Home news

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

NEW SWISS MINISTER FOR LONDON.

The Swiss Federal Government have decided to appoint M. Thurnheer, at present Swiss Minister in Tokyo, as Minister in London in succession to M. Paravicini, who is due to retire at the end of the year.

Dr. jur. Walter Thurnheer, who for the last five years represented Swiss interests in Japan, hails from Berneck (St. Gall); for a good many years he has been Swiss Consul General in Montreal (Canada) where he rendered valuable services to the Swiss export trade and enjoyed great popularity in the local colony.

NEW NORWEGIAN MINISTER IN BERNE.

M. Sassel, Norwegian Minister in Brussels, has been appointed Minister in Berne.

BETTER EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

The statistics with reference to unemployment show a considerable improvement. The number of totally unemployed on the register fell from the end of May from 31,552 to 24,240 to end of June, which is the lowest figure for this period since the year 1931. In some of the Cantons and some of the trades practically no unemployment exists. A notable exception in this general improvement is the Watch Trade.

SWISS NAZIS SENTENCED.

Seven Swiss Nazis and one German were sentenced by the Federal Penal Court at Zurich to various periods of imprisonment on charges of espionage for Germany.

Johann Frei, who fled to Germany last September and has not returned was condemned by default to two years imprisonment.

Dr. Alfred Zander, organiser of the "League of Faithful Confederates of Nazi Belief," was condemned to 18 months' imprisonment. He has already served four months.

Alfred Nikles, Zander's secretary and chief bodyguard was sentenced to six months' imprisonment of which he has served already one month. Benno Schappi was given four months' imprisonment.

A German, Walter Oberdoerfer, who like Frei, fled from Switzerland and was not present at the trial, was sentenced by default to three months' imprisonment and forbidden by the Court to enter Switzerland for a period of five years. Three other defendants were given four months' imprisonment. The eighth man received two months' imprisonment.

The defendants were ordered to defray the costs, Frei and Zander each to pay one-fifth and the others to pay one-tenth.

They are given ten days in which to appeal to the Court of Cassation.

RENEWAL OF SWISS-HUNGARIAN TRADE PACT.

The Swiss Hungarian commercial negotiations in Berne have ended with the renewal of the trade agreement.

Last year Swiss exports to Hungary amounted to 10,400,000 pengoes and Hungarian imports totalled 16,700,000 pengoes.

The agreement provides for Switzerland to take more Hungarian wheat.

ITALIAN ASSURANCES TO SWITZERLAND.

The Foreign Minister, M. Motta, has reported to the Federal Council on the progress of negotiations over the Italian ban on foreigners in South Tyrol.

According to Swiss official quarters, Dr. Ruegger, Swiss Minister in Rome, has obtained an assurance from Signor Bastianni, Italian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, that Swiss citizens forced to leave Bolzano will receive an indemnity for property losses.

Another source of friction between Switzerland and Italy has been the imprisonment in Italy of five Swiss citizens.

Dr. Motta has announced that four of them had been freed. The fifth, Lt.-Col. Albisetti, is still in prison at Bologna. The Italian Government had stated that his case would soon be settled.

THE 14th JULY IN BERNE.

On the occasion of the 14th July celebrations, M. Alphand, French Ambassador, received the French colony and a number of Swiss persons. In his speech, the diplomat underlined the moral, military and financial rehabilitation of his country and evoked the traditional friendship uniting France and Switzerland.

A VISIT TO GERMANY.

The President of the Swiss Federal Railways, Engineer Etter, accompanied by Dr. Meile and Dr. Wanner, is at present on a tour of inspection in Germany. He has been invited by the German Minister of Transport.

SWISS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ZURICH.

Results: Singles, semi-finals: Boussus (France) beats de Stefani (Italy) 6-4, 6-2, 6-8, 6-0 and 6-2. Romanoni (Italy) beats Maneff (Switzerland) 6-1, 6-0, 4-6, 2-6 and 6-2.

Doubles, Men: Final: The German pair Redl-Beuttner beat the Italian pair Canepele- de Stefani 6-1, 6-2 and 6-2.

SWISS SKILLED WORKMEN FOR AUSTRALIA.

The Australian Minister of the Interior has announced that negociations have been concluded with the Swiss Consul General for the admission into Australia of an unspecified number of Swiss emigrants, including skilled artisans, iron-workers and domestic workers.

LORD MAYOR'S SWISS VISIT.

The Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Sheriffs and a deputation from the Courts of Aldermen and Common Council is to pay an official visit to the Swiss National Exhibition at Zurich from Saturday, July 29th, to Tuesday, August 1st.

On Tuesday, August 1st, the Lord Mayor will inspect the Swiss National Museum and afterwards be "At Home" at the Kongress Gebäude.

SWISS SCOUTS IN SCOTLAND.

A hundred Swiss scouts from fourteen cantons are at present at Monzie Castle, near Criess, Scotland participating at a big international scout rally.

SWISS RACING DRIVER KILLED.

The well-known racing motorist M. Armand Hug of Lausanne has been critically injured while practising for the Grand Prix Automobile d'Albi.

While travelling at a high speed his car struck a telegraph pole, turned over and was wrecked.

M. Hug was carried to hospital where it was stated that his skull had been fractured and his condition is serious.

At Rheims recently he won the Grand Prix of the French Automobile Club for cars under 150 cc.

BRITON KILLED ON GLACIER.

A twenty-one year old Oxford undergraduate named Michæle Keith fell into a crevasse on the Allalin Glacier, near Zermatt and was killed. He had been climbing without a guide.

BRITON KILLED BY TWO-HUNDRED FOOT FALL.

M. Robert Baxall, a Londoner, who was on holiday with his wife and daughter, was killed near the village of Fionnay near Martigny by a fall of 200 feet from some rocks.

TIGHT-ROPE WALKER KILLED.

A tight-rope walker, M. Aloys Buehlmann, from a travelling circus performing tricks above the River Lutschine, at Boenigen near Interlaken, fell into the river, which was swollen by Alpine snows. His body has not yet been found.

TWO KILLED ON MATTERHORN.

Two Swiss climbers, Walter Stengele, 29, and Ernst Stengele, 18, brothers, of Zurich, were killed on the Matterhorn.

At a height of 14,000ft. fog and sleet forced them to give up the ascent. They were lowering themselves down the almost vertical Moseley Platte when Ernst's hand slipped. He fell, dragging with him his brother.

Climbing parties, who, had been anxiously watching the two men's progress, saw them fall 1,000ft.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Willy Kolb, aged 46, and director of the S.A. Lithographie et Cartonnage, was found asphyxiated by fumes in his garage.

* * *

Prof. Dr. Eugen Bleuler, the former director of the "Burghölzli," has died in Zollikon at the age of 82.

BERNE.

A monument in memory of the Bernese poet, Rodolphe de Travel, has been inaugurated on the Leuenberg, above Rumligen.

ZUG.

The death sentence which has not been enforced in Switzerland for fifty years and is legal only in three cantons, has been passed at Zug on Paul Irniger, aged forty, for murdering in 1933 a Zurich taxi-driver.

BASLE.

The traffic in the Rhine harbour continues to register steady increases. In June last the turn-over exceeded 248,000 tons which is 20% more than in the same period last year.

GRISONS.

Doctor Otto Toendury-Pedotti, well known in the Grisons for his political and economical activities, has just celebrated his 75th birthday.

TICINO.

It is stated officially that the three Ticinesi, Selva, Salvade and Giorgetti, who under an accusation of anti-Italian utterances have been imprisoned in Milan for several weeks, have now been released. The fourth one, Lieutenant Albisetti, is still in goal awaiting the preferment of a definite charge,

GENEVA.

The exhibition of paintings from the Prado Museum, Madrid, continues to attract an average of 2,500 visitors daily.

1st AUGUST CELEBRATIONS.

There are only 10 days left for all Swiss in London to make up their minds to attend the 1st August Celebrations at St. Pancras Hall.

The festival is going to be such an attractive function with typical Swiss atmosphere that we have no doubt everyone will wish to be there.

The Swiss Minister will address the audience during the evening, and, as stated previously, there will be dancing until midnight, lots of Swiss music and songs.

Full details have already been published, but we would ask our readers to remind all their Swiss friends that they can get free admission tickets from members of the committee, as stated below, and also from the Swiss Legation, Swiss Bank Corporation, all Swiss Societies, etc.

Please do not fail to reserve the 1st August as this year above all years we all want to rejoice together at our beloved Country having been spared all the evils to which so many other Nations have been subjected.

Free admission tickets obtainable from:—

Swiss Legation,
Swiss Bank Corporation,
All Swiss Societies,
and
Members of the committee as below:—

W. Meier (Swiss Mercantile Society) Chairman, 53, Priory Road, Hampstead, N.W.6.

H. Bingguely (City Swiss Club) Hon. Secretary, Bulle House, 187, Tottenham Court Road, W.1.

R. Senn (Swiss Mercantile Society) Hon. Treasurer, 26, Belsize Lane, N.W.3.

E. Bachofen (Nouvelle Société Helvétique) 24, Midholm, Barn Hill, Wembley Park, Mdx.

S. M. Bruggisser (City Swiss Club) 87, Aldersgate Street, E.C.1.

G. Eusebio (Unione Ticinese) 122, Newgate Street, E.C.1.

A. Stauffer (Swiss Observer) 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Bee.