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# Che Swiss Observer OUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF HE LONDON COLONY

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#### Vol. 20-No. 900

## LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY, 1939 SPANISH ART COLLECTION SENT TO GENEVA.

The pictures in Madrid's Prado Museum, which include Titians, Velasquez and Goyas, are to be moved to Geneva under the anspices of the League of Nations. Thus the Spanish Civil War will not harm or destroy one of the finest collections in the world.

FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF THE FEDERAL POST, Telegraph and telephone administration. The net profit of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration for 1937 amounts to 25 million francs, or 10 million francs more than the previous year.

### SWISS ARMY TRAINING EXTENDED.

The Swiss ARMY TRAINING EXTENDED. The Swiss Parliament has adopted the Government proposal lengthening the period of military training. It has also, by a large majority, granted the Government powers to maintain in service, in case of need, army units undergoing training.

M. Minger, Chief of the Military Department, explained that this would enable the Government to have at their disposal throughout the year a sufficient number of soldiers for assuring, at short notice, the defence of the frontiers.

If our country were to be attacked by any great Power (M. Minger declared) we would have no option but to defend ourselves with all our strength and to the last drop of our blood. Better death than slavery.

## FURKA-OBERALP RAILWAY RECONSTRUCTION.

An all-the-year-round railway connection between Coire, the capital of the Grison district, with western Switzerland is discussed in Switbetween Core, the capital of the Grison district, with western Switzerland is discussed in Swit-zerland. Itt is pointed out that such a connec-tion is of importance from a national defence point of view. At present a through connection exists during the summer months only, by way of the Furka-Oberalp Railway, 60.2 miles long, and opened in 1926, which catters only for the sum-mer holiday traffic. The reconstruction of this line, particularly of the Disentis-Andermatt-Göschenen sections, for a full yearly service is also of economic importance. Electrification is recommended. This would permit the operation of 100-ton trains and reduce the running time from 130 min. to 90 min. Further, it would in-crease the capacity of the line by some 60 per cent. In Disentis a junction could be made with the Rhaetian railway which runs an electrified service throughout the year to Coire and gives a connection with the Upper Engadine. The cost of electrification, relaying of track and avalanche proctection works on the Disentis-Andermatt-Göschenen sections are estimated at £250,000.

## DIVIDENDS OF SWISS BANKS.

The following dividends of Swiss Banks for the year 1938, have been declared.

Crédit Gruyérien, Bulle, 41 per cent.; Volks-Crédit Gruyérien, Bulle,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.; Volks-bank Interlaken, A.G., 5 per cent.; Hypothekar-bank in Winterthur, 6 per cent. (1937: 6%); Crédit Foncier Neuchâtelois, 5 per cent. (1937: 5%); Handwerkerbank Basel, 5½ per cent. (1937: 5%); Spar- und Leihkasse Bern, 5 per cent. (1937: no dividend); Obwaldner Gewerbebank Sarnen, 4½ per cent.; Spar- und Leihkasse Kalt-brunn, 5½ per cent.; Hypothekarbank in Winter-thur, 6 per cent.

#### ZURICH.

M. J. Koch, Managing- Director of the "Schweiz. Wagons and Aufzügefabrik A. G." in Schlieren, has celebrated his 70th birthday, M. Koch has been connected with the firm since the rear 1000.

UNIONE TICINESE Please reserve Wednesday February 22nd for the **ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL** 

TICKETS at 16/6 from Committee Members

PRICE 3d.

The death has occurred in Zurich of Dr. Hermann Bodmer, for a large number of years a teacher at the "Kantonsschule" in Zurich, at the age of 69.

#### SCHWYZ.

SCHWYZ. Dr. Anton Bueler, late "Landammann" and National Councillor has died in Schwyz, at the age of SI. The deceased studied law at the Universities of Munich, Strassburg and Heidel-berg, and later on started a practice in Schwyz. In 1913 he entered the cantonal government and in 1919 he presided over the National Council.

## BASLE.

**BABLE.** The German authorities have decided not to take into consideration studies made by German students at the University of Basle so long as Professor Karl Barth is lecturing there. Profes-sor Barth, who is Swiss, was formerly a professor of theology in Germany, but was compelled to leave because of his opposition to Nazi restric-tions on freedom of teaching.

#### ST. GALL.

Mme. M. R. Strassmann-Fischbacher, from Mosnang, has celebrated her 100th birthday, she is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of St. Gall.

## AARGAU.

M. Eduard Thomann, who was connected with the Engineering Works of the A.G. Brown Boveri in Baden for the last 38 years, has cele-brated his 70th birthday.

M. Thomann was Manager of the Railway section of the works for 24 years, and as such has rendered eminent services in connection with the electrification of the Swiss Federal Railways.

## VAUD.

VAUD. As a result of the interesting results achieved by the trial trolley-bus service, the Société des Tramways Lausannais has decided to replace six tramway routes by trolley-buses. The total dis-tance covered by trolley-buses will then exceed 17 kilometres (just over 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles). After the company had carried out tests, it was decided, in the light of experience gained on the trial ser-vice, that the 32 trolley-buses required for the service should be 9.35 metres long, 2.3 metres wide and 3 metres high. Each bus will have seat-ing accommodation for 23 and standing space for 30 people, and when empty will weigh 7,825 kilo-grams.

#### NEUCHATEL.

The death is reported from La Chaux-de-Fonds, of M. Anton Quinet, composer and con-ductor of the military band, "Armes-Réunis" at the age of 70.

#### GENEVA.

**GENEVA.** An exhibition described as "La Ville Nou-velle" (The New Town) was recently organised in Geneva by the International Organisation for Public Health. The exhibition dealt mainly with modern housing and town planning problems, but included a temporary lighting information bureau, at which posters and specimens of domes-tic lighting fittings were shown. According to the "Bulletin de l'Association Suisse des Elec-triciens," the Swiss institute of Electrical En-gineers (Lighting Section), who took an active part in the exhibition, erected this stand. The posters emphasised the benefit to health of good lighting and dealt with medical aspects of the subject. The familiar study lamp was on view and likewise the testing apparatus giving visitors an opportunity to select the values of illumina-tion they preferred for reading purposes. There were 15,000 visitors during the two and a half months for which the exhibition was open.

## THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH. (By Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich.)

Continued pressure and disturbances coming from the sphere of international politics have up-set our market on several occasions. Fluctua-tions in prices on the stock market have been un-usual for nearly all securities listed on the Ex-change. Quite a number of shares have touched or even broken their lows of last year. On the whole a slight recovery has been recorded during the bast few days. the past few days.

Despite the fact that the result of the 4% French Conversion Loan of 1939 has been satis-factory, the issue has declined to about 93%

M. Salles, et relatif à la Suisse :

Après avoir constaté que l'Europe, après vingt siècles de luttes stáriles, n'a pas encore réussi à trouver son statut définitif, l'orateur cite, par contre, l'exemple de la permanence de paix qui règne dans les Etats-unis d'Amérique ainsi que " la bonne harmonie et l'entente par-faite qu'a su établir et maintenir entre les vingt-deux contous appartement à trois avece et varlet deux cantons appartenant à trois races et parlant trois langues différentes qui se partagent sa popu-lation, cette petite Confédération helvétique, si sige, si bien ordonnée, si vraiment démoratique, sur laquelle plus d'un grand Etat pourrait trou-ver avantage à se modeler.

## NIGHT-LANDING IN SAMADEN.

Flight-captain Walter Borner of the Swiss-eir, has flown to Samaden during the night, with Dr. Preiss, the well-known Zurich surgeon, who was called to St. Moritz to operate on Dr. Fritz v. Opel, the German sportsman, who received injuries during a Ski Race.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. UNITED KINGDOM $\begin{cases} 3 \text{ Months (13 issues, post free)} \\ 6 & (26 &$ wiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



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

#### MOBILISATION IN CRISIS.

MOBILISATION IN CRISIS. The Swiss Council of States, the Upper House of Parliament, adopted without opposition a draft bill empowering the Federal Council to call to the colours in case of any emergency in 1939 as many men as necessary for a period of three weeks. Men so called up will be exempt from serving their annual training period. Un-der the bill the Swiss Government will be able to order a mobilisation if there is another crisis. On the day on which Herr Hitlen spoke to the Reichstag, the Swiss Federal Council de cided to address a message to Parliament asking for its anthority to take this step. Until now the Swiss Federal Government has not had the powers to order a mobilisation. The "Nene Zürcher Zeitung" recently de-

The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" recently de-The "Nene Zürcher Zeitung" recently de-elared that the measure had been made necessary by the events of September. To-day one could not count on a formal declaration of war. Since war would come suddenly it was the duty of the Government to resist sudden invasion and the dial dim d come sudden invasion and the violation of neutrality.

## NO SWISS PRESS BAN.

The Swiss Foreign Minister, M. Motta, issued a statement declaring that Switzerland would not enter into any discussions concerning a Press agreement as had been suggested from Berlin.

### SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION. The balance-sheet for December 31st shows a decrease in deposits on the year of 86,000,000 francs, mainly in current account deposits. Ad-vances and debtors are only 20,000,000 francs down, but there is a decrease in bills of 57,000,000 francs and of 36,000,000 francs in investments. The cash holding is increased by 90,000,000 francs, to 458,799,902 francs. The net profit for 1938 is 10,029,946 francs, against 9,574,185 francs, and the dividend is maintained at 5 per cent.

#### FAMOUS BOBRIDER KILLED.

During the first day's racing for the Boblet Grand Prix R. Capadrutt, the famous Swiss rider, crashed off the run and struck a tree. He died from head injuries. The accident occurred just below the famous horseshoe corner. Officials immediately abandoned the race.

Capadrutt was estimated to be travelling at over 60 miles an hour at the time of the crash. He was a former Swiss boblet champion, and captained Switzerland's No. 1 crew in the bob-sleigh championships at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the 1936 Olympic Games.

## ELOGE DE LA SUISSE AU SENAT FRANCAIS. Voici le passage du discours prononcé dernièrement à la Chambre, par le doyen d'âge, Culte et entetté à la Suissen.



LOCAL.

