Home news

Objekttyp: Group

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Band (Jahr): - (1938)

Heft 848

PDF erstellt am: 22.09.2024

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY. Telephone : CLERKENWELL 9595/9596. Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E. C.2. LONDON, FEBRUARY 12, 1938

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Vol. 15-No. 848

6 Months (26 issues. post free) - Frs. 7.50 12 (52) 14.-SWITZERLAND (Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).

HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

M. HUGO E. PRAGER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF

THE ZURICH "KONGRESSGEBAEUDES." The "Stiftungsrat" of the "Tonhalle und Kongressgebäudes" in Zurich has appointed M. Hugo E. Prager as General Manager for the next five years

M. Prager was born in Zurich on January 7th, 1880, and after having received his schooling in Zurich he decided to join the Hotel profession.

m Zurich he decided to join the Hotel profession. He started his career in 1897 in Milan, later on he occupied various positions in Paris, Lon-don and Brussels. In 1905 he was appointed Banquetting Manager at the Hotel "Astoria" in New York, a post which he held for five years. In 1910 he was entrusted with the Management of the "Surretta" in St. Moritz, and afterwards had an appointment at Wiesbaden. In 1919 he acquired for himself the Hotel and Restaurant "Carlton-Elite" in Zurich. We consider that in appointing M. Prager to

We consider that in appointing M. Prager to this important post, the "Stiftungsrat" has appointed the "right man in the right place." THE SWISS CINEMA.

There are in Switzerland 354 cinemas, with a total seating capacity of 132/000. Statistics show that for every 1,000 inhabitants there is an average of 32 seats; this number varies according to the towns, being 82 at Lausanne, 75 at Geneva, 63 at Lucerne, 59 at Bâle, 49 at Zurich, 38 at St. Gall, 34 at Berne, etc.

In spite of the fact that the popularity of the cinema constantly increases the exhibiting side of the industry is not paying, overbuilding in the past being given as the reason.

During the past few years, however, measur have been taken whereby, as already stated, it is now almost impossible to open a new cinema.

The minimum rental for a film programme is 100 francs (about £5); and no cinema charges less than one franc (about one shilling) for ad-mission.

Every Canton has its own censorship administration and laws, which makes the work of film importers, distributors, and even cinema directors somewhat difficult. This difference of Cantonal judgment also exists in reference to certain taxes imposed on the cinema.

The three languages spoken in the country are:, French, German and Italian; and, in view of this fact, the following percentage list of film imports during the past year is somewhat surprising

America		53.0	
France		19.1.	
Germany		17.0	
Austria	any answering and present or warding a high state of a second state of a large	4.6	
England	/ asililla.in.tomorrow	3.8	12
Italy	1 01 1100 11 100 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	1.5	
Divers		1.0	

Newsreels have in the past been imported exclusively from France and Germany, but owing to certain political tendencies it is to be one of the first efforts of the Swiss Film Chamber to organise the production of a national newsreel.

TOURISTS IN SWITZERLAND. Over 306,000 motorcyclists and car owners visited Switzerland during 1936, about 16 per cent. more than in the previous year.

SWISS FASCIST CRISIS.

A serious crisis in the Swiss Fascist move-ment has come to a head with the resignation of Herr Rolf Henne, leader of the National Front. Herr Henne's subordinates are believed to have disapproved of his too close imitation of the German Nazis. His successor, Dr. Robert Tobler, is expected to follow a more independent line and develop a more "Swiss" brand of Fascism.

Since he assumed the leadership, Dr. Tobler has declared that the principles on which the Swiss Confederation is based are "democracy, Federalism, neutrality, and religious peace." At the same time, however, he intends to continue Herr Henne's anti-Semitic policy by presenting a petition against the Swiss Jews.

The National Front, which in 1933 hoped

The National Front, which in 1933 hoped soon to win power in Switzerland, according to Herr Henne himself, has declined steadily in membership and influence since 1934. The only gains have been made by another Fascist body, the Union Nationale, in Geneva, where the first Socialist Government of the Can-ton, headed by M. Leon Nicole, was accused of Communit tandancias Communist tendencies.

Communist tendencies. Under Herr Henne's leadership, not only were the ideals propagated by the National Front indistinguishable from those of Nazism, but its relations with German semi-official organisations were stated to be close. Documents were pub-lished to prove that these organisations had pro-vided the Frontists with money and inspired their petition demanding the suppression of Free-macoury masonry.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION. The report for 1937 shows a net profit of Fr.51,708,340, compared with Fr.52,021,449 in 1936. The directors propose to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. (same) and to carry forward Fr. 1,574,184. Cash, as shown in the balance-sheet, amounts to Fr. 368,824,512 (against Fr. 310,665,161), while total assets are Fr. 1,512,755,363 (against Fr.1,389,041,967). On the liabilities side current denosits ware Fr. liabilities side current deposits were Fr. 97,678,219 (against Fr.96,321,310) and long deposits Fr.150,233,250 (against Fr.143,772,850). R.A.F. OFFICER KILLED BY AVALANCHE.

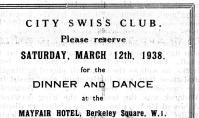
R.A.F. OFFICER KILLED BY AVALANCHE. Pilot Officer John Millington Holden, R.A.F., was killed in a₁ski ing accident near Pontresina. He and his brother, Mr., H. R. Holden, left Muottas Muraigl, above Pontresina, with a view to making the descent along the Muraigl valley. They started shortly after 1 o'clock, which was too early on account of the heat, and, not knowing the way, they passed along a steep snow slope where nobody goes in winter. They detached an avalanche and were swept down a distance of 500ft. Mr. H. R. Holden was thrown out of the avalanche by the pressure of the snow, and escaped unhurt. pressure of the snow, and escaped unhurt.

The accident had been witnessed from Mnottas Muraigl, whence a search party set out at once. Pilot Officer Holden was dragged out and artificial respiration tried for two hours, without result. A doctor was summoned from Pontresina, but his efforts were in vain.

says credit for the errection of a new building for the Swiss Legation in Paris. The present quarters at the Avenue Hoche being inadequate to house the increasing staff.

HEAVY LOCOMOTIVES FOR SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Railways have ordered a third "giant" electric locomotive of the Ae 8/14 class, having eight driving and fourteen carrying wheels. The two "giant" locomotives at present engaged in heavy express and goods train workengaged in heavy express and goods train work-ing on the Gotthard line each covered 100,000 miles per annum in 1936 and 1937, engine-miles run being the highest on record for Switzerland. Orders have also been placed for a high-speed electric railcar unit capable of 95 m.p.h. and two diesel-electric railcars giving a maximum speed of 63 m.p.h. 63 m.p.h.



SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

PRICE 3d.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS. Operating revenue of the Swiss Federal Rail-ways for December, 1937, was £1,440,000, or £52,000 higher than in December, 1936. Passen-gers carried (10,950,000) increased by 1,037,000 and, at £542,000, yielded an increase of £51,600. Goods traffic in the same month declined by 66,000 tons and £47,000 in receipts. Working expenditure increased by £37,400, giving a net revenue of £14,600. For the whole of 1937 net revenue is estimated at £6,190,000, or £2,270,000 more than in 1936. SWISS MILITARY MACHINE CRASH

SWISS MILITARY MACHINE CRASH

A military aeroplane crashed near Kirchberg (Berne), the two accupants, Lieutenants Huber and Zuber, received serious injuries, but fortun-ately they are out of danger; the machine, how-ever, has been completely destroyed.

SWISS BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following bank dividends for 1937 have been declared :

Spar & Kreditkasse Suhrental in Schöftland, Spar & Kreditkasse Suhrental in Schöftland, 5½ per cent. (1936: 5½%); Spar & Leihkasse Zurzach 5½ per cent. (1936: 5½%); Spar & Leih-kasse Kaltbrunn 5½% per cent. (1936: 5½%); Aargauische Hypothekanbank, Brugg, 5 per cent. (1936: 5½%); Hypothekarbank in Winterthur, 6 per cent. (1936: 5%); Obusldher Gewerbehank 5 per cent. (1936: 5%); Volksbank Beromünster 4¼ per cent. (1936: 4%); Crédit Yverdonnois, Yverdon 6 per cent. (1936: 6%).

ZURICH.

LOCAL.

National-Councillor, M. Philipp Schmid-Ruedin, General-Secretary of the "Schwei-zerischen Kaufmännischen Vereins" has cele-brated bis 20th service anniversary. Born in humble circumstances, M. Schmid-Ruedin, through sheer hard work and an untiring energy, through sheer hard work and an untiring energy, succeeded in making a name for himself amongst the Swiss commercial community. Both as General Secretary of the "Schweiz, Kanfm. Vereins" and as a Member of Parliament, he has rendered great services to our country. We ex-tend heartiest congratulations to M. Schmid-Ruedin, who is no stranger to the Swiss Colony in London, having on several occasions attended functions of the London Section of the S.K.V. BERNE.

BERNE.

The population of the town of Berne at the end of 1937, numbered 120,933 inhabitants. SolOTHURN. M. Albert Mägis, from 1888-1920, Manager of the Cantonal Bank Solothurn, has celebrated bis 00th birthday analyzosami his 90th birthday anniversary. BASEL.

Dr. Fritz Egger, from 1905-1933, Professor of Medicine at the University of Basle, has cele-brated his, 75th birthday anniversary. ST. GALL. M. Ernest Löpfe-Benz, States-Councillor, and

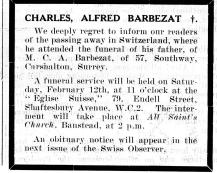
M. Ernest Lopre-Benz, States-Councillor, and Publisher of the "Nöbelspather," has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. M. Löpfe-Benz has for a great number of years played an im-portant part in the political life of the canton of St. Gall.

AARGAU.

The death has occurred in Aarau, of M. Carl Sprecher Sigrist, the founder of the firm Sprecher & Schuh, at the age of 70. TIGINO.

Heavy forest fires occurred at the "Monte Bré " near Lugano.

M. Arthur Weissenbach, examining magistrate for the "Sottoceneri," has died in Lugano at the age of 53.



NEW SWISS LEGATION IN PARIS. The Federal Council, will shortly put a motion before Parliaments, asking for the neces-