

# Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

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### FEDERAL.

#### LOUIS DAPPLES \*

Dr. Louis Dapples, President of the Board of the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Holding Company Ltd., a Director of the "Crédit Suisse," the "Schweiz. Rückversicherungsgesellschaft," the "Bank für Elektr. Unternehmen," the "Schweiz. Argentinischen Hypothekbank" and many other Swiss and Foreign Companies has died at Genoa on his return journey from a business trip to the United States.

M. Louis Dapples was born at Genoa in 1867, the son of an old "Vaudois" family, who had settled in Genoa in the 19th Century and who enjoyed a wide reputation in the Finance world of Italy. After having studied at the University of Zurich, he entered the Banking firm of his father in Genoa, later on he took up a position with the "Crédit Lyonnais" in London, where he advanced rapidly to the post of Sub-Manager.

Fifteen years later he occupied the post as a financial expert, at the Head Office of the "Banca Commerciale Italiana" in Milan, and later with the "Banque Française et Italienne pour l'Amerique du Sud," in which services he spent many years in Brazil and the Argentine.

In 1922 at the age of 55, he was offered the position as reorganiser of the large Nestlé concern, which at that time was at the Zenith of their expansion, and to this work he gave every ounce of his energy and his vast experience. The Federal Council sent him in 1933 to the World Economic Conference in London as a member of the Swiss Delegation, and soon afterwards the University of Lausanne honoured him by conferring on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Dapples, who was an honorary citizen of Vevey and Apples, was one of the most distinguished sons of our country and the great services he has rendered to the Confederation and to Swiss Industry will always be held in grateful memory.

### FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss National Day (1st of August) was celebrated throughout Switzerland with great enthusiasm.

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, addressed a large audience at Giornico, on the occasion of the inauguration of the monument "Sassi grossi," in remembrance of the battle of Giornico. Federal Councillor Etter made a patriotic speech during the celebrations on the "Rütli," and Federal Councillor Dr. Meyer spoke at Uster.

### PRICE OF PETROL RAISED IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Government have refused to lower Customs duties on petrol, and the price was raised two centimes to 45c. a litre (about 1s. 10d. a gallon). Customs duties represent 54 per cent. of the price of petrol.

This decision is likely to have a bad influence on motor traffic, and to militate against foreign motorists coming to Switzerland. The increase in price is being received with the greatest displeasure in Switzerland. Some very strong protests have been published in the Press, and it is very probable that a strike of motorists will be decided on by the Automobile Association, the Touring Club, and other tourist associations.

### JUNIOR SUMMER SCHOOL AT GENEVA

Three hundred boys and girls from the upper forms of public and secondary schools throughout Great Britain have left London for Geneva. They will spend ten days at the junior summer school organised by the League of Nations Union. The warden of the school will be the head master of Rugby.

At Geneva the boys and girls will listen to first-hand accounts of League activities from members of the Secretariat and other experts engaged upon the problems of peace and war, international health, transport, economics, native labour, and other matters of international co-operation.

### A FOREST THEATRE IN SWITZERLAND.

Amid the thick fir tree forests of the Jorat hills, ten miles or so north-east of Lausanne, stands the village of Mezières, which has become an important theatrical centre. Almost every year Swiss plays are produced there in a coarse wooden playhouse built a quarter of a century ago by the Canton Vaud author M. René Morax, his brother the well-known painter, and the composer Gustave Doret. Except for a few principals, all the actors are local amateurs.

This year a new play was produced there, the *Servante d'Evolène*, by M. René Morax and M. Gustave Doret. It is taken from a legend of the Vallée d'Hérens, in Canton Valais, and is a fine example of Swiss folklore. The son of a rich farmer is in love with a young servant, but the father opposes the marriage as she wants his son to wed a rich girl. But Death, under the features of an old woman, comes and claims the young man as her prey. Prayers and entreaties fail to move Death's inflexibility, until, in the end, she accepts a substitute for the young man. The servant volunteers to take her lover's place; Death accepts, but will only take her later, when she thinks the right moment has come. Time passes, the rich girl dies, and the young man marries the servant whose devotion has vanquished his father's opposition. The marriage ceremony takes place, and while everybody is rejoicing, Death arrives: the bride falls dead, but a Saint appears, brings her back to life, and the happy couple are united for ever. This very simple and moving legend is a pretext for local dances performed by groups of girls and boys clad in their picturesque Evolène costumes. The dialogue is brisk and poetical, and it is enriched by music in harmony with the native simplicity of the story. The success of *La servante d'Evolène* has been so great that it will be produced in Paris from July 27 to 29 at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Hofmann, a former head of the Employment Dept. of the "Société Suisse des Commerceant" in Zurich, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

King Carol of Rumania has arrived at the Hotel "Baur au Lac" in Zurich, where he intends to stay *incognito* for a few days.

#### BERNE.

Vice-Federal Chancellor, Dr. Oscar Leimgruber, has celebrated his 25th Service Jubilee.

Dr. P. Vieli, Councillor of Legation, and a very capable member of the "Eidg. Volkswirtschafts Dept.," is leaving his post to enter the General Management of the "Crédit Suisse." His departure from Berne is greatly deplored.

On the occasion of the 70th birthday anniversary of Dr. A. Wander (reported in our last issue), every employee of the Dr. A. Wander A.G. in Berne and Neueneegg, received an amount of 100 frs., in addition every member of the staff was granted a day off.

#### GLARUS.

In Linthal died at the age of 69, M. Bernhard Stüssli, since 1927 a member of the cantonal government. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Landrat."

#### BASLE.

Professor, Dr. Mangold, Administrator of the "Schweiz. Wirtschaftsarchiv" since 1910, is retiring from his post, which he held with great distinction, on attaining the age limit. (65).

#### APPENZEL I. RH.

At the age of 71 died in Schwendi, M. Joh. Baptist Rusch, known throughout the canton of Appenzel, as "Der Stenble." The deceased carried for 30 years the provisions for the Meteorological station on the "Santis." On his retirement he was granted a pension by the Federal authorities.

#### AARGAU.

The death has occurred at Aarau of M. Gottfried Grossen, Manager of the Municipal Electric Power station, the deceased rendered for over 30 years great services to the Municipality of Aarau.

#### TICINO.

A collection which was undertaken by the newspaper "Tat" organ of National Councillor Duttweiler, for the community of Palagnedra, which, through no fault of their own got into financial difficulties, brought in the creditable amount of 12,000 frs. This "beau geste" enabled the community of Palagnedra to wipe out all their debts.

#### VAUD.

Dr. h. c. Ernest Chuard, from 1919-1928 a member of the Federal Government, and President of the Swiss Confederation in 1924 has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Lausanne.

The late Mlle. Margerite Gally of Le Sentier has left an amount of 100,000 frs. to different charitable institutions.

M. William Grenier, a former Professor at the Engineering school at Lausanne has died. The deceased was from 1895-1935 administrator and President of the "Ateliers de constructions mécaniques" in Vevey.

#### GENEVA.

A Geneva Boy Scout named Rols Glatt, aged 14, has made the ascent of the Matterhorn. Zermatt guides believe he is the youngest boy to do so.

#### OBWALDEN.

Last Sunday died in Lungern, at the age of 62, M. Johann Imfeld-Berchtold, since 1934 a member of the cantonal government.

### LA POLITIQUE.

#### La réforme de la constitution fédérale.

La Nouvelle Société Helvétique a adressé dernièrement une lettre du plus haut intérêt au Conseil fédéral. Par la clarté des idées qu'il exprime, par son ton mesuré et direct, par l'opportunité des mesures qu'il recommande, ce document émanant d'un des plus importants groupements patriotiques de notre pays mérite la plus large diffusion et l'approbation complète des citoyens qu'inquiète l'avenir de la Suisse.

C'est du problème de la réforme de la Constitution fédérale que la Nouvelle Société Helvétique entretient notre directeur. Depuis 1914, dit-elle en substance, le cours des événements a placé l'Etat suisse en face de difficultés qui ne pouvaient être surmontées par les moyens réguliers inscrits dans la Constitution de 1848 et de 1874. Il en est résulté un ensemble de dispositions législatives extraordinaires dont le caractère de nécessité ne saurait être discuté, mais qui risquent, aujourd'hui, à la fois de se maintenir définitivement et de se développer encore.

Il y a là un grave danger: la Suisse ne peut prospérer que sur la base d'une nette définition des compétences de la Confédération et des cantons, comme de l'Etat et des citoyens. Tel n'est plus le cas aujourd'hui. D'autre part, on ne saurait évidemment revenir à la situation d'avant-guerre: à des hommes et des temps nouveaux, il convient d'adapter la Constitution qui est leur loi fondamentale.

Il ne peut être question, en effet, de parer aux profonds changements survenus ces dernières décennies par de simples procédés de fortune. Les nombreuses violations qu'on a dû faire subir à la Constitution commandent l'établissement d'un droit nouveau et strict, remplaçant les dispositions législatives devenues désuètes. Cette opinion est partagée par des personnalités appartenant aux sphères les plus diverses et à toutes les parties du pays.

Mais comment s'y prendre? La Nouvelle Société Helvétique propose qu'on se mette au travail dans trois directions différentes. D'abord on devrait s'inspirer de l'institution récente de la commission d'experts économiques, créer, pour d'autres domaines constitutionnels qui ont particulièrement besoin de rajustement, des organismes semblables, bref amorcer des révisions partielles. D'autre part, il conviendrait de revenir sans délai au libre jeu des initiatives populaires, en réduisant à l'extrême les cas ex-