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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

18th "AUSLANDSCHWEIZERTAG" IN ZURICH.

The 18th "Auslandschweizertag" started in Zurich on Saturday, August 12th. Dr. A. Lätt, President of the "Auslandschweizerkommission" welcomed the numerous visitors who came to Zurich from all parts of the globe. Amongst the various speakers were: M. Wirz, President of the Cercle Commercial, Paris, M. Bluntschli, Nice, Dr. Stucki, Swiss Minister in Paris, Dr. G. Schürch, Secretary of the "Auslandschweizerwerk" and Mlle. Cahn.

On Sunday morning services were held in the various churches of the town of Zurich. Afterwards a meeting was held at the "Kongresshaus" at which M. Motta, Switzerland's Foreign Minister made a patriotic speech, which was received with great enthusiasm, further addresses were given by Professor, Dr. Georg Thürer (St. Gall) and Army Corps Commander Guisan, who greeted the visitors on behalf of the Army.

A visit to the National Exhibition was then paid, where the "Auslandschweizer" were welcomed by Director Meili.

During the official Banquets speeches were made by Dr. Hans Zschokke (Basle), Town Councillor Dr. Hefti, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the town and canton of Zurich, Dr. Gianiini, Central President of the "Pro Ticino," M. Musso, Federal Judge Pometta and others.

FRENCH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VISIT NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

An official delegation from the French Parliament paid a visit to the National Exhibition in Zurich, they were entertained at a Banquet by the Exhibition authorities, amongst the guests was Dr. Stucki, Swiss Minister in Paris, and a number of members of the Swiss Parliament.

SEVENTH TOUR DE SUISSE.

Switzerland has won the 7th Tour de Suisse which came to an end on Saturday last. The result is as follows:

1. Switzerland (Zimmermann, Bolliger, Egli.)
2. Italy (Benente, Simonini, Mollo.)
3. Belgium (Somers, Dubuisson, Beeckman.)
4. Germany (Oberbeck, Sztrakati, Heide.)

The "Memphis-Bergpreis" was won by Mollo (Italy); the "Preis vom Schweizerbier" went to Egli (Switzerland) and victor in the "Preis von Bata" was again Egli (Switzerland).

NATIONAL-COUNCILLOR WUTHRICH TO RETIRE FROM PARLIAMENT.

National-Councillor Wuthrich, who represented the "Landesring der Unabhängigen" in the National Council since 1935, does not wish to stand as a candidate for the next Parliamentary elections which will take place in the Autumn of this year.

FIRE AT THE S.B.B. DEPOT IN RORSCHACH.

One electric locomotive and various carriages were either destroyed or heavily damaged in a fire which broke out at the "Maschinendepot" of the Swiss Federal Railways at Rorschach.

The damage caused is estimated to exceed one million francs.

SIMPSON LINE CRASH.

Six people were killed and fourteen injured when a local passenger train was derailed at 60 m.p.h. on the international Simplon tunnel line just outside Domodossola. (Italian-Swiss frontier station.)

The dead include one passenger, four Swiss railwaymen (Gaillard, Erb, Grieb and della Rosa) and one Italian customs official.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published, there were 25,185 unemployed registered at the end of July or 10,700 less than at the same period twelve months ago.

LEAGUE BROADCASTING STATION.

The report which appeared in various English papers, that the League of Nations is seeking to dispose of its broadcasting station is not strictly accurate.

The position is that the 10 years' agreement by which the Swiss postal authorities undertook the management of this station is now expiring. New negotiations are going on, but it is not likely that they will end in the sale of the station. The League has spent from £10,000 to £12,000 annually on the maintenance of the station, and it seems most likely that an arrangement will be come to by which the League is freed from this financial burden, and will accordingly give up control of the station.

The matter will be dealt with at the next Assembly meeting on September 11th.

SIX-WHEEL BOGIE TRAMCARS FOR ZURICH.

The Zurich tramway undertaking has ordered from the Swiss wagon works of Schlieren, two new cars with six-wheeled bogies. Accommodating 80 passengers (29 seated and 51 standing), the cars will have two motors of an hourly output of 62.5 kw. and will weigh 15½ tons, or approximately 3½ cwt. per passenger. It is estimated that these cars will represent 70 per cent. less wear on the track than that of a four-wheeled tramcar of the same weight with a fixed wheelbase of from 2.6 to 2.9 metres. An eight-wheeled light steel car, carrying 95 passengers (34 seated and 61 standing) is also under construction. Its weight will be 16½ tons, or 3½ cwt. per passenger, and it will be equipped with four motors of an hourly output of 53 kw.

SWISS MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA.

The Australian Commonwealth Government has approved of the admission to Australia of non-Jewish Swiss migrants, including skilled artisans, farm workers, and domestic servants. This approval is the outcome of negotiations with the Consul-General for Switzerland in Australia. During the first year after their arrival in Australia the migrants will receive financial assistance from the Swiss Government.

SWISS SCIENTIST HONOURED.

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine in London, has awarded the golden Chalmers Medal to Dr. Max Theiler, of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation New-York. Dr. Max Theiler is the son of our late countryman, Sir Arnold Theiler, of South African fame.

FORGED £20 NOTES IN SWITZERLAND.

Eleven persons have been arrested in Switzerland for having tried to circulate counterfeit £20 notes.

They are said to belong to an international gang, with headquarters in France, who are making these notes and trying to circulate them in neighbouring countries.

SWISS FOOD STOCKS FOR WARTIME.

The Swiss Federal Council adopted on Tuesday a decree designed to ensure that adequate supplies of primary foodstuffs will be available in the country in time of war or economic blockade.

The decree, supplementing that of last March which ordered all households to lay in supplies of food sufficient to last two months, urges all firms dealing in foodstuffs to ensure that they have adequate stocks for an emergency.

It is pointed out that, in the event of war, sales of primary foodstuffs will be banned for two months, until a general rationing system can be put into effect.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION IN ZURICH.

Up to August 8th, 6,155,629 visitors passed through the turnstiles of the Exhibition. It might be mentioned that the Authorities had reckoned only with 4 million visitors for the whole duration of the Exhibition. (May 6th-29th October). The result therefore already achieved is a splendid one.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Winterthur of Dr. Robert Keller, late teacher and rector (1891-1916) at the "Gymnasium" and "Industrie-Schule" at the age of 85.

The deceased was at one time a member of the "Kantonsrat" and the "Grossen Stadtrates von Winterthur." On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the University of Zurich, he was made a "doctor honoris causa."

* * *

M. J. R. Tanner-Luzi, since 1921 "Eidgenössischer Bauinspektor" for Eastern Switzerland, died in Zurich at the age of 63.

BERNE.

M. Gottfried Kaufmann, from Grindelwald, for many years "Hüttenwart" of the "Berglütte," has died. The "Berglütte" is the property of the Swiss Alpine Club.

* * *

Colonel Bolliger, for the last twenty years "Chef der Sektion für Verpflegungswesen des Oberkriegskommissariates" has celebrated his 60th birthday.

* * *

A military aeroplane C3601 crashed at Herbligen near Konolfingen, the pilot saved himself by jumping clear with his parachute. The machine has been completely destroyed.

TICINO.

M. Jules Franconi, Garage proprietor in Locarno, who a few days ago was arrested when entering Italy, has been released, no reason for his arrest has been given.

VAUD.

M. R. Rubattel, Director and Editor-in-chief of the paper "Revue" since 1932, has retired from his post, having been elected Director of the cantonal hospital; his successor will be M. Paul Martinet, member of the Grand Council. M. P. H. Jaccard in Roche near Aigle has been appointed editor.

* * *

M. Paul Jaton from Villars-Mendraz, has been appointed chief engineer of the 1st arrondissement of the Swiss Federal Railways, in succession to M. V. Amaudruz, who is shortly retiring from his post on having reached the age limit. M. Jaton has been for many years in France, Spain and Greece, in leading positions as a railway engineer. He entered into the service of the Swiss Federal Railways in 1934.

VALAIS.

The annual dinner of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club took place on Saturday last at Zermatt.

GENEVA.

The death has occurred in Geneva of Professor Albert Richard, formerly rector of the University in Geneva. The deceased held the army rank of colonel on the General staff.

* * *

Nearly 10,000 persons visited the Prado Exhibition on Saturday and Sunday last, which established a record. Amongst the visitors were Federal Councillor Motta and family.

SWISS LETTER.

A YEAR WHICH HAS COMMENCED WELL.

With the passing of the first six months of the year it is usual for one to cast a backward glance into our affairs in order to make out the Balance Sheet. Switzerland is able to examine the results of her first half-year without any feeling of displeasure: they are good.

Commercial exchanges with foreign countries have continued to develop. The total amount of imports has increased from 781.1 million Swiss francs, for the first six months of 1938, to 862.2 million in 1939, thus marking an increase of 81.1 million francs. Exports have increased at the same time by 51.8 million francs, from 618.1 million in 1938 (first half-year) to 669.91 million in 1939. The wholesale trade index, at the end of June 1939, attained 106.4% (July 1914 = 100%) or 74.3% (if the average of the years 1926-1927 is taken as 100%). In comparison to the preceding year, to the end of June, there is