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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### THE SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The two Houses of the Swiss Parliament assembled last Monday for the summer session which is expected to last from three to four weeks. The President of the National Council (Graber, Soc.) referred to the extremely precarious situation caused to some of our most important industries by the new American Customs Tariff. In the States Council the project to rebuild the Basle Central Post Office necessitating a credit of Frs. 685,000 was ratified after a short discussion.

#### MILITARY AVIATION.

Little sympathy was extended in the National Council to the new proposals of the Federal Council with reference to military aviation. No less than 105 new aeroplanes with 42 reserve motors are to be put in commission at a cost of about 20 million francs. The proposal has also been sharply criticised outside parliamentary circles and sixty resolutions have been forwarded to Berne demanding either the rejection of the official message, or its submission to a referendum suggesting at the same time that the suggested twenty million francs might be better employed in giving relief to watch, embroidery and other industries affected by the present crisis. Speaking on behalf of the majority of the "comité d'étude" National Councillor de Muralt (Lib.) warmly recommended the proposal which was based on modern military requirements and necessary if the independence of our country was to be maintained. For the minority of the commission National Councillor Schmid (Soc.) advanced that the means at our disposal would never be adequate to create a sufficient defence, that in future wars poisonous gasses would be the predominant factor and that above all the proposal was against the spirit of the League of Nations. National Councillor Nicole (Soc.) supported the rejection stating that this was obviously only the beginning of a larger scheme as these 105 aeroplanes were of little use in a war; the socialist party were on principle against any further armaments. Other socialist members followed suit. Councillors Sulzer and Vallotton (both Lib.) represented the other point of view, the latter pointing out that the "Declaration of London of 1920" imposed on Switzerland the obligation to defend its own neutrality.

#### STUDENTS' LABOUR COLONIES.

As in former years labour colonies are being arranged for Swiss undergraduates. In order to encourage the scheme the Federal Council is granting a subsidy of Frs. 2.50 per student, per working day, which amount may even be increased if essential or desirable operations are carried out in poor mountain districts difficult of access.

#### THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

In an address delivered at the Teachers' Conference at Schaffhausen Federal Councillor Motta dwelt on the great importance of the popular vote in 1920 which enabled Switzerland to become a member of the League of Nations; if the people had voted differently the negotiations for the formation of the League would probably have broken down.

#### FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP.

In the final round for the Swiss Championship Servette beat Basle by three goals to nil and the Genevese Club therefore retains its title, being at the top of the "A" clubs with eight points. Next in order follow the Zurich Grasshoppers who secured a victory against the Young Boys by three to one. Biel also won against Lugano by one to nil. Both these clubs secured five points though the Grasshoppers are second in the list owing to a better goal average. The remaining three competitors in the "A" series—Lugano, Young Boys and Basle—have each secured two points.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

An unfortunate incident marred the recent races on the Zurich Allmend. The horse "Fruit

défendu," very restive on approaching the starting place, bolted, flinging the two grooms holding it to one side and spreadeagling its rider, Captain Hugo Laubi, on the other side. The animal then cleared the fence, raced towards the open-air café beside the grandstand and jumped over a table at which people were sitting into a group of spectators. A woman and her two children were so badly kicked that, after first-aid had been given by one of the doctors in attendance on behalf of the racing committee, they had to be removed to hospital. The Stewards immediately banned the horse from all races. *St. G.T.*

#### BERNE.

The new General Post Office at Biel was opened on May 26th. The General Telephone Exchange is also housed in the building. *N.Z.Z.*

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The Verkehrs- and Verschönerungsverein Burgdorf had invited Mr. Mittelholzer to hold a lantern-slide lecture on his last African flight. Advertisements and posters announced this lecture, which promised to be of outstanding interest. The public arrived in crowds from far and near and, when the hour fixed for the start of the lecture had arrived, there was not one seat left in the big communal hall. Everything was ready, the screen in place, and the cashier rubbed his hands gleefully behind the overflowing till. Only the lecturer had not yet come, although he had promised to be there by 7.30 p.m. At 8 p.m. he had not yet turned up, and at 8.15, when feelings had reached fever point, it was decided to ring up Mittelholzer's home in Zurich. He himself answered the call!... Under pressure of business he had completely forgotten his engagement. Well, a sense of humour and the return of the ticket money saved the situation. All the same, Burgdorf expects Mittelholzer not to forget the new date on which the lecture is to take place. *N.*

#### LUGERNE.

The Cantonal Accounts for 1929 show a surplus of 234,300 Frs., against a deficit foreseen in the budget of 296,500 Frs. This surplus was obtained in spite of again allocating 500,000 Frs. to the fund for reducing the Cantonal Debt and of paying 400,000 Frs. into the Public Welfare Insurance fund. The splendid result is due to a considerably increased revenue from rates and taxes. *N.Z.Z.*

#### GLARUS.

Josue Schmuuki, of Linthal, railway conductor, was caught by the Zurich-Chur express at Mühlebhorn during shunting operations and killed. He leaves a widow and four grown-up children. Schmuuki had 37 years service to his credit and was due to retire on pension very shortly. *N.Z.Z.*

#### AARGAU.

The society "Pro Vindonissa" reports the discovery of thermae which exceed in size any warm-water baths of Roman origin so far discovered in Switzerland. The buildings are so extensive, that 4 to 5 years work will be needed to uncover it all. This new development in the society's researches seems to indicate that, apart from the military station, there was also a civil Vindonissa of importance. *St. G.T.*

#### GRAUBUENDEN.

The Evangelical Grand Council, which is the legislating body in matters affecting the Rhetian Established Church, has for the second time discussed the question of granting the right to elect women as fully-fledged Ministers of the Church. The Synod's report to the Council showed a majority in favour of the proposed alteration. The Grand Council decided to settle this matter in a forthcoming revision of the constitution of the Church. *N.Z.Z.*

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

Mr. Charles-Albert Michel, aged 74, a native of Neuchâtel, has had rather an unpleasant surprise. On the occasion of a trip to Venice he made the acquaintance of two individuals, one a Canadian and the other a Belgian. Under the well-known pretext that they intended to convey to him a large sum in American dollars for the benefit of several charitable Swiss institutions they induced him to return to Neuchâtel and meet them again at Venice with an amount of 50,000 Swiss francs, against which sum the equivalent sum in dollars was to be handed over.

After remitting the 50,000 francs they handed him an envelope which was supposed to contain a similar amount in American currency: *(Continued on back page.)*

## Diner de la Colonie

EN L'HONNEUR DE MONSIEUR PARAVICINI.

De toutes les manifestations sociales qui, en cours de saison, réunissent année après année nos compatriotes établis en Grande-Bretagne, aucune n'égale celle qui s'est déroulée d'une façon si imposante samedi soir, 31 mai, au Restaurant Monico et vers laquelle la pensée des Suisses habitant ce pays s'était dirigée pendant des semaines auparavant. C'est que la célébration du JUBILE DECENNAL de la mission d'un diplomate dans une même capitale n'est pas un événement commun. Et lorsque, au surplus, la personne du jubilaire est celle éminente de notre excellent et très sympathique Ministre de Suisse à Londres et la colonie à la bonne heure de la fêter entouré de la charmante personnalité de Madame Paravicini, de ses gracieuses filles, Mesdemoiselles Livia et Jacqueline et de son fils, Monsieur Vincent Paravicini, venu expressément du collège pour participer à cet hommage mérité, l'atmosphère est bien naturellement celle des rares et grandes occasions.

Une brillante assemblée, de plus de trois cents personnes, est là réunie, d'abord dans le salon de la réception, puis dans la grande salle des banquets—le Hall International, ainsi qu'elle est nommée—pour préparer à ses invités distingués de la soirée une bienvenue des plus chaleureuses.

Outre Monsieur A. Schupbach, Président de la fête, accompagné de Madame Schupbach, on y remarque les personnalités suivantes: Monsieur Th. de Sonnenberg, Conseiller de Légation, Monsieur le Dr. A. Schedler, Consul de Suisse à Manchester, Monsieur E. Montag, Consul de Suisse à Liverpool, Monsieur W. de Bourg, Secrétaire de Légation, accompagné de Madame de Bourg, Monsieur L. Michell, Secrétaire de Légation, Monsieur Cl. Rezzonico, Secrétaire de Légation, Monsieur P. Hilfiker, Chancelier de Légation, Monsieur E. Werner, Président du Comité d'organisation, Monsieur le Dr. Pettavel, ancien Consul de Suisse à Johannesburg, Monsieur A. Duruz, Directeur de l'agence des C.F.F., Monsieur Perrochet, Directeur de la Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., Monsieur Ch. Barbezat, accompagné de Madame Barbezat, Monsieur G. Wuthrich, Directeur de la Oerlikon Co., Ltd., Monsieur F. Schubeler, Directeur du Bureau de Londres de la Maison Sulzer Frères, Monsieur H. F. Roost, Directeur de la Zenith Watch Co., Ltd., Monsieur A. Brauen, Concessionnaire des Chocolats Suchard, Monsieur Léon Rueff, ancien directeur de la Swiss Bank Corporation, Monsieur H. Jenne, Directeur-adjoint de la même banque, Monsieur F. Haegler, Représentant à Londres de la Banque Commerciale de Bâle, Monsieur le Dr. Hugo Rast, Monsieur le Dr. Schroeter, Monsieur le Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme, Monsieur le Pasteur Th. Hahn, accompagné de Madame Hahn, Monsieur C. Campart, président de la Société de Secours Mutuels, accompagné de Madame Campart, Monsieur Ch. Chapuis, Président du City Swiss Club, accompagné de Madame Chapuis, Monsieur R. Dupraz, Président du Fonds de Secours Suisse, Monsieur W. Notari, Président de l'Unione Ticinese, accompagné de Madame Notari, Monsieur Indermaur, Président de l'Union Helvetia, accompagné de Madame Indermaur, Monsieur Calnori, Vice-Président du Schweizerbund, accompagné de Madame Calnori, Monsieur M. Paschoud, Président de la Swiss Mercantile Society, accompagné de Madame Paschoud, Monsieur J. Scheuermeier, Président de la Swiss Y.M.C.A., Monsieur A. F. Suter, Président du Groupe londonien de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique, accompagné de Madame Suter, Monsieur F. Conrad, Président de la Swiss Choral Society, Monsieur H. Senn, Président de la Swiss Rifle Association, Monsieur W. Pellet, Président de la Swiss Institute Orchestral Society, accompagné de Madame Pellet, Monsieur Turiens, de la Swiss Culinary Society, accompagné de Madame Turiens, Monsieur F. Gygaz, du Swiss Club Liverpool, Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, fondateur du "Swiss Observer," accompagné de Madame Boehringer, Messieurs Bertschinger et Meyer, du Foyer Suisse.

A peine le Président, Monsieur Schupbach, les cinq invités d'honneur et les membres du Comité de réception ont-ils pris leurs places que la mignonne petite fille d'un membre de la colonie, vêtue de blanc et portant l'écharpe aux couleurs nationales, se faufile au travers des rangs serrés de l'assemblée pour présenter, en son nom, un