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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### M. MOTTA AT CAIRO.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, who is at present on a Mediterranean Cruise, arrived at Cairo.

A Banquet was given to M. Motta by the Swiss Club, at which 300 persons were present.

#### FRANCO-SWISS TRADE PACT.

A new commercial agreement has been signed at Berne between France and Switzerland which will simplify the quota system between the two countries and will open up fresh markets reciprocally.

A feature will be the opening up of fresh markets to Switzerland in the French colonies and protectorates, in exchange for a more open door for French colonial goods.

#### MOTOR BOAT RACING AT ST. MORITZ.

A three-day's motor boat racing event is to be held on the lake at St. Moritz towards the end of July.

#### NEW DANGER FROM JURA LANDSLIP.

The landslip near Moutiers, in the Jura, is moving down at a rapid pace. The sliding mass of earth has now blocked up the road and railway line, cutting off all communication. To-day the landslip reached the River Birs, which has been hastily covered with trees and logs so as to allow the water to flow freely and to avoid the creation of a dam, the breaking of which would cause a destructive flood.

#### SWISS EMIGRATE TO RUSSIA.

Thirty master watchmakers and their families have left La Chaux-de-Fonds for Samara, on the Volga, where, with other Swiss craftsmen who are to follow, they are to take part in the establishment of the largest watchmaking factory in Europe. It will employ 10,000 hands.

#### SWISS FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

At a meeting of the Association of Swiss Accountants, the president of the Swiss National Bank (Dr. Bachmann) expressed the view that indiscriminate buying of foreign securities would cause fresh losses to investors.

He advocated the introduction, on the Swiss Bourses, of first-class foreign securities with a view to concentrating in these stocks the capital which was now being exported in haphazard fashion.

Instead of interfering with investing abroad, this procedure would canalise the international investment business. Investors would probably prefer to deal through the Swiss banks.

#### THE GROWTH OF MOTORING.

The Geneva International Automobile Salon met with great success this year. Of the 52 motor car firms, 17 were American, 11 German, 10 British, eight French, four Italian and two Czechoslovakian. Switzerland is entirely dependent on foreign countries for motor cars, since the last Swiss factory closed down a few years ago. She relies less on imports for motor lorries; several factories exist in Switzerland, including Saurer and Berna.

There are now nearly 97,000 motor vehicles in Switzerland, about one to every 43 inhabitants. Ten years ago, when the number of motor vehicles reached 56,000, it was forecast that motor traffic could not develop much in such a hilly country with narrow roads. In the past six years, however, the number of motor cars put into service averaged about 11,000 a year. The development of motoring is due to progress in the construction of cars, to the reduction of prices, and to the improvements which have been made on nearly all the Swiss roads.

Until 1935, American cars were in the majority, but they have now been outnumbered by Italian cars. To bring down prices and to compete with European cars, some American firms (such as General Motors) send separate parts to Switzerland where they are assembled by Swiss labour. British cars represent only about 2 per cent. of the total. In 1936, the value of British cars imported into Switzerland reached 23,274,300 francs and the value of British motor cycles was 450,000 francs, including spare parts.

The effort which the Swiss authorities are making to improve the roads is shown in the building scheme recently adopted by parliament. The Alpine roads are generally good, but they are not all up to date, and the Federal Government and the Cantons concerned have agreed to an improvement and modernisation programme to be completed within the next six years at a total cost of 78 million francs. During about seven months in the year, the Alpine passes are blocked up by snow, and vehicular traffic is completely stopped. It is proposed to build a motor road in one of the Simplon tunnels, and a company has been formed to examine the proposal.

#### A SWISS IN CHARGE OF THE CATERING AT THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Dr. Georges Clar (Basle) has been entrusted with the catering arrangements for the Paris International Exhibition. His assistant will be M. Andreas Badrutt, son of M. Hans Badrutt, Manager of the Palace Hotel in St. Moritz.

#### SWISS RIVER DAMMED BY LANDSLIP.

The landslip near Moutiers, in the Jura, is continuing. A mass of about 60,000 cubic feet of earth and rock collapsed a few days ago and partly obstructed the River Birs, which is now forming a lake 200 yards long. Three hundred men are working day and night to allow the water to flow down freely.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Doctor Eugen Tschudi, has celebrated his 40th anniversary as surgeon-in-chief of the "Theodosianum." Dr. Tschudi, who was 70 years old in August 1936, is one of the foremost surgeons in Switzerland.

\* \* \*

Dr. Fritz Wegmann, a former Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Zurich, President of the "Schweiz. Lebensversicherungs und Rentenanstalt" Zürich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

\* \* \*

M. Gustav Adolf Feh, a partner in the "Kupferdruckerei Gebrüder Feh" in Fluntern has died at the age of 65.

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Zurich, of Dr. H. N. Zöllly-Veillon, for many years Managing-Director and Chairman of the Board of Messrs. Escher Wyss and Co., in Zurich. The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Technical University of Zurich.

#### BERNE.

M. H. Schüpbach, advocate at Steffisburg, and a former President of the National Council, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary; the writer C. A. Loosli, in Bümpliz, has also reached his 60th birthday anniversary.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD

#### Monthly Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th 1937.

at 8 p.m. followed by a lecture

#### EXPLORING in the UNKNOWN

#### ARCTIC

by EDWARD SHACKLETON, B.A., F.R.G.S.

BOATLOADS OF ITALY

Members & their friends are heartily welcome

THE COMMITTEE

In Berne died at the age of 83, M. Werner Krebs for many years "Schweizerischer Gewerbe-sekretär." The deceased was the Founder of the "Schweizerische Gewerbezeitung," he was Secretary of the "Gewerbeverband" from 1885-1925.

\* \* \*

A credit of 600,000 frs. has been voted by the "Bürgergemeinde" for the renovation of the "Burghospital" in Berne.

\* \* \*

A strike has broken out at the works of Messrs. Hug, Shoe manufacturers, in Herzogenbuchsee, eight hundred workmen have "downed tools."

#### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. G. End, Manager of the "Schweiz. Industriegesellschaft" Neuhausen, has celebrated his 25th Service Jubilee.

#### BASLE.

M. Jakob Sulger has been appointed chief of the "Schweiz. Depeschen Agentur" in Basle, in succession to M. F. Kugler, who recently retired.

\* \* \*

The well-known Hotel "Drei König," which was closed for some considerable time was re-opened last week, when nearly 500 guests were invited to witness the re-opening ceremony.

#### SOLOTHURN.

The firm Arthur Frey, clothing manufacturers in Wangen, near Olten, has given the "Bad Lostorf" to the canton of Solothurn, to be used as a children's home. The value of the property is valued at 270,000 Frs.

#### ST. GALLEN.

The late Arnold Billwiler, Brewery Proprietor, has left an amount of 25,000 frs. to be distributed amongst the municipal museum and library.

#### THURGAU.

A former student of the cantonal school in Frauenfeld, M. Alfred Hafner, head of a large Library in New York, has invited a large number of former students, as well as the present teaching staff, of the "Kantonschule" to a Banquet in Zurich. M. Hafner has also given an amount of 10,000 frs. to the "Alterskasse" of this institution.

#### TICINO.

Doctor Federico Pedotti, a well-known medical practitioner and for many years Mayor of the town of Bellinzona, and member of the Grand Council, has died. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Swiss Army Medical Corps.

#### VALAIS.

M. Anthamatten, a member of the cantonal government received injuries (broken hand) in a motoring accident which occurred at Grandchamp near Villeneuve.

#### OBWALDEN.

M. Anton Stockmann, painter in Sarnen, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

#### NIDWALDEN.

M. Franz Odermatt, since 1905 "Staatschreiber" of the canton of Nidwalden has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. M. Odermatt was for many years Editor of the "Unterwalder" and President of the Historical Society of Nidwalden. He is well-known as the author of many novels principally dealing with historical events.

#### GENEVA.

On Monday, last the inside of a five-storey house at the Eaux Vives quarter (Geneva) was completely destroyed by an explosion which killed four persons.

In addition to the four persons killed, eight were seriously and 21 slightly injured by the explosion. The house contained 10 flats; only the walls remain and the material damage exceeds £10,000.

It appears that one of the occupants, a hairdresser, who had been accused of setting fire to his shop, asphyxiated himself, his wife, and his little daughter with gas. The gas accumulated in his flat and exploded when a neighbour lit his gas stove. The fourth person killed was a milkman, who was on the staircase.

Drink delicious Ovaltine  
at every meal—for Health!