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hand the number of German tourists allowed to come to Switzerland was small. The Swiss delegation will therefore ask that the amount of money the German tourists are entitled to take into Switzerland be increased, and in exchange will offer to buy more German goods.

The German attempt to obtain a loan from the Swiss banks has been fruitless.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zürich, at the age of 74, of M. Emil Huber Stockar, a well-known engineer who was until 1911 the head of the Oerlikon Machine Works. He was then appointed Chief Engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, the electrification of which was his work. He was a colonel in the Army and published several books on scientific questions and Alpinism.

* * *

Dr. H. Stodola, for nearly forty years Professor at the Federal Technical University, in Zurich, has celebrated his 80th birthday.

He retired from his post in 1929.

* * *

Dr. Oskar Halter, a member of the Board of the Engineering Works J. J. Rieter & Cie, in Winterthur, has died in Winterthur.

Dr. Halter was for over twenty years technical manager of the concern. In 1938 he received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the Federal Technical University in Zurich.

LUCERNE.

The elections for a further term of four years of the members of the cantonal government have brought no change, the following members have been re-elected: Frey (Liberal) 32,828 votes; Wismer (liberal) 32,446 votes; Felber (Conservative) 30,976 votes; Dr. Egli (Conservative) 30,562 votes; Renggli (Conservative) 30,405 votes; Schnieper (Conservative) 30,267 votes; and Dr. Winiker (Conservative) 29,817 votes.

The elections for the Grand Council show the following strengths of the various parties: Liberals 56; Cath. Cons. 81; Socialists 13; Democrats 1.

* * *

The death has occurred in Lucerne of Dr. Paul Styger from Schwyz at the age of 52. The deceased was an authority on Archeology. For twelve years he held the Chair of Archeology at the University of Warsaw. During the war he held an important post at the Vatican.

BASLE.

Dr. Carl Ludwig Schmidt, Professor of Theology at Basle University, has been deprived of his German nationality by the Nazi Government. Professor Schmidt was born in 1891 in Frankfurt and was severely wounded while fighting in the German Army on the Western Front. His contribution to the theological dictionary to be published soon in Germany has been suspended.

ST. GALL.

The Commercial University in St. Gall has celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

VAUD.

Colonel Robert Chavannes, a member of the Federal Instruction Corps from 1899-1920, has celebrated his 75th birthday. Colonel Chavannes was a close collaborator of the late Colonel Schaeck.

FOOTBALL.

14th May, 1939.

BELGIUM .....1 SWITZERLAND 2

Hurrah, they have done it again! And mind you, in eleven encounters this is only the second time Switzerland has defeated Belgium, in April 1937 in Brussels by 2 goals to 1 and now in Liège by the identical score. Three games in Switzerland ended in draws; never yet have we been successful at home.

We fielded an unchanged eleven, except that Amado went to centre-forward and P. Aebi to inside-right. 20,000 spectators witnessed an interesting game. Seven minutes from the start, Trello shot hard for goal and somehow the keeper let the ball slip through his hands; Switzerland led somewhat unexpectedly. The Belgian halves played very well, covering our forwards cleverly. More than once an equalising score seemed imminent, but our defence held tight and half time arrived without either keeper being beaten again.

Belgium restarted the game with a series of corner-kicks and in the tenth minute booked the well deserved equaliser through Voorhoof, playing at inside-right. This reverse stimulated the Swiss eleven to pull out that little extra which had so far been lacking. A hot shot of Trello's came back from some body or other to Amado who lost no time in placing the ball into the net. The Diables Rouges fought back with vigour but the Swiss held the fort to the end, pressing in turn and securing four corners in succession without improving on any of them. And the final whistle ended a ding-dong battle with Switzerland just about worthy winners.

At the same time, our B team played in Lucerne against a national eleven of Luxembourg and deserve special mention for a smashing win by no less than 9 goals to 1, thus avenging their last defeat very handsomely. In these encounters we have now won 3, lost 2 and drawn 2. Some of our youngsters seem to know how to shoot.

M.G.

LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND.

The economic situation during the first quarter of 1939.

During the first three months of the year, the international political situation has steadily been getting more critical. Yet, in spite of this state of affairs, Swiss trade has fairly successfully held its grounds. The decline in Imports has been comparatively slight, amounting to 398.4 million Swiss francs in comparison to 399.9 million Swiss francs during the same period of 1938. As regards Exports, they have risen from 306.3 million francs to 329.9 million francs, showing an increase of 23.6 million francs. Thanks to this, the deficit of the commercial balance has been reduced from 93.6 million Swiss francs for the first quarter of 1938 to 68.5 million francs in 1939. It is interesting to note that amongst those imports which show the most marked increase, are raw iron and steel, iron used for building, and coal; on the other hand, there has been a certain decrease in raw cotton and copper, raw materials for brewery, wheat, fodder and oxen. As regards exports, the textile industry shows an increase of 6.6 million Swiss francs, cotton fabrics alone having gained more than 3 million francs. Foodstuffs have gone up by one million, materials appertaining to chemical and pharmaceutical industries have increased by 14½ million francs. The metallurgical trade, however, shows a decrease of about 4 million francs, due to the state of the watch trade, where sales have declined from 51.7 million francs to 40.1 million. This loss can be largely attributed to the political situation which hardly favours the export of luxury articles. On the other hand, all other branches of the metallurgical trade show a distinct progress (machinery: an increase of 4 million, tools and apparatus: 2 million, raw aluminium: 1.5 million, etc.).

The index of the cost of living and that of wholesale prices has maintained the same level, the former showing even a slight tendency to decrease. Unemployment is on the decline: during the month of March, the application for work dropped by 1,000 as compared to 1938, and by 20,000 as compared to January 1939.

In spite of the troubled political situation, it is evident that Swiss trade is slowly but surely on the uprise. One should not forget the tremendous effort put forward by Switzerland to reinforce her National Defence. In April, the Federal Parliament voted a credit of 415 million francs, one half of which will go for the upkeep of the army, and the other half to procure work for the unemployed. However, this still was not deemed sufficient and the government forsees a further credit of 190 million francs, which will be devoted exclusively to National Defence.

PERSONAL.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. A. C. Stahelin, who, on the occasion of the Annual Delegates Meeting of the "Schweizerische Kaufmännische Verein" which was held in Zurich last week, was nominated an honorary Member of the S.K.V. as an acknowledgement for the great services which he had rendered in connection with the Educational side of the Society.

Mr. Stahelin, who was President of the Swiss Mercantile Society from 1925-28, is also an Honorary Member of the London section and a Member of the Council. This well deserved distinction not only honours our friend, but also the Swiss Mercantile Society, London, which is a section of the S.K.V.



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