

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1938)

Heft: 866

Rubrik: Home news

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone . CLERKENWELL 9595/9596.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON

VOL. 15—No. 866

LONDON, 18 JUNE, 1938.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

UNITED KINGDOM	{	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	36
6 "	"	(26 "	66
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SWITZERLAND	{	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Frs. 7.50
12 "	"	62 "	" 14-

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**HOME NEWS**

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: *National Zeitung*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *St. Galler Tagblatt*, *Vaterland*, *Tribune de Genève* and *Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale*.)

FEDERAL.**SWISS PLAN FOR PUBLIC WORKS.**

The Swiss Federal Council announces a scheme providing for the expenditure of 400,000,000f. over a period of three years on public works and the strengthening of Switzerland's defence.

It is believed that a Defence Tax will be introduced. This would pay for the part of the scheme which provides for national defence (193,000,000f.). To raise the balance it is likely that a special tax on big stores and undertakings with chain stores will be levied.

Since December, 1936, the Socialist Party has been seeking a referendum ("initiative") on its proposal to include a new article in the constitution to provide that the confederation should introduce a works programme and grant subsidies to cantonal and municipal authorities to enable them to carry out the works.

The party demanded the allocation of 300,000,000f. to carry the programme into effect. This sum was to be realised from the revaluation "profit" (amounting to 538,000,000f.) of the gold reserve of the National Bank.

More than 300,000 citizens supported the Socialist demands by signing referendum lists. It only needs 50,000 signatures to compel the Government to submit a proposal of any kind to the electorate. Thus the popular desire for a well organised scheme to alleviate unemployment becomes apparent.

The plan was, however, shelved, for the Swiss Federal Council promised a counter-proposal, and it is this proposal which has now been made public.

Naturally, the Council's scheme can be carried out only if the Socialists agree to withdraw their scheme. There is every likelihood that they will withdraw.

Undoubtedly, the weak point in the Socialists' referendum proposals was the demand for the distribution of the revaluation "profit."

Soon after the revaluation of the Swiss currency, it will be remembered, the Swiss National Bank created an Exchange Equalisation Fund with the whole of the "profit" derived from the revaluation of its gold stock.

It is pointed out that this "profit" is of a provisional character. When the Exchange Equalisation Fund was formed, the monetary situation was one of uncertainty. The difficulties have not been overcome. For this reason, the report emphasises, the Swiss National Bank should be placed in a position to face all eventualities. Hence the necessity of the Exchange Equalisation Fund.

The report also draws attention to the Tripartite Agreement, to which Switzerland adheres. A fact that must not be overlooked, it is pointed out, is that this agreement can become void at twenty-four hours' notice.

A warning is given to those advocating a distribution of the Exchange Equalisation Fund for economic purposes. Such a step, it is said, would immediately entail inflationary price movements. It is denied that the same consequences would be brought about if the National Bank discounted the Confederation's "Reskriptionen" for financing the works scheme.

HITLER AND SWITZERLAND.

The value laid by both Germany and Switzerland on the maintenance of Swiss neutrality was emphasised in the speeches exchanged when Dr. Froelicher the new Swiss Minister in Berlin, handed his letters of credence to Herr Hitler.

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Herr Hitler said that Germany attached the greatest importance to friendly relations with Switzerland and described the Swiss policy of neutrality as a factor making for world peace.

DUTCH-SWISS CREDIT TO BELGIUM.

A Dutch banking syndicate, headed by Mendelsohn and Co. and the Netherlands Trading Society, has granted a loan to Belgium of Fls. 35,000,000 (about £4,000,000 at current rates) by means of three months bills, renewable three times.

A Swiss syndicate has granted a similar credit, making a total of Fls. 70,000,000 (about £8,000,000).

TAXATION FOR DEFENCE IN SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Government decided to ask Parliament for a new credit of about £19,000,000 for national defence, in particular for the building of fortifications, and for public works to combat unemployment. About £9,000,000 is to be obtained by means of an extraordinary tax on big stores and commercial undertakings with many branches, as well as on "one-price" shops. The tax is to be removed when the £9,000,000 has been collected.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

The sixteenth International Congress of Physiology will be held at Zurich on August 14th-18th under the presidency of Prof. W. R. Hess. It will consist of six sections devoted respectively to general and comparative physiology, biophysics, biochemistry, applied physiology (work, sport and aviation), psycho-physiology and pharmacology. Further information can be obtained from Prof. E. Rottlin, Sonnenweg 6, Basel, Switzerland.

GERMAN-SWISS TRADE TALKS.

German-Swiss commercial negotiations — which have been proceeding in Berne for a week — were interrupted, and the German delegation returned to Berlin in order to report to the Reich Government. The discussions were concerned with German-Swiss economic relationships after the expiration of the existing German-Swiss clearing agreement on 30th June next.

SWISS LOAN TO BELGIUM.

M. Max Leo Gérard, the Belgian Finance Minister, confirmed that in addition to the loan agreement concluded at Amsterdam negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily with a group of Swiss banks for the issue of six months Treasury Bonds to an amount of Sw.Frs. 25,000,000 (£1,150,000) with option of one renewal for a second six months.

NEW ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE.

An electric locomotive ordered recently by the Swiss Federal Railways for the Gotthard route is to have a one-hour rating of 8,400 kW at 46 m.p.h. with a tractive effort at that speed of 88,000lb. Its overall length will be 112ft., its weight 244 tons, and it will run on 28 wheels.

SWISS HOLIDAY FOR NORTH CHILDREN.

Mainly through the generosity of the Mayor of Adelboden (Herr Hans Kunzi) and other citizens of that beautiful village in the Swiss Alps, 25 children from the Special Areas of County Durham, Tyneside, Cumberland and South Wales will leave the dismal surroundings of their workless homes on Monday for a month's holiday in the snow-capped fairyland of the Bernese Oberland.

The party consists of 13 boys and 12 girls. They will be accompanied by a school master from South Wales and a school mistress from Newcastle. Five of the children are from Tyneside, five from County Durham, three from Cumberland.

CITY SWISS CLUB**REUNION D'ÉTÉ**

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées

MARDI 28 JUIN à 7 HEURES 30
au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, HENDON,
Diner (7/6) — Dance jusqu'à minuit.

Tenu de Ville.

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.

land and the other 12 from South Wales.

Four of the children are being taken from Pendower and one each from Walker, Witton Park, Shildon, Bishop Auckland, West Auckland and Byers Green.

The project, which is being organized at this end by the National Council of Social Service, was first suggested to Herr Kunzi by a conversation he had with an English visitor to Adelboden about the steps being taken in this country to relieve unemployment in the Special Areas.

The National Council of Social Service is paying the travelling expenses and allowing each child pocket money.

FOOTBALL INTERNATIONAL SWITZERLAND—GERMANY.

On the occasion of the splendid victory of the Swiss football eleven, in Paris, over the German team, Federal Councillor Minger, head of the Federal Military Dept., has sent a telegram of congratulation to the captain of the team.

Another congratulatory message has been sent by the National Council, at present in session in Berne.

FIFTY YEARS BRÜNING RAILWAY.

On June 14th, 50 years ago, the Brüning railway, operated their first service.

LOCAL.**ZURICH.**

The late Mme. Luise Wirth-Hirzel has left an amount of 52,000frs. to the clinics of Wald and Clavadel.

* * *

The death is reported of Dr. Hans Sträuli, a former town-president of Winterthur, at the age of 76. The deceased was from 1898-1910 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich and from 1911 until 1930 he held the post of "Stadtpräsident" of Winterthur.

Dr. Sträuli was for twenty-five years a member of the cantonal parliament (Kantonsrat), and from 1911-1935 he sat in the National Council over which he presided in 1930/31.

* * *

The death is reported from Zurich of M. Hermann Reiff, Silk manufacturer, at the age of 82. The deceased took a great interest in public welfare work, and was a staunch supporter of music and literature.

* * *

M. Adolf Lüchinger, from 1917-1931, a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich, has died at the age of 69. M. Lüchinger was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat."

* * *

Dr. Paul Guggisberg, head of the finance Dept. in the cantonal government, has been elected President of the government of the Canton of Berne.

* * *

Mme. A. B. Richard-Graber, in Krauchthal, has celebrated her 103rd birthday anniversary.

* * *

Dr. E. Spielmann, Director of the Esperanto-Institute in Berne, has died at the age of 68.

* * *

A committee has been formed in Berne to study the question of a complete restoration of the cathedral (Münster).

It is estimated that the cost will amount to 1½ million francs.

BASLE.

Dr. Oscar Schär, President of the Board of the V.S.K. (Verein Schweiz. Konsumvereine) has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

Dr. Schär was for a great number of years a member of the Grand Council, over which he presided in 1931/32. From 1917-1929 he was a member of Parliament (National-Council), he also was Vice-President of the Board of the Cantonal Bank.

BASLE-COUNTRY.

All the five members of the cantonal government have been re-elected; the government consists of three members of the Bourgeois party and two Socialists.

APPENZELL A. Rh.

M. and Mme. Knöpfel-Schloch, aged 82 and 81 respectively, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in Herisau.

ST. GALL.

M. Oscar Hirschfeld, at one time one of the most eminent personalities in the Swiss Embroidery Industry has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.