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# The Swiss Observer

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### FEDERAL.

#### SWISS FRANC'S VALUE.

M. Musy, the Swiss Minister of Finance, declared, in a broadcast address on October 23rd, at Berne, that the Swiss franc would remain firmly based on the gold standard.

#### DIPLOMATIC VISIT AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

Monsieur Woo-Kai-seng, the newly appointed Minister of the Chinese Republic has presented his letter of credence to Monsieur Häberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation.

#### RESIGNATION OF ARMY CORPS COMMANDER OTTO BRIDLER.

Colonel O. Bridler, commandant of the 2nd Army Corps has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, same to take effect at the end of the current year. The Swiss Government has accepted this resignation expressing their appreciation for the eminent and valuable services rendered. Colonel Bridler is 68 years of age, and has been leader of the 2nd Army Corps during the last seven years, he is a citizen of the canton of Thurgau.

In 1894 he entered the General Staff as captain, and four years later he commanded the 73rd Battalion (Thurgau). In 1904 he was promoted to the commandship of the 29th Mountain Regiment, and on attaining the rank of colonel he was gazetted to the command of the 15th, and later of the 18th Mountain Brigade. In 1917 he was made commander of the 6th division, and in 1924 he took over the command of the 2nd Army Corps.

Colonel Bridler was one of the most brilliant army leaders, and well deserves a rest from his responsible position.

#### MOTOR CAR IMPORTS.

In the imports of motor vehicles into Switzerland for the first half of 1931, American products headed the list with 3,300 vehicles out of a total of 6,114. France came next with 1,069, and then Italy with 815 and Germany with 792. Eighty-three British cars were imported. Ford were responsible for 1,003 of the registrations, Fiat being second with 749, and Chevrolet third with 736. Others in order were: Citroën 419, Opel 400, Chrysler 359, Renault 225, Nash 224, Essex 178, Willys Knight 169, Buick 167, Mercedes-Benz 113, Peugeot 91, Mathis 76, Dodge 73, Adler 69, Graham-Paige 59, Horch 59, and Hanomag 53.

#### SWISS HOTEL INDUSTRY.

The Swiss hotelkeepers are greatly alarmed at the prospect of losing their best English guests as the result of the drop in the pound sterling. Several of the more representative of the chief winter resorts have been in consultation at Interlaken to devise means if possible of retaining their customary clients for the winter season. The hotelkeepers realise that failing some such measures they will be faced with certain losses this coming winter.

The suggestions put forward at the meeting to effect a general reduction in prices were, however, rejected. Instead it was agreed to communicate individually with the usual winter guests from Great Britain and to offer to accept English currency for exchange at the rate of 22 francs in the pound in payment of hotel bills. Whilst this rate is three francs in the pound better than the official quotation it is still three francs below the normal standard rate.

#### FOREIGN LOANS.

The Swiss Saurer Co., with the assistance of a number of Swiss banks, is making a loan of £600,000 at 7 per cent. interest for five years to the municipal authorities of Warsaw, the security being the receipts of the municipal electric tramway and motor bus undertaking. Of the sum, the city authorities will only receive £400,000 which is to be mainly expended on road improvements. The remaining £200,000 will be expended on bus chassis to be supplied by the Saurer Co.

## THE GENERAL ELECTION IN SWITZERLAND.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL.

CANTONS	Radicals	Liberal Conservatives	Catholic Conservatives	Agrarians	Socialists	Communists	Social Political Candidate	Non-Party
Zurich ...	8 (8)	—	2 (2)	5 (5)	11 (11)	1 (0)	—	1 (1)
Berne ...	5 (6)	—	1 (2)	15 (15)	10 (11)	—	—	—
Lucerne ...	3 (3)	—	5 (5)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—
Uri ...	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schwyz ...	1 (1)	—	2 (2)	—	—	—	—	—
Obwalden ...	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Nidwalden ...	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Glarus ...	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1)	—
Zug ...	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Freiburg ...	1 (2)	—	6 (5)	—	—	—	—	—
Solothurn ...	3 (3)	—	2 (2)	—	2 (2)	—	—	—
Basel-Stadt ...	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—
Baselland ...	2 (1)	—	0 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	—	—	—
Schaffhausen ...	0 (1)	—	—	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—
Appenzel A.-Rh. ...	1 (2)	—	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—
Appenzel I.-Rh. ...	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
St. Gall ...	4 (5)	—	6 (7)	—	3 (3)	—	—	—
Graubünden ...	2 (2)	—	2 (2)	—	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—
Aargau ...	2 (2)	—	3 (3)	3 (3)	4 (4)	—	—	—
Thurgau ...	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	3 (3)	1 (2)	—	—	—
Tessin ...	3 (4)	—	3 (3)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—
Vaud ...	7 (8)	3 (2)	—	1 (2)	4 (4)	—	—	—
Valais ...	1 (1)	—	5 (5)	—	—	—	—	—
Neuchâtel ...	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	3 (3)	—	0 (1)	—
Geneva ...	2 (2)	1 (2)	1 (1)	—	4 (3)	—	—	0 (1)
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>52 (58)</b>	<b>6 (6)</b>	<b>44 (46)</b>	<b>30 (31)</b>	<b>49 (50)</b>	<b>3 (2)</b>	<b>2 (3)</b>	<b>1 (2)</b>

(The figures in brackets indicate the strength in the old Council).

From the above table based on the earliest results available, it will be gathered that there is very little variation as regards the adherents of the different parties. The loss of 6 seats by the Radicals is accounted for by the reductions in mandates, affecting various cantons. In Zurich the Communist, Robert Muller, captured a seat. In Geneva the Socialist gained one seat but lost one mandate in the canton of Thurgau. The Liberal Conservatives gain one seat (Vaud) and loose one (Genève). The Agrarian party loose

one seat (Vaud). The Catholic Conservatives loose altogether two seats, (St. Gallen, Bern, Baselland) but gain one in the canton of Fribourg. The Social Political party loses one mandate. The Socialist party captured one seat from the Udist party in Geneva, but loses two seats (Berne, Thurgau) total loss one seat.

As regards the State Council, (Ständerat) there is no change in the various parties, with the exception of Geneva, where the Socialist captured a seat from the Catholic Conservatives.

#### NEW INTERNATIONAL ALUMINIUM CARTEL.

An international aluminium cartel with a share capital of 35,000,000 Swiss francs (£1,400,000 nominal) was formed at Basle last week, and includes French, British, German, Swiss, and Canadian producers. It also possesses works in Norway. The object of the company, which has been named the Alliance Aluminium Company, Ltd., is to develop and extend the aluminium supply. In case of need the capital may be increased to 65,000,000 Swiss francs (£2,600,000 nominal).

The president is Major R. W. Cooper, chairman of the British Aluminium Company, Ltd.

#### NEW BRAKE TESTED ON SWISS RAILWAYS.

Tests have been taking place recently on the Swiss Federal Railways, between Bellinzona and Biasca, on the St. Gothard line, of the new Hildebrand-Knorr goods train brake. The tests were attended by representatives of all the Continental railways and the Committee for Goods Train Brakes which was appointed by the International Railway Union. Tests were conducted on gradients of up to 1 in 38 with a German Railways steam locomotive hauling loads up to 1,000 tons.

#### LOCAL.

##### ZURICH.

The well-known Swiss clown Grock, entertained at a special performance at the Apollo Theater, the inmates of the two orphanages in Zurich.

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A sports aeroplane crashed near Dietikon; the pilot M. Hugo Schmid, was extricated with difficulties from the debris of the machine, and died on the way to the cantonal Hospital.

##### GENEVA.

The Government of the canton of Geneva has voted a special credit amounting to 295,000fr. for

police services during the world Disarmament Conference, which will take place in the spring of next year.

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The Palais de Justice was the scene of a regrettable incident. Two Counsels who were briefed in a certain case had rather a heated argument during the sitting of the court. After the judgment had been pronounced the two learned members of the Bar came to blows in the Lobby, with the result that M. Sviatsky has commenced an action against his confrère M. Duperrier for assault. This incident has caused a great stir amongst the members of the Geneva Bar.

#### FOOTBALL RESULTS.

Three of the 12 League games fixed for last Sunday had to be postponed due to bad weather making play impossible in Geneva (Servette-Blue Stars); (Aarau v. Young Boys) and (Fribourg v. Cantonal).

The results in the National League were in accordance with expectations. Chaux-de-Fonds v. Lugano 3 : 0, Bern v. St. Gall 1 : 5 (St. Gall's first win), Zurich v. Basel 4 : 1, and Old Boys v. Etoile 1 : 1. Zurich return to the top of the table in Groupe I.

In the first League the leaders in the two Groupes fortified their positions by their wins over strong rivals, Lausanne v. Racing 4 : 0, Brühl v. Luzern 4 : 3. Other results were:—Monthey v. Grenchen 2 : 1, Solothurn v. Stade Lausanne 5 : 2, Black Stars v. Wohlen 3 : 2.



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