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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The net profit of the Swiss National Bank for 1936 was Frs.4,750,000 (about £226,000) — the same as for 1935 — after allocating Frs.500,000 to reserve.

A 6 per cent. dividend (including an extra of 1 per cent.) will be paid on the share capital of Frs.25,000,000; and Frs.3,250,000 credited to the Federal Treasury.

The balance-sheet total, which had dropped from Frs.2,179,000,000 (£103,600,000) to Frs.1,887,000,000 (£90,000,000) in 1935, rose to Frs.3,506,000,000 (£167,000,000) at the end of 1936, representing a record figure.

Turnover was valued at Frs.118,100,000 (£5,624,000,000), which compared with Frs.109,500,000,000 for 1935 (£5,214,000,000). This big increase must mainly be attributed to the extensive gold dealings by the bank.

SWISS FRONTIER TO BE REINFORCED.

A reinforcement of Switzerland's "Frontier defence detachments" was decided upon. The special "Volunteer defence formations," recruited from army volunteers, were first formed in November, 1936.

In the Parliamentary debates upon the increase in the Swiss military budget, and in the negotiations which preceded the calling into being of the frontier force, constant allusion was made to "the danger from without."

NEW MEMBERS OF THE SWISS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

M. William Hirsky, President, and Dr. F. Messerli, General Secretary of the Swiss Olympic Committee having resigned, they were replaced by Messrs. Marcel Henninger and Dr. Hafner.

FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF THE FEDERAL POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE ADMINISTRATION.

The net profit of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration for 1936 amounts to 20 million francs or 2 million francs more than in 1935.

PROSPERITY COMING?

As far as is known at present there will take place 91 shooting competitions in Switzerland during the current year.

YUGOSLAV-SWISS CASE SETTLED.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Government and the Government of Yugoslavia in the "Losinger et Cie" case, resulting in the withdrawal of this case from the World Court, provides further evidence that the very existence of the court often stimulates amiable solution in difficult cases.

The Losinger case resulted from a contract which had been concluded in 1929 between the former autonomous District of Pozarevac and the American Oriental Construction Syndicate for the planning, construction and financing of railways in that district.

In 1931, the Société Losinger et Cie of Berne and the State of Yugoslavia, respectively, substituted themselves for the American firm and the District of Pozarevac. Some time afterwards the Yugoslav Government declared the contract cancelled, and as a result the dispute arose, which was submitted by the Swiss Government to the World Court.

The suit had been the subject of a preliminary objection lodged by the respondent Government, and the court by an order of June 27th, 1936, had joined this objection to the merits of the case. Meanwhile, however, the two governments settled the matter between themselves, reaching a complete and definite agreement, which

induced them to discontinue the proceedings instituted by the Swiss Government and have the case removed from the court's list.

It often has been noticed that as soon as recourse to the World Court is even mentioned as a solution to a dispute, ways of conciliation seem to open, which at first seemed impossible.

The prospect of a clear, unbiased judgment of the highest court of justice in the world, from which there is no appeal, apparently tends to make parties agree while the case is already pending.

SWISS NATIONAL EMBLEM.

The Geneva Convention Bill, which has already passed the House of Lords, was passed by Standing Committee "B" of the House of Commons, without amendment.

The Bill gives effect to an article of the International Convention of 1929 and makes it unlawful for any person, without the authority of the Board of Trade, to use for the purposes of his trade or business, or for any other purpose, any design of a white or silver cross on a red ground, similar to the Arms of the Swiss Confederation, or any colourable imitation of the "Red Cross" or "Geneva Cross."

"What has happened and what has disturbed the Swiss," said Dr. Burgin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, "is the way in which the white cross on a red ground has acquired a certain amount of commercial usage.

"Great Britain, as a trading nation anxious to see that bad trade marks had short shrift, has taken care to see that any trade mark of this kind registered after December 23rd, 1931, should be invalid. Penalties under the measure, however, would not be retrospective."

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. Otto Naegeli, Professor of medicine at the University of Zurich, and director of the Medical Clinic at the Cantonal Hospital, is shortly retiring from his post.

* * *

The entire assets amounting to 30,000frs., of the "Kabnenmusik" of the town of Zurich, have been lost, through embezzlement by the cashier.

* * *

With the death of Dr. Wilhelm von Muralt, which occurred at his home in the "Rämistrasse" at the age of 92, the town of Zurich loses one of its best-known personalities. Dr. von Muralt was for over half a century a medical practitioner in Zurich. He was closely connected with the children's Hospital for over 60 years, of which he was 35 years as its surgeon-in-chief.

BERNE.

Dr. Hans Bluntschli, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Berne, and director of the anatomical Institute, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

Professor Bluntschli enjoys a great reputation not only at home, but also abroad, as one of the leading scientists, and he has written several books; he paid various visits to South America.

* * *

The late Louise Müller, from Berne, who already during her life-time had been a great benefactor, has left an amount of 700,000 Frs. for charitable purposes.

* * *

The cantonal tribunal, sitting in Biel, has condemned M. Rys, a notary in Longue to three years imprisonment; in addition to which he has been taken off the rolls as a practising notary.

BASEL.

The death is reported from Basle of Mr. Robert Heger-Mennigen at the age of 84. The deceased was for many years the proprietor of the well-known music publishing firm at the Steinengasse.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Please Reserve

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th, 1937,

for the

Dinner and Dance

at the

MAYFAIR HOTEL, BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1.

berg; he was also for some time a member of the Administration of the "Nationalzeitung."

* * *

M. Robert Wyss, a prominent teacher of singing, and at one time a well-known concert singer, has died in Basle at the age of 64.

VAUD.

The celebrated pianist and former President of Poland Paderewsky has given a Concert at the Cathedral in Lausanne for the benefit of the unemployed of the canton of Vaud, the receipts exceeded 16,000 frs.

* * *

The late Mme. Elisa Heerm, well-known as a painter, has left an amount of 57,000 frs. to various charitable institutions.

GENEVA.

An explosion happened in the cabin of a dredging machine at the Rue de Carouge in Geneva, costing the life of one man; several workmen and pedestrians received injuries and hundreds of window panes were broken.

* * *

A woman by the name of Gourrat was brought to the Infirmary in a state of collapse due to under nourishment, she later died. It was found that she had hoarded in a poorly furnished room money and securities amounting to over 80,000frs.

LA POLITIQUE.

Autour du budget fédéral.

Nous avons donné, l'autre jour, quelques indications sommaires sur le contenu du rapport que le Conseil fédéral adresse aux Chambres, à propos du budget de 1937 et de la situation financière. Il sied d'y revenir aujourd'hui, texte en main.

Après avoir constaté que tout budget présente forcément des lacunes, en raison notamment des dépenses votées en cours d'exercice et qui supposent l'octroi d'un crédit supplémentaire, le Conseil fédéral calme les appréhensions de ceux qui craignaient de voir les dépenses extraordinaires se monter à quelque 60 millions. En réalité, elles ne dépasseront pas trois millions, affectés au soutien du prix du lait, comme nous l'avons exposé récemment.

Le budget voté le 23 décembre 1936 par l'Assemblée fédérale annonçait un déficit de 40,750,000 francs. Mais il avait été impossible de tenir compte des répercussions possibles ou certaines de la dévaluation, lesquelles d'ailleurs ne sauraient être estimées maintenant d'une façon précise. En outre, le Conseil fédéral déclare que la dévaluation ne l'a pas délié de l'obligation de verser des subsides de fabrication à ceux à qui il les avait promis. Ici, nous relèveront cependant que, dans les cas où il serait établi que la dévaluation a facilité une reprise du travail ou permis de nouvelles exportations, les subsides fédéraux devraient être réduits en proportion ou, éventuellement, supprimés, en dépit des engagements pris alors que la situation était différente. Personne n'a un droit absolu à des cadeaux de la Confédération.

Les crédits ont été passés en revue, et l'on est parvenu à les réduire de 5,646,953 francs. Ainsi, au département politique et à celui de l'économie publique, les mesures prévues pour le développement des services commerciaux ne pourront pas être exécutées complètement en 1937. Un nombre important de petites réductions ont

SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

Conductor: Mr. E. P. DICK.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Under the Patronage of the Swiss Minister
Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI.

FRIDAY, the 12th MARCH, 1937

at

CONWAY HALL, (Small Hall)

Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

(Start of concert 8.30 p.m. sharp.)

Tickets at 2/- (incl. Tax) can be obtained at the box office or from any member of the Orchestra.