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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS RAILWAYS 3% LOAN.

Subscription lists for the Swiss Federal Railways Three per Cent. loan at par are now open and close on 16th March.

The loan, which is for Frs.400,000,000 (about £18,520,000 at current rates), is for conversion of certain Federal Railways 3½ per cent. loans. Redemption will begin after ten years by 25 annuities.

SWISS NEUTRALITY.

After discussing the report on the work of the last League of Nations Assembly, the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the National Council (Second Chamber) of the Swiss Parliament, adopted a resolution to the effect that it was indispensable for Switzerland to revert to the status of complete neutrality.

INCREASED RHINE TRAFFIC.

In 1937 some 2,960,265 tons of goods passed through the Swiss port of Basle, which was a new record and 30 per cent. more than in 1936. Exports amounted to 219,025 tons, or 7.4 per cent. of the total traffic, compared with 4.9 per cent. in 1936 and 3.1 per cent. in 1935. Owing to improvements made in the bed of the Rhine, the river waterway is now more used than the Rhone-Rhine canal, which carried 77 per cent. of the traffic in 1932, 42.5 per cent. in 1936 and 34.5 per cent. in 1937. The Rhine brings coal to Switzerland from England, France, Poland (via Danzig) and the Ruhr, sugar from Czechoslovakia, and wheat from Hungary and Eastern Europe.

The Swiss fleet, no longer a joke, consists of 1,306 one-thousand ton barges and a number of tugs. The lack of space for these ships made it necessary to build new dock basins, and a new port is being constructed at Birsfelden, near Basle. Some 41 million francs have been invested in the port of Basle and its equipment, and it is estimated that the import of goods through Basle represents a saving of 15 to 20 million francs annually on freight.

The devaluation of the Swiss currency caused a revival in the tourist industry. During the past year, the 5,500 hotels of Switzerland received 3,508,000 guests, of whom 1,600,000 came from abroad, compared with 2,952,000 and 1,156,000 in 1936. Some 300,000 foreign motor cars entered Switzerland in 1937, against 144,000 in 1936. The increase in tourism was in part responsible for the improved earnings of the Federal Railways.

GERMANS IN SWITZERLAND.

During investigations in towns in the frontier canton of Aargau into a case of attempted enticement by German agents the Swiss Federal police have obtained evidence pointing to widespread activities infringing the Swiss laws for the defence of the realm.

Residences have been searched and much documentary material seized. Arrests are expected.

BASLE FAIR.

Dr. Baumann, President of the Swiss Confederation will be the official representative of the Swiss Government at the opening of the Basle Fair.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The University of Zurich has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on States Councilor Dr. Wettstein.

The firm of Joh. Jakob Rieter and Co. A.G., in Winterthur, has made a donation amounting to 375,000 frs. to various funds in connection with their staff.

BERNE.

The late colonel-of-division, Wilhelm Schmid, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Berne.

Colonel Schmid entered the Federal Instruction Corps in 1893 after having attained the rank of major. In 1909 he was promoted to colonel-of-division and at the same time to chief-of-arms of artillery (Waffenchef). In 1913 he succeeded Colonel Audéoud, as commander of the 4th division, a command which he held until 1918. On reaching the age of 60, he retired from the army. Colonel-of-division Schmid was one of the most popular leaders the Swiss army has had, and during his long and successful career, he has rendered great services to our country.

M. Cuno Amiet, the well-known Swiss painter has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary at Oschwand (Ct. Berne), a great number of his paintings can be found in Swiss Art Galleries.

Dr. F. de Quervain, Professor of surgery and Director of the surgical clinic at the University of Berne, has retired from his post on reaching the age limit.

Dr. Hermann Matti has been appointed as his successor.

Colonel Friedrich Mezener, "Kriegsmaterial-Verwalter," has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary, he has been in the service of the Federal Military Administration for the last 48 years. During the Frontier occupation, he was in the command of a "Luzerner" regiment.

On the occasion of the 70th birthday anniversary of Dr. E. Schulthess, late Federal Councillor, a banquet was held at the Bellevue-Palace in Berne, amongst the guests were M. Baumann, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor Motta, M. Mangold, rector of the University in Basle, M. Porchet, member of the government of the canton of Vaud, etc.

LUCERNE.

M. Anton Erni, late member of the government of the canton of Lucerne, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

Dr. Jos. Jakob Zimmerli, Town-President of Lucerne, has recently celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. Dr. Zimmerli was from 1919-1935 a member of Parliament (National Council).

GRISONS.

Messrs. Lardelli (Democrat) and Willi (Conservative) have been re-elected as States Councillors.

SOLOTHURN.

At the age of 60, died in Solothurn, Dr. Hugo Spillmann, from 1904-1911 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Solothurn. The deceased was for several years a member of the "Kantonsrat."

THURGAU.

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Thurgau, M. Jakob Herzog, from Märwil, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary.

VAUD.

Doctor Bruno Galli-Valerio, for 40 years Professor of medicine at the University of Lausanne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Professor Galli is now retiring from his post.

TICINO.

M. Gaspare Gatti, in Dongio, member of the cantonal Appeal Court, has been appointed Federal examination Judge in succession to the late M. Arturo Weissenbach.

GENEVA.

The Archaeological Society, in Geneva, has celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its existence.

LA POLITIQUE.

Les élections de Vaud et de Fribourg.

Le dimanche politique a été favorable aux partis nationaux, dans la Suisse romande.

Le canton de Vaud avait à élire son Conseil d'Etat. Comme nos lecteurs le savent, tandis que les partis radical et libéral présentaient une liste commune, avec cinq candidats radicaux (tous sortant de charge) et deux libéraux (dont un nouveau, M. Vodoz, succédant à M. Baup), agrariens et socialistes avaient cimenté une alliance que l'on s'accordait à juger étrange, dans les milieux où l'on pense que la tactique électorale ne saurait

faire litière de quelques principes essentiels.

Poussé par son mauvais génie, le colonel Roulet, ancien commandant d'une brigade de cavalerie, patriote authentique, Vandois de vieille roche, acceptait d'accueillir son nom à ceux de deux adversaires avérés de la défense nationale, M. Paul Golay, rédacteur du "Droit du peuple," et le Dr. Gloor, ancien syndic de Renens, tous deux députés au Conseil national, tous deux contempteurs acharnés de l'armée. Pareil alliage n'a rien dit qui vaille à nos voisins. Le paysan vandois est profondément attaché à la cause que représentent nos milices de citoyens soldats, et quels que puissent être, aujourd'hui, ses sujets de mécontentement, il n'admet pas que l'on se dise à la fois blanc et noir, que l'on veuille concilier les contraires, simplement pour prendre sa part du gâteau gouvernemental.

Le bizarre pacte signé entre les "rouges" et les "violets" a sans doute été préjudiciable aux uns comme aux autres. C'est dans la logique des choses. Le Conseil d'Etat vandois, qui a toujours donné l'exemple, par son souci de l'intérêt public, par son esprit progressiste et par son sens de l'autorité, tempéré d'une grande bienveillance, reçoit du corps électoral le témoignage de confiance qu'il méritait incontestablement. Ceux qui se sont imaginés qu'à la faveur de circonstances difficiles ils bouleverseraient aisément la majorité en seront pour leurs frais de propagande et de... diplomatie. A Missy, dans la solitude agreste où fleurit son doux génie, M. le colonel pourra méditer la jolie fable *Le renard, le singe et les animaux*, qui se trouve au livre VI de La Fontaine...

Dans le canton de Fribourg, les électeurs avaient à élire leurs conseils communaux et — dans les localités d'une certaine importance — leurs Conseils généraux.

Plusieurs de ces scrutins se faisant selon le mode proportionnel, qui, on le sait de reste, complique énormément les opérations, nous ne saurions commenter tous les résultats.

Mais, des renseignements que l'on possède à l'heure où nous écrivons, il ressort que dans la ville de Fribourg les conservateurs ont maintenu leurs positions, tandis que les radicaux ont gagné un siège, pris aux socialistes. Cela, pour le conseil communal (administratif) du chef-lieu, où, depuis 1934, il y avait six conservateurs, deux socialistes et un radical. Aux précédentes élections, un siège radical avait passé aux conservateurs. On eût pu supposer que ce siège là serait regagné cette fois par les radicaux; or la victoire de ceux-ci se réalise au détriment de l'extrême-gauche.

Du point de vue fédéral, il suffit de comparer ce qui s'est passé dans les cantons de Vaud et de Fribourg avec ce que l'on a enregistré précédemment à Bâle et ailleurs, pour se déclarer content de cette bonne vieille Suisse romande à laquelle les angures d'outre-Sarine font volontiers la leçon, mais qui se comporte assez bien, en somme, et se défend toute seule.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève.)

POLYTECHNIC TOURS REUNION.

The Annual Polytechnic Reunion took place last Saturday at the Albert Hall before a densely packed audience.

This Reunion, which from year to year gets more popular, was celebrating this year its golden jubilee. Sir Kynaston Studd was in the Chair, amongst the guests were the Swiss

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Minister, accompanied by Mme. Paravicini, and representatives of the French, German and Belgian Embassies.

Commander R. G. Studd acted as Chairman. "The Times" writes:

Across the arena marched the band of the Royal Marines to a place on the platform, and then followed speeches of welcome from the Chairman and Commander R. G. Studd, managing director of the association, and a presentation of prizes by Lady Kathleen Studd.

Those preliminaries over, there was heard the skirl of bagpipes in crescendo as, with the pipers at their head, a group of dancers from the Highland Dancing Club entered. They danced their traditional reels to the music of their pipes, which sounded strident under a roof, even in so large a building as the Albert Hall. Flemish music and folk dances were then performed by Belgian fisherfolk, known as the "United Fisher Friends" Society. One of the dancers was a woman of 70, who, born in London, went to Belgium to live after her marriage 50 years ago. The society was formed in 1928 to cultivate the traditional Flemish dances and its membership consists mainly of fishermen and their families. The funds they collect are used to relieve the needs of dependents of fishermen drowned at sea.

The dancers wore costumes which dated from the eighteenth century. The women had white caps with black aprons and shawls over scarlet dresses. The men wore south-wester hats, scarlet fishing boots, and russet-coloured smocks, which at sea they cover with oilskin capes. Men and women wore clogs, and with these they effectively beat time to the music of the band according to the custom of original clog dances.

The "Bella Nissa" Folklore Group, Provençal dancers from Nice, were making a first appearance in London. They had, however, already appeared in six European countries and represented France at the Olympic Games in Berlin. The women carried bouquets and wore crinoline dresses of various colours, and the men white flannel trousers and shirts with bow ties, and sashes round their waists.

The Edelweiss Swiss Yodel Choir included an Alpine hornblower. They were introduced by the Swiss Minister, who spoke of the happy and intimate friendship existing among the Swiss and British peoples. The choir are well known to visitors to Lucerne. Their uniform consists of black velvet coats with abbreviated sleeves over white silk shirts, and each man wears a small round cap in which silver badges gleamed, these having been awarded as prizes in yodelling competitions. An echoing yodel, with one of the choir answering at the opposite end of the hall, was a simulation of the echo of a yodel call resounding from an Alpine mountain peak.

Traditional music and dances performed by a German team of men and women dancers from the Glottental, in the heart of the Black Forest, were a fitting finale to a programme which was full of interest. Few of the performers had left Southern Germany before they made the journey to London. With them came a costume band from the village of St. Georgen and a man carrying an old umbrella who had a load of cuckoo clocks strapped to his back. They chimed at intervals when the band ceased playing. Part-songs and a spinning song were sung by the women, and the men ended a dance by turning head over heels. All the company took part in the Black Forest dance, and led by the band they marched from the arena while the audience applauded heartily, the girls in acknowledgement waving miniature Christmas trees, the men giving the Hitler salute.

THE SWISS WATCH FAIR.

Since 1917 Basle has been the seat of the most important annual demonstration of Switzerland's economics and industry, viz., the Swiss Industries Fair, which will be held for the 22nd time from March 26th to April 5th, 1938. The Swiss Industries Fair at Basle is part of the cycle of big European industrial fairs, and one of its most important and attractive sections is the Watch Fair, which was instituted somewhat later and will be held this year for the 8th time.

Its age does not matter, for the Swiss Watch Fair has already grown into a tradition. Moreover, it fills a real need, being called upon to co-ordinate two common interests — those of the manufacturer and those of the merchant, wholesaler and retailer.

The importance of this display of the Swiss Watchmaking Trade has been confirmed since its start by the interest it has aroused in all circles interested in the trade, a reciprocal interest on the part of both manufacturers and buyers, as proved by the fact of the parallel increase in the number of exhibitors and of visitors from one year to the other. This year, for example, the Watch Fair will total 55 exhibitors, of whom 45 are among the best known watch factories, and some ten representatives of allied trades (electric clocks, watchchains, jewellery, etc.). It is completed by a didactic presentation of model show-cases of the greatest interest to retailers, who will thus be able to gather a number of ideas for

the arrangement of their shop windows. As the pavilion reserved for the Watch Fair is completely taken up it may well be said that there has never been such a plentiful and varied display of all kinds of watchmaking products. Every buyer will be able to find the article he requires, which will be demonstrated to him either by the manufacturer himself or else by his representative. He will be able to obtain all the information he may desire as to market trends and fashions, watchmaking novelties, the best articles to import, the necessary formalities, etc. Made to feel welcome from the outset, in quietly elegant surroundings, the visitor will find united all the conditions favourable to commercial negotiations and the conclusion of business. The advantages offered him by direct dealing with every guarantee will more than compensate him for the expenses incurred by his journey to Basle and his stay in that city.

We take this opportunity of calling to mind that the big European railways offer considerable reductions of their fares to visitors to the Swiss Industries Fair. Information may be obtained from the Fair Management, Swiss Legations and Consulates, Swiss Chambers of Commerce abroad and the principal travel bureaux.

"LES CRIS DU MONDE."

d'ARTHUR HONEGGER.

C'est un événement musical de la plus haute importance que l'annonce du concert que l'Orchestre Romand offrira aux Suisses à l'étranger le *Lundi 14 Mars*, avec le concours du grand Chœur Caecilia de Soleure, de Mmes Berthe de Vigier et Lina Falk et de M. Charles Panzéra, trois solistes bien connus. Ce concert, en effet, révélera aux auditeurs une des œuvres les plus importantes d'Arthur Honegger, "Les Cris du Monde," qui furent écrits en 1931 par notre illustre compatriote. C'est grâce à lui, d'ailleurs, qu'aujourd'hui la Suisse participe, au premier rang parmi toutes les nations, au grand mouvement de renouveau musical et peut offrir des œuvres appréciées comme les meilleures productions de cette école qui considère la musique moins comme une suite mélodieuse et pleine d'harmonie, que comme le moyen de composer, par un effort parfois gigantesque, de véritables tableaux sonores d'une force expressive étonnante.

SYMPHONIC SOCIAL CHOIR — FANCY DRESS BALL.

On Thursday, February 17th, the Symphonic Social Choir held its Fourth Annual Fancy Dress Ball, at the premises of the Swiss Club, Charlotte Street, W.1, and as is usual with the Choir, it was an enormous success. The number of Fancy Dresses was greater than ever and the Judges had some difficulty in deciding the winners of the prizes. The Choir have always been very generous with the number of prizes given and the number this year amounted to 25. The Ladies' First Prize was awarded to Mrs. A. Heinz, who came as a very realistic Popeye the Sailor. The second, third and fourth ladies' prizes were given to Miss P. Zurfluh (Swiss Winter Sports), Mrs. Martin (Indian Lady) and Miss M. Heinz (Carol Levis). The Gentlemen's First Prize was awarded to Mr. J. Solosy (Ancient Egyptian) and the second third and fourth prizes to Mr. A. Siegel (Gondolier), Mr. J. Dorn (Redskin) and Mr. L. Solosy (Princess Juliana's Baby). The Dance was well supported and conducted and all present had a most enjoyable evening.

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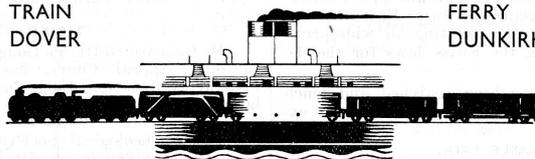
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