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# 6/237 The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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### HOME NEWS

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#### FEDERAL.

##### Swiss Attitude to League.

In the Swiss Parliament M. Motta, President of the Confederation and Foreign Minister, made an important statement on the effect of the withdrawal of Italy from the League of Nations on Swiss foreign policy.

"The League of 1937 does not much resemble the idea we had of it in 1920," he said. Switzerland had adhered to the League, and that adherence was wise. The main obstacle that had had to be overcome was due to the Swiss tradition of neutrality. It had been thought that if Swiss neutrality was safeguarded in its military aspects Switzerland could run the risk of being party to the League, that risk being compensated for by the guarantees of security which the League was to afford.

The particular status of Switzerland was confirmed by the Versailles Treaty and defined in the London Declaration of February 13th, 1920, and it could be regarded as satisfactory. But now Switzerland was compelled to consider whether for that status all the exigencies of the League system of security were necessary; and the withdrawal of Italy from the League, following that of Germany, another of Switzerland's neighbours, made it urgent to examine the question. The view of the Federal Council was that the Confederation must make it clear that Swiss neutrality was not differential but complete and in conformity with the age-old tradition and the geography and history of the country. The time had come for them to act with calmness and firmness, without nervousness.

Referring to the initiative launched to secure the withdrawal of Switzerland from the League, M. Motta declared that nobody should dream of asking her to do so.

If the League had failed in some cases (he said) her value as a symbol remained. International co-operation was a necessity. Its form might be altered, but it had to exist in substance.

Switzerland, the President declared, must not give the impression that she was in the orbit of a determined group of States. "We are our masters, and want to be autonomous and free."

Swiss military neutrality was questioned by nobody (he went on), and it would run no danger from Switzerland's membership of the League. The system of sanctions was now practically unattainable, and the League should now, if it wanted to become universal, give up methods of compulsion.

The League ran the risk of transforming itself into a coalition drawn up against another coalition, but the Swiss Federal Council was persuaded that Great Britain and France, seconded by the firm will of other States such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and the Scandinavian countries, would prevent it from falling into the fatal and unforgivable error of becoming the servant of one or another ideology, and thus altering its nature, its reasons of existence, its aims, and tendencies.

Switzerland would play in the League, tomorrow as yesterday, her modest part, which was not devoid of significance.

The whole question, concluded the President, would be brought before Parliament in January, when a full report on the question would be made by the Foreign Office.

M. Motta's statement was received with unanimous applause.

##### Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding.

The directors of Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding Company propose to reduce the capital from Swiss Frs.116,000,000 to Frs.58,000,000 (from about £5,370,000 to £2,685,000) by the repayment to shareholders of Frs.100 per share, reducing the nominal value of each share from Frs.200 to Frs.100.

A meeting to consider the necessary resolution has been called for 26th January at Cham.

In consequence of repayments of capital by allied companies, the company's cash and bank resources are adequate for the proposed operation. It is stated that during the course of 1938 the company's liquid funds will be further increased so as to be amply sufficient to cover any further financing the company may be called upon to effect.

It is anticipated that a distribution of Fr.30 per share will be available in respect of 1937. Untilac Inc. should be in a position to distribute a first dividend.

The directors will propose at the general meeting a modification of the articles of association. In view of the writing down of the Ordinary capital by Fr.200 per share in 1922, the Board will submit a proposal to create "bons d'amortissement" (Funding bonds) for attachment to the present share certificates. A part of the annual distribution of the company will be attributed in future to these bonds.

The company holds securities in subsidiary and associated companies, including Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, which produce chocolate, condensed milk, cheese and infant milk goods. The shares are quoted in Zurich at Swiss Frs.1,132.

##### New Appointments in the Swiss Diplomatic Service.

M. Etienne Lardy, until recently Chargé d'Affaires in China, has been appointed Swiss Minister for Turkey and Bulgaria.

M. Alfred Brunner, at present Chargé d'Affaires ad. int. in Egypt, has been nominated Chargé d'Affaires.

Dr. Conrad Jenny, at present Counsellor of Legation in Brussels, is to be the new Swiss Minister to the Argentine, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

#### L'ASSEMBLÉE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi 4 Janvier au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

#### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Le Comité.

#### M. Avenol in Bern.

M. Avenol, General Secretary of the League of Nations, has paid an official visit to M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, he was later on the guest of the Swiss Government at a Luncheon at the "von Wattenwyl Haus."

#### Resignation of M. E. Garbani-Nerini.

M. E. Garbani-Nerini, Director of the International Office of the "Weltpostverein" has retired from his post on reaching the age limit (70).

M. Garbani was born on the 26th of October, 1867 in Russo (Ticino). After completing his studies, he was for some time a member of the Appeal Court of the canton of Ticino. In 1905 he became a member of the cantonal government of which he was a member for altogether 12 years, (1905-1912; 1917-1922). From 1909-1922 he was a member of Parliament (National Council). In 1922 he was elected to the post of Federal Judge, and three years later, he was appointed Director of the International Office of the "Weltpostverein."

#### Legacies.

The late Christian Schopfer, from Lauenau, near Gstaad, has left an amount of 29,000frs. for charitable purposes. The heirs of the late Daniel Hofstetter-Willi, in Gais, have given an amount of 25,000frs. to various charities.

The late Mlle. Philomena Müller has left her entire fortune, amounting to 200,000frs. to the community of Lengnau (Aargau).

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

Alfred Huggenberger, the well-known Swiss writer and author has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

Dr. Hans Billeter, a former President of the District Court in Zurich (1913-1934), has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. In 1929, the University of Zurich bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on him for the services he had rendered.

Dr. G. Bosshard, General Manager and a member of the Board of the "Schweizerischen Unfallversicherungsgesellschaft Winterthur" has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Dr. Bosshard has been connected with this institution since 1898, and he enjoys a great reputation in the Swiss Insurance world.

##### BERNE.

Colonel Ernst Häberlin, chief of section at the Swiss General Staff, has died in Berne, at the age of 61.

The Board of Directors of the "Spar and Leihkasse" in Berne has elected Professor A. Homberger President of the Board. Dr. E. Ganz, at present Sub-Manager of the "Volksbank" in Zurich, has been elected Manager of the "Spar and Leihkasse."

##### FRIBOURG.

M. Georges Plinval, at present Professor of Literature at the Lycée Voltaire in Paris, has been appointed Professor of classical philology at the University in Fribourg.

##### AARAU.

The "Neue Aargauer Zeitung," which is published in Aarau, has celebrated its 25th Anniversary, the first number having appeared on the 21st of December, 1912.

##### VAUD.

M. Daniel Meylan, Pastor of the "Eglise nationale vaudoise" for forty years, has died in Lausanne at the age of 77.

##### BASEL.

Dr. Daniel Veraguth, for forty years a teacher of History at the "Humanistische Gymnasium" in Basle, has died at the age of 75.

##### GENEVA.

At the age of 86, died in Geneva, M. Hugo Oltramarie, for many years Professor of Dermatology at the University of Geneva.