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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### DECLARATION OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

The Swiss Parliament assembled last Monday for its customary Spring session in Berne.

On this occasion a declaration by the Swiss Federal Council, dealing with the recent events in Austria, was read out by M. Baumann, President of the Swiss Confederation, in German, by Federal-Councillor M. Pilet-Golaz, in French, and by Federal-Councillor M. Motta in Italian.

The statement of the Government has met with the unanimous approval of the various parliamentary groups; its content is, what was expected, calm but firm. It says that the integrity of the State is at present not menaced by anybody, and points out that our democratic institutions are the fundamental principle on which the Confederation and its twenty-two cantons rely upon.

The Federal-Council trust, it says, on the assurances given by the German Chancellor and the head of the Italian Government, regarding the inviolability of Swiss neutrality.

It points out, however, that the Confederation does not base its existence alone on promises; men come and go, circumstances might change, it says, that a nation, however small, must rely on its own resources, on its own strength and its own iron determination for protecting its independence.

The Federal-Council further refers to the necessity to achieve again complete military and economic neutrality, in view of the fact that large states and neighbours of Switzerland do not belong anymore to the League of Nations.

The government of the Confederation exhorts the country to unity and sacrifices, if necessary, this appeal is not only directed to political parties but to each individual.

The declaration made a deep impression on the members of the two Chambers; the public galleries were crowded, and a great number of Foreign diplomats were present. The governmental benches were occupied by all the members of the Federal Council.

A resolution was read out by the heads of the various parties represented in the Federal Chambers, which declared, that the entire Swiss Confederation, without distinction of language, confession or party is determined to defend its independence against any aggressor to the last drop of blood.

#### SOLEMN DECLARATION BY THE SWISS GOVERNMENT.

We give below a translation of the declaration which was made in the Swiss Parliament by members of the Swiss Government:

"On March 13th the Federal Austrian State, with which Switzerland had cordial relations as a neighbour, ceased to exist as an independent State. This historic event, which happened before our eyes, is one of far-reaching importance. The desire to unite the peoples of Germany and Austria was no new aspiration. Last century it led indeed to armed struggles. That wish has now triumphed.

The Federal Council realises the emotion which has filled our people and it takes the opportunity offered by the reunion in ordinary session of the Federal Assembly to enlighten public opinion and to sweep away unfounded fears. The change which the political map of Europe has undergone in the last few days cannot result in a weakening of the political situation of Switzerland. The independence and neutrality of Switzerland stand out more

than ever as indispensable to the maintenance of European equilibrium. Solemn assurances in this connection have been given to us from all sides. Their value cannot be questioned.

"None of our three neighbours can either desire or welcome the disappearance of Switzerland, none of them threatens our democratic institutions, which form one of the essential reasons of existence of this Confederation. Switzerland's wordly mission in Europe is to guard all the passes of the Alps, Switzerland shelters and protects the vital parts of the frontiers of her neighbours. The desire of the Swiss people to carry out this mission and to keep their independence at the cost of shedding their blood is unanimous and unshakable.

"Switzerland holds herself aloof from foreign quarrels. Any attack against the integrity of our territory would be an abominable crime against the law of nations.

"There is no doubt as to the lesson to be drawn from these events. Our efforts to have our complete neutrality recognised must be continued and brought to fruition. Any possible doubt on this subject must be removed. We must also strive to enjoy correct and friendly relations with each of our neighbours and to the same extent. The struggle going on abroad between opposing political systems does not concern our State. Every nation is free to choose its own internal regime.

"The Swiss people are united, and would keep united in their will to defend at all costs against any opponent and to their last breath the peerless Fatherland which God has given them. Let us learn in these troubled times to concentrate more than ever on the mission which Providence has assigned to us. Let us prove that a democracy like ours is a working regime of liberty and that nothing can shake the solidity of our Federal ties."

#### COST OF PETROL IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Government have prolonged until March 31st, 1939, the petrol price concession which is extended to motorists staying three days or longer in the country.

At 45 centimes per Litre, the net cost of petrol in Switzerland to the visiting motorists is 1/3 per gallon at an exchange rate of Swiss Frs. 21.50 to the £.

The concession is operated in a very simple manner. Upon entering the country, motorists should ask the Swiss Customs Officer for a Petrol Form. This is presented for endorsement at the Filling Station each time petrol is bought. Upon leaving Switzerland the Petrol Form is handed back to the Swiss Customs at the frontier point of exit, who immediately refund the cash equivalent of 15 Cts. per Litre of Petrol purchased up to a maximum of 300 Litres (66 gallons). The concession of 15 Cts. per Litre represents a saving of 7½d.

#### SWISS RAIL LOAN.

The Swiss 3 per Cent. Railway Loan for 400,000,000 Swiss francs was fully subscribed.

The proceeds of the loan will be used to repay the 3½ per Cent. Federal Railways Loan.

#### TELEVISION APPEAL.

The Schweizer Radio Zeitung is appealing to all listeners in Switzerland to make donations to a fund for the construction of a Swiss television transmitter. The cost of building the transmitter is expected to be approximately £6,000.

It is planned to have it completed so that operations may begin at the Swiss National Exhibition of 1939.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN ZURICH.

The elections for the Municipal Parliament of Zurich have resulted in a loss to the left majority, which has ruled for the last eight years. The Socialists lost three seats, obtaining 60 out of the total of 125 seats.

The strengths of the parties in the "Gemeinderat" is as follows: Socialists 60 (63); Liberals 29 (28); Independent Party 20 (0); Christian Socialists 10 (13); Democrats 4 (6); Communists 2 (2).

The "Bauern und Bürgerpartei" has lost its 3 seats hitherto held. The "Nationale Front" (Frontists) have lost everyone of their 10 seats.

There is no change in the result for the "Stadtratswahlen" the Socialists are still in a majority, the following have been elected: Dr. E. Klöti (Socialist) 56,295; Jakob Baumann

(Socialist) 49,529; Jean Briner (Socialist) 39,444; Jakob Peter (Socialist) 38,622; Jakob Gschwend (Socialist) 38,155; E. Stirnemann (Liberal) 36,334; Anton Higi (Christian Socialist) 31,337; Dr. Kunz (Democrat) 27,907; Dr. J. Hefti (Liberal) 24,179.

Dr. Emil Klöti, (Socialist), town President of Zurich has been re-elected with 53,235 votes, his opponent, Erwin Stirnemann has received 3,679 votes.

#### MINISTER STUCKI AT THE ELYSEE.

The President of the French Republic, M. Lebrun, has received M. Stucki, the new Swiss Minister, in special audience.

#### NO SWISS CASUALTIES IN BARCELONA.

The Federal Political Department has been informed by the Swiss Consulate in Barcelona, that amongst the numerous victims, due to air raids, no Swiss nationals have been hurt.

#### KING OF THE BELGIANS RECEIVES NEW SWISS MINISTER.

The King of the Belgians has received the newly appointed Swiss Minister, M. de Stoutz, in special audience.

#### INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW AT GENEVA.

Sales at the fifteenth International Motor Show at Geneva, which closed on February 20th, are reported to have been slightly higher than last year. The Swiss motor car market is not overcrowded. At the end of 1936, there were 118,319 motor vehicles, including 69,098 motor cars, 1,515 charabancs, 18,454 motor lorries and 28,639 motor cycles; these figures were slightly increased during 1937, but did not reach the 1931 total of 131,208 motor vehicles, the highest figure yet recorded. Thus there is a potential market for at least another 10,000 motor vehicles. Great Britain had six stands in the motor-car section of the Exhibition out of forty-seven, and nine out of thirty-five in the motor and pedal-cycle section.

#### LOCAL.

#### LUCERNE.

M. Conrad Giger, of the Hotel Beau-Rivage in Lucerne, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary.

#### BERNE.

A military aeroplane crashed between Uetendorf and Thierachern, the pilot was able to jump clear with the air of a parachute before reaching the ground. The machine was a total wreck.

#### FOOTBALL.

6th March, 1938.

#### SWISS CUP SEMI-FINALS.

Young Fellows ..... 1 Grasshoppers ..... 4 Servette ..... 5 Lugano ..... 4

The two semi-finals attracted 8,000 spectators in Zurich and 6,000 in Bern, quite respectable attendances for Switzerland. There was little doubt of Grasshoppers' superiority, although a glaring mistake on the part of the referee robbed the Y.F. of a chance to equalise a first half goal, when he would not give a foul-penalty against Minelli for bringing down Diebold, Y.F.'s outside right in a barefaced unfair manner. That was at a time when there were only another 25 minutes left for play; anything might have happened. Soon after Grasshoppers scored a second goal and that settled the matter.

An even more dramatic game was seen in Bern. Servette established a useful 2:0 lead in the first half, increased it to 3:0 only to find Lugano with the wind in their favour, getting at last into their stride and wiping out that winning advantage of three goals against within a hectic 25 minutes. Extra time followed. In the first 15 minutes Servette restore their lead, only to see Lugano level the score once again. The teams change ends, both having given of their best, both are almost exhausted, both deserve a replay. But five minutes before the end the referee awards Servette a penalty for hands. A free kick hit the leg of a Luganesi, whence it struck his hand, and the decision was a penalty! Trello had no trouble to convert and thus Servette became this year's finalists, to meet Grasshoppers on Easter Monday, probably in Bern. By the way, Trello, so well known with Grasshoppers, has returned from France where he played for F.C. Sochaux, the Peugeot team, has joined Servette. If he is still the Trello of old, he should be welcome in our national eleven.

M.G.