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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS ARMY UP BY TWENTY THOUSAND.

The Swiss Government decided to increase the Army of 450,000 trained men to include another 20,000 for essential war services behind the front.

Most of the men in this new service have been ruled unfit for full military service. They will take over control in time of emergency of cars, railways, air-raid protection, electricity supply, telephones and telegraphs and propaganda services.

INDUSTRY TO SEEK GOVERNMENT AID.

In view of the continuance of poor employment in the Swiss textile industry, due partly to the great decline in exports (in 1938 there was a drop of about 23,000,000 frs.), it is proposed to appeal to the Government for assistance in the form of a federal subsidy and the prohibition of the establishment of new factories. Hitherto the Swiss textile industry, it is stated, has been opposed to a subsidy policy and has sought to control the situation during the past few years by curtailing production, in some cases by 50%. The manufacturers of cotton yarns and knit goods are the only branches which are not affected by the depression.

COST OF PETROL IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Government have prolonged until May 31st, 1940, the special petrol concession by which motorists who spend consecutively at least three days in Switzerland are refunded a calculated part of the money which they spend on petrol. On entering the country, they are handed a form at the Swiss Customs. This form should be produced at every Filling Station called at, so that the assistant may endorse upon it the amount of petrol bought. On leaving the country the Customs Officer at the Frontier will add up the total amount and refund a part of the money spent on all petrol bought up to 300 litres (66 gallons). The scheme operates for each separate visit of three or more days. To qualify for the allowance, motorists must not leave Switzerland earlier than the fourth day after arrival in the country. Thus, if they arrive on the sixth of the month, they must not leave before the ninth.

There are two classes of petrol sold in Switzerland, 'Touring' and 'Super.' Though prices at the pump may be modified slightly from time to time, as in England, visitors under the present scheme will have paid only 30 centimes net per litre for 'Touring' petrol, since anything which they have been charged above that at the pump is refunded upon leaving Switzerland.

Exactly the same amount per litre refunded on 'Tourist' petrol is refunded on 'Super.'

Thus, if 'Touring' petrol costs 42 centimes per litre at the pump, and visitors are therefore refunded 12 centimes per litre, they will also be refunded 12 centimes per litre on 'Super.' I.e., 'Super' costing for example 47 centimes per litre at the pump will come to 35.

Actual net costs of petrol, to visitors, calculated at an average exchange rate of 20.60 Swiss francs to the £—.

'Touring' at 42 centimes per litre at the pump ... 1/4 per gallon.

'Super' at 47 centimes per litre at the pump ... 1/6/2 per gallon.

(Issued by the Swiss State Travel Bureau, London.)

THE HEAD OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN GOVERNMENT IN BERNE.

Dr. Hoop, head of the Lichtenstein Government, has paid a visit at the Federal Palais.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MATCH. SWITZERLAND V. HUNGARY.

Switzerland has beaten Hungary by 3 goals to 1, in the International Football match played in Zurich on Sunday last before 18,000 spectators.

SWISS CLOCKMAKERS HIT BY CZECH ANNEXATION.

Cancellation of orders from Czechoslovakia after the German occupation has caused a crisis in the Swiss clock and watch industry. At Grange, a leading manufacturing centre, one-fifth of the 2,000 workmen have been paid off.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

Dr. André Mercier, from Geneva, has been appointed Professor of Physic at the University of Berne.

* * *

Colonel Emil Richner "Oberkriegskommissär" of the Swiss Army, has celebrated his 40th service jubilee.

BASEL.

The death is announced of M. A. X. Weber-Meyer, late Managing-Director of the "Basler Lagerhausgesellschaft" at the age of 81. The deceased was connected with this institution for forty-five years; he retired in 1936.

SOLOTHURN.

The Swiss Federal police searched seven houses in the Solothurn district, the inhabitants of which were alleged to be carrying on Nazi propaganda.

APPENZELL A. Rh.

M. Emil Kellenberger, the well-known marksman, has celebrated his 75th birthday in Walzenhausen.

M. Kellenberger was four times world's Champion (Lucerne 1900); (Paris 1901); (Rome 1902) and (Buenos Aires 1903).

GRISONI.

The Hotel Scardanella, above Bonaduz, the property of M. Christian Saluz in Ems, has been completely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated to exceed 150,000 frs.

AARAU.

M. Emil Keller has been nominated "Landammann" of the canton of Aargau for 1939/40; Dr. Rudolf Sigrist has been elected "Landstatthalter" for the same period.

* * *

The death is reported from Neuenstadt of M. F. Scheurer, Director of the "Schweiz. Treuhandstelle für Kleinindustrielle der Uhrenindustrie" at the age of 62. The deceased was formerly Professor at the University of Neuchâtel.

* * *

M. Martin Keusch, formerly President of the municipality of Zurzach, and a waitress Mlle. Ella Jöhl from Meersburg (Germany) have been found guilty by the cantonal tribunal of trying to betray a Swiss business man into the hands of the German Gestapo.

The tribunal decided that this was an offence against the safety of the State.

NEUCHATEL.

The death has occurred in Neuchâtel of M. Albert Calame, at the age of 73.

The deceased entered the cantonal government in 1908, nine years later he resigned in order to take over the management of the "Crédit Foncier," from which post he retired in 1936.

GENEVA.

A first International Competition for musical performers will be held at the Conservatoire de Musique, Geneva, from 26th to July 8th. The competitions are open to both sexes. Money prizes will be given to best performers, who, if selected, will perform at the concluding orchestral concert.

ICE HOCKEY MATCH.

England v. Davos Ice Hockey Club.

The Ice Hockey Club Davos, the Swiss National Champions, was last week in England and gave us a worthy exhibition of their traditional skill and sportsmanship. Previous to their England tour, the I.H.C. Davos had this season 25 matches, losing only 1, 2 goals to 1 against the world's champion Canada. Seven out of the present ten players played this Winter in the Swiss National Team, winning the European Championship, a fact which gives us ample proof of their quality and high standard. The name Davos is traditionally connected with Ice Hockey in Switzerland. A number of the leading players in Zurich and Bâle have come from Davos. The first line of attack with Toriani and the brothers Cattini has been for years under the name of "Ni-Sturm" the fireworks of the Swiss National Team and the idol of every Swiss Ice Hockey fan. Their combination and team work is superb and their speed and shooting terrific. The second line as well as their defence and goal-keeper are very effective and clever too.

The first match between Davos and the British National Team was played in Brighton with the result of 5 goals to 1 for Davos. In the first few seconds of the game the first goal fell for Davos, but was soon equalised by the English side. From here onwards, the visitors took the game well in their hands. Their combination was clever and their goal shots too deadly for the English keeper, so that Davos scored 4 more goals in succession. (As Ice Hockey is entirely a team game, I never mention the names of the scorer. Very often he deserves less credit than the men who put him in a position to score.)

The second match was fought off the following day at Harringay with the result of 4 goals to 2 for England. The Swiss dominated the game right through and time after time their forwards and backs bombarded the English goal in a very dangerous way without being able to score. The English goal-keeper played the game of his life with luck entirely on his side. He had only one bad minute, the last one in the first period where the two goals scored by Davos came one after the other.

With equal chances, one game each, Davos met England for the rubber, Tuesday, March 30th at Wembley. Our compatriots won by 3 goals to 1, and they deserved it. Every man was in excellent form, including the goal-keeper, who was not his usual self in the previous game. Davos pressed the speed all the time, and very often all five men attacked the English goal together. The first period was, as far as scoring was concerned, uneventful. Both sides played a careful game with a fair amount of spills and thrills. The Davos side definitely dominated the game. In the second minute of the middle period, the first goal fell for Davos after a short and sharp struggle and was followed by the second in a few minutes. In the last few seconds of the period, England scored their only goal. The last period was very exciting. The English side were determined to equalise, but things did not go their own way, and Davos scored the third goal, keeping the lead of 3 to 1 to the end.

Of the different skating exhibitions that were performed in the intervals, the one by our countryman, Hans Gerschweiler, the Swiss Champion, deserves to be mentioned specially. This 17 year-old youngster has all the stuff in him that makes a great skater, and as he is trained by his Uncles who have made World Champions before, we sincerely hope that he will be soon on top of the ladder too.

Amongst the many hundreds of Swiss spectators was our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, accompanied by Madame Paravicini and the Mles. Livia and Jacqueline with their friends the Hon. John and Mrs. Lowther, General Sir Richard and Lady Howard-Vyse and Mr. Eric v. Schulthess as the special guests of the Wembley Chairman Mr. Elvin and Mrs. Elvin.

All the Swiss supporters left Wembley in a very happy mood with the feeling of having spent a very exciting and interesting evening.

Three cheers for the Ice Hockey Club Davos!

A. T.