEE OF SWISS JOURNALIST.

Dr. Max Müller, Paris correspondent of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" has celebrated his 25th Jubilee as correspondent in the French Metropolis. Dr. Müller was one of the chief propagandists for the Swiss House at the "Cité Universitaire" in Paris.

FIRE IN THE GOTTHARD EXPRESS.

A second class carriage of the Gotthard Express caught fire near the station Rodi-Fiesso and was completely destroyed, the passengers were able to leave the carriage unharmed.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE DE BALE.

The Banque Commerciale de Bâle (Basler Handelsbank) has issued a statement giving details of last year's trading results. A loss of Frs.29,528,052 (about £1,400,000 at the present rate of exchange) is recorded in the balance-sheet, against Frs.9,834,433 at the end of 1935. This big increase in the loss is due to the fact that frozen assets, notably German ones, were realised. The amount involved is Frs.50,500,000, of which Frs.48,000,000 is to be attributed to German assets. There are still German assets valued at some Frs.68,000,000 which will also be liquidated in due course, naturally bringing about further losses.

To wipe these losses out, including those in the balance-sheet, the bank's capital will be curtailed before long by reducing the nominal value of shares.

It will be recalled that the Banque Commerciale de Bâle was granted a two years' moratorium on 11th June, 1935. At the expiration of this moratorium in June next, the bank will announce the measures which it contemplates to take to reach a sound basis again.

In view of the trading result no dividend will be paid in respect of 1936. It is anticipated that after the reorganisation the payment of dividends will be resumed.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Colonel Hans Kern has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Thalwil. After having studied law he was appointed Factory Inspector of the canton of Zurich, and in 1898 he was made a member of the Zurich District Court. Eight years later, he entered the "Eisenbahn & Konstruktionswerkstätte vormals Löhle & Kern." Colonel Kern was a member for many years of the "Kantonsrat" and the "Grossen Stadtrat," he was commander of the 27th regiment. For a short period Colonel Kern sat in Parliament. (Nat. Council).

* * *

Colonel Albert Schmid, for many years (1926-1937) recruiting officer of the "Divisionskreis 5a" has retired from his post, and is succeeded by

Lieutenant-colonel Arnold Wille, a son of the late General Wille and brother of the "Waffenchef" of Infantry, Colonel Wille.

Colonel Schmid was at one time in command of the Infantry regiment 28 and Infantry brigade 14.

BERNE.

A family tragedy has occurred at the bear pit in Berne. The four year old bear "Chrigel," suddenly took a dislike to his female companion "Vreneli" and without much ado, "went for her." Vreneli put up a brave fight, but without success; "Chrigel" was not only satisfied in dispatching her to the "hunting grounds beyond" but made a good meal of his former companion. It is reported that the atmosphere at this famous bear pit is "tense."

* * *

M. Alfred Flückiger, head of the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule, Rüti" near Zollikofen, has died at the age of 70.

* * *

Doctor Robert Stäger, physician, scientist and author has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Berne.

* * *

The death is reported from Spiez of M. Johann Jakob Hadorn, late National Councillor, at the age of 77.

The deceased was born in 1860, and studied law at the University in Berne; since 1910 he practised as a notary at Spiez. He entered Parliament in 1919 and was a member of the National Council until 1928.

BASLE.

The death has occurred of M. Alfred Grüter at the age of 77; Mr. Grüter was at one time a member of the Swiss National team of "Matchschützen," he distinguished himself at many international shooting competitions, amongst them: Loosduinen (1889), Paris (1901); Rome (1902); Buenos Aires (1903); Brussels (1905) etc.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

At the age of 79 died in Liestal M. Ad. Brodbeck-Dettwyler, a former member of the cantonal government. He entered the government of the canton of Basle-Country in 1897 and retired in 1922.

The deceased has rendered, for nearly half a century great services to his native canton.

ARGAU.

Mme. Franziska Staubli-Koch from Sulz-Künzen, who recently died, has left an amount of Frs.60,000 for charitable purposes.

VAUD.

The electors of the canton of Vaud have rejected the initiative of the communists, supported by the Socialist Party to have proportional representation in the Grand Council. The figures were: for 19,516, against 39,523.

TICINO.

A fire completely destroyed the pasteboard works at Camorino near Bellinzona. The damage caused is considered to be considerable.

GENEVA.

M. Louis Goretta, who has been since 1903 in the service of the Geneva Police, has been appointed Director of the St. Antoine prison in succession to M. E. Isaac, who has recently died.

* * *

The newly appointed French Ambassador, Monsieur Alphand, paid an official visit to Geneva, where he was received by the members of the Geneva government at the Town Hall.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Please Reserve

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th, 1937,

for the

Dinner and Dance

at the

MAYFAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

OVER SWITZERLAND'S HIGHWAYS

By JAMES LAMAR

(Continued).

Over the Klausen Pass, often considered Switzerland's best constructed road, the famed Klausen races are held each year. The Bernina Pass also boasts of a yearly race, and the annual "Internationale Alpenfahrt," which is a test for private automobiles of all nations, is run over the most important passes in the country. The most popular auto race in Switzerland is the Grand Prix run over the exacting Bremgarten course near Berne.

* * *

Sport fans will find Switzerland well equipped to supply them with anything they are looking for. There is everything from mountain climbing to table tennis and bridge.

There are twenty-six golf courses in Switzerland. Some are close to mirror-like lakes, and others are in undulating valleys. Others are on high plateaus where the surrounding crown of the white peaked Alps lifts up into blue sky. All the courses are well kept, and you will get added enjoyment out of your game from the flamboyant panoramas all around you that make it difficult to keep your eye on the ball.

Numerous beaches dot the shores of all the larger Swiss lakes, and every important mountain resort has its swimming pool. The Alpine sun will give you a tan that will shame Miami's best. Tennis is widely played, and throughout the summer tournaments are held that attract the first-class players of Europe. There is trout fishing in the mountain streams that will quicken the pulse of the most exacting fly-caster. There is boating, and riding and hunting. And if you spend a winter holiday in Switzerland, there are naturally unparalleled opportunities for all kinds of winter sports.

* * *

And now, where are the places you ought to go when you visit Switzerland? Let's assume you wish, without being hurried, to see as much of the country as you can. You cross the frontier, let us say, at Basle.

This old world city on the Rhine is one of Switzerland's largest industrial centres. Nominated as the most interesting sight is the mediaeval City Hall, which is strangely intriguing in spite of its rusty red walls — or because of them.

From Basle you travel along fine roads near the northern border to Schaffhausen, where the Rhine falls tumble in wild exuberance. Here you cut down to Zurich, industrial and cultural capital of the country.

In Zurich, which is situated at the tip of its long lake, you meet people from all over the world. It is, along with Geneva, the most cosmopolitan of Swiss cities. An excursion can be made either by car or lake steamer to Rapperswil, where there is a fine castle in the best mediaeval, musty and crumbling style.

Broad highways lead you from Zurich to Lucerne and central Switzerland. At the Rütti, close to the lake waters that cut into green hills, Swiss independence from Austria was declared in 1291. Each year, on August 1st, festivals are held everywhere commemorating Switzerland's Confederation Day. Within easy reach of Lucerne are the Rigi and Mount Pilatus, both of which have funiculars clambering to their summits.

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