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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS FRONTIER GUARD STRENGTHENED.

The Swiss Federal Council authorized the Military Department to form four new companies of volunteers for the permanent watching of the frontier. The permanent frontier guard will thus consist of fourteen companies. As the Swiss Constitution does not allow for the maintenance of a permanent army, these units of volunteers were formed two years ago, with a view to manning the newly erected fortifications.

NEW ALUMINUM FACTORY.

Negotiations have been completed for the erection of a new aluminium works at Resolven, Glamorgan, for the South Wales Aluminium Co., recently registered with a capital of £500,000 and allied to the British Aluminium Co. and Industrial Aluminium Switzerland.

Work will be started immediately, and when completed the factory will provide regular employment for 600 men.

SWISS COMPANY'S REORGANIZATION.

The eight ordinary general meeting and an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Société Continentale pour Valeurs Bancaires et Industrielles was held in Basle, on October 31st, and shareholders duly approved the reorganization scheme proposed by the board. The capital, now reduced from 30,000,000fr. to 16,000,000fr., will be divided into 10,000,000fr. of Ordinary and 6,000,000fr. of Preference shares.

Following this reorganization the company will take over all the assets and liabilities of the Société Continentale de Gestion (Gesco) of Monaco with the exception of the shares of the Basle company and the amount required by the Gesco to complete its liquidation. The bondholders of the Société Continentale de Gestion will become the sole shareholders of the reorganized company. The articles of the company have been amended accordingly, and the initial balance-sheet showing an approximate total of 28,600,000fr. has also been approved.

The old directors having resigned, a new board has been elected composed of the following:—Messrs. Armand Dreyfus, Zurich (chairman); Michael Terestchenko, Monaco (vice-chairman); Maurice Golay, Basle; François Madinier, Paris; Dr. Edward Nüscher, Basle; Dr. Rodolphe Speich, Basle; and Mr. Granville Tyser, London.

GERMAN FIGHTERS FOR SWISS AIR FORCE.

The Swiss Federal Government have ordered from Germany a number of fighter aeroplanes, which, it is said, will be delivered within a very short time. The machines are to have 1,100 h.p. engines giving them a speed of about 334 m.p.h. and enabling them to reach 15,000ft. in five minutes. Each machine is to cost about £13,000.

SWISS MEASURES AGAINST NAZI PROPAGANDA.

The Swiss Federal Government convened in Berne a meeting of the chiefs of police of the border Cantons which are most exposed to foreign propaganda. The Government are examining with them the means to be employed to check propaganda and reassure Swiss public opinion, since undue importance, it is said in official quarters, should not be ascribed to Nazi propaganda.

GENEVA'S GRATITUDE TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

An illuminated address of thanks to Mr. Chamberlain, printed in French and English on Holland paper and enclosed in a red leather cover adorned with the Geneva coat of arms, was handed over in Berne to the British Minister, Sir George Warner.

SWISS ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.

The value of the exports of electrical machinery and apparatus from Switzerland increased from 38,804,000 Swiss fr. in 1936 to 52,051,000 fr. last year, all classes of manufactures contributing towards the improvement. The quantities exported, however, did not advance in the same proportion as the value owing to the devaluation of the Swiss franc and the increase in works prices.

The imports of electrical manufactures in 1937 were valued at 25,020,000 fr., as compared with 16,350,000 fr. in 1936. The growth in imports principally concerned electrodes (60 per cent. from Germany), radio apparatus, dynamos, incandescent lamps and accumulators. The chief supplier of electric carbons last year was France, which was second, after Germany, in the supply of accumulators.

MINISTER K. EGGER TRANSFERRED.

Dr. Karl Egger, Swiss Minister in Madrid-Barcelona has been appointed Swiss Minister to Finland, Latvia and Estonia.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Pending the completion of measures for counteracting foreign propaganda, the Canton of Zürich has decided to submit to censorship before publication three pro-Nazi newspapers published in Zürich.

* * *

Dr. Karl Hescheler, Professor of Botany at the University of Zurich and the Technical University in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

BERNE.

M. Ernst Zingg, a partner of the well-known firm, Zingg and Co., cheese exporters, has died in Berne at the age of 80.

* * *

Dr. W. Meyer, at present librarian at the "Schweiz. Landesbibliothek" in Berne, has been appointed Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Landesbibliothek," in succession to M. H. Bernus who recently resigned his post.

* * *

M. Amstutz, Mayor of Thun, is shortly relinquishing his post for reasons of health.

BASLE.

Lieutenant-colonel G. Däniker has been appointed lecturer of Military science at the University of Basle.

ST. GALL.

The St. Gallen section of the Swiss Alpine Club has celebrated the seventieth birthday of one of its members, Herr Karl Egloff, the "discoverer" of the Saentis, the group of mountains stretching south of St. Gallen and north of the Toggenburg Valley. Herr Egloff made nearly all the first ascents of the Saentis peaks and ridges, having climbed 70 times the difficult Kreuzberg V and 240 times the Saentis.

TICINO.

The new broadcasting studio in Lugano was inaugurated on the 8th of this month.

GENEVA.

A sports machine belonging to the Aero-Club of Geneva crashed near Les Crêts, the pilot, M. J. P. Courvoisier, from Geneva, and his passenger, M. F. Raemy also from Geneva, were killed.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Please Reserve

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th

for the

Annual Banquet and Ball

at the

GROSVENOR HOUSE, PARK LANE, W.I.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Members of the Committee.

FOOTBALL.

6th November, 1938.

International Match.

SWITZERLAND 1 PORTUGAL 0

15,000 spectators witnessed this second encounter between Swiss and Portuguese national teams, this time at "La Pontaise" in Lausanne. Portugal were determined to wipe out that definitely unlucky defeat suffered at Milan last May, when Switzerland's 2:1 victory meant elimination from the "World Soccer Championship" staged in France. Their loss was our gain. Memories being short, in these hectic days, let me remind you that three weeks later Switzerland scored their memorable victory over England's might at Zurich, thence to proceed to Paris as one of the last sixteen nations in the aforementioned competition. Drawn against Greater Germany in the first round we knocked them out at the second attempt by 4 goals to 2.

At the start of this season Switzerland suffered a crushing defeat by four clear goals in the first international, played against Eire in Dublin. A rough crossing of the Irish Sea had played havoc with our team of landlubbers and that this was no empty excuse was proved by the great display of practically the identical team, some days later, under the nom de guerre "Swiss Wanderers" against the Arsenal at Highbury. This is recent history and may be taken to be remembered still by the readers of the S.O.

As to the match at Lausanne, Switzerland lined up as follows: Huber; Minelli, Lehmann; Springer, Vernati, Rauch; Bickel (all Grasshoppers), Trello (Servette), P. Aebi (Young Boys), Walacek and G. Aebi (both Servette). The defence was therefore taken en bloc from Grasshoppers, Minelli — being fit again — displacing Stelzer (Lausanne). Illness prevented Amado from playing and brought in P. Aebi at centre-forward, Bickel switching over to the right-wing position, the other three remaining as at Highbury. The Portuguese failed to reach their high standard of proficiency displayed at Milan. The Swiss defence never lost their grip on the game so that P. Aebi's goal scored in the third minute of the second half sufficed to gain the day.

M.G.

LA POLITIQUE

Le budget de 1939.

Le Conseil fédéral vient de publier son message accompagnant le projet de budget pour 1939.

Il prévoit un déficit de 56 millions. Il est juste de dire d'emblée que dans les dépenses apparentes figurent des amortissements, pour un total considérable, soit un peu plus de 43 millions, auxquels s'ajoutent les réserves constituées pour le désendettement des C. F. F. et des chemins de fer privés.

On enregistre une augmentation des dépenses militaires; et c'est à peine s'il est besoin d'insister sur leur nécessité. Mais peut-être ne messeid-il pas de noter également qu'il ne faut point aller, dans ce domaine, jusqu'aux dernières limites, et que, de l'avise de gens compétents, la fièvre de prodigalité qui s'empare de certains chefs doit être modérée.

En matière de finances, les éléments d'ordre psychologique jouent un rôle considérable. C'est justement pourquoi les financiers qui ne sont pas un peu intelligents, un peu capables de comprendre les mouvements des foules et des individus, agissent comme des imbéciles, ainsi qu'il se voit, malheureusement, plus souvent qu'on ne voudrait.

Actuellement, l'opinion publique est orientée vers le dogme de la défense nationale, — ce dont, en soi, il convient de se réjouir. Les socialistes ne rêvent que fortifications, canons anti-aériens, tanks, mitrailleuses et avions de bombardement. Si on les écoute, les épiceries deviendraient des forteresses, et les promenades publiques, des bastions. Parmi les bourgeois, jadis convaincus que rien ne troublerait jamais leur digestion heureuse, que la civilisation européenne devait être sauvée par cette raison seule qu'ils en faisaient partie (ou pensaient en faire partie), et