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HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

"SWISSAIR" AIR LINER CRASHES NEAR PARIS.

Through the Daily Press our readers have been informed of the regrettable accident which the Douglas "HB-ITA" machine met with on its regular route Zurich-Paris, near Senlis, twenty-five miles north of Paris, a week ago.

We express our deep sympathy to the *Swissair*, as well as to the relatives of those who lost their lives, and to those who received injuries.

Amongst the dead (five altogether; two passengers and three members of the crew) are the pilot, M. Egon Frei, from Winterthur, 28 years old and since 1936 in the service of the Swissair. M. Frei, who was a lieutenant in the Swiss Air Force, has in the past proved himself an experienced pilot, he was married only two and a-half months ago.

Wireless operator Kurt Walter from Löhningen (Ct. Schaffhausen) 26 years old, single. He studied at the University in Zurich and afterwards joined the Swissair; about a year ago he passed his exams as a wireless operator with great distinction, in the army he held the rank of lieutenant of the "Fliegerkompagnie 19."

Mlle. Jenny Brooke (American-Swiss) from Geneva, stewardess, 22 years old, since 1st of August, 1938, in service with the Swissair. It is said that through her presence of mind the lives of some of the passengers were saved. —

As soon as the news of the crash reached Switzerland, M. Pillichody, Technical Director of the Swissair, together with M. Gsell of the Federal Air Force left for Senlis in order to make the necessary investigations together with the officials of the French Air Office and the Air France. M. Henri Torrenté, Counsellor of Legation, and Colonel de Blonay, Military Attaché of the Legation in Paris have also arrived at Senlis.

The result of the investigations has not yet been made known, and reports in the Daily Press as to the cause of the crash are at present mere guess work.

This unfortunate accident has caused widespread sympathy not only in aviation circles, but also amongst the population in Switzerland.

Swissair, enjoys a reputation for safety and punctuality, and their record concerning the minimum of accidents, in comparison to the passengers carried is a remarkable one, and as regrettable as last Saturday's accident is, it will not impede the reputation nor the efficiency of the pilots or their machines. Swissair will carry on.

NAZI ESPIONAGE IN SWITZERLAND.

The inquiry into the activities of three political organizations of the extreme Right (Volksbund, the League of the Faithful, and the Federal Workers and Social Party) opened by the Swiss Federal police during the early part of November has just revealed that these three organizations had direct relations with German State and party organizations through a German agent of the Gestapo named Rehm, and that they transmitted to Germany reports on their espionage of persons and on the situation in Switzerland.

ANGLO-SWISS ICE HOCKEY MATCH.

Cambridge University ice hockey team lost by 15 goals to nil to Davos, who thus retained the Birmingham Cup presented by the Birmingham Children's Hospital. Cambridge have won the cup only once, in 1937, since the event was inaugurated in 1933.

M.P. CRESTA PRESIDENT.

Colonel J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon, Conservative M.P. for Wallasey and holder of the first flying certificate granted by the Royal Aero Club for pilots, was elected president of the Cresta (bobsleigh) Club.

NEW LOETSCHBERG LOCOMOTIVES.

Two new 6,000 h.p. electric locomotives are at present under construction for the Berne—Lötschberg—Simplon Railway; the electric equipment is being supplied by the Sécheron works as general contractors and the mechanical portion by the Swiss Locomotive & Machine Works, Winterthur. The new units are to haul heavy express passenger and goods trains over the Lötschberg main line, and will be capable of handling a 600-*tonne* train at 90 km.p.h. (56 m.p.h.) on the level and at 60 km.p.h.) on a 2.7 per cent. (1 in 37) gradient. The latter performance corresponds to a tractive effort of 18,000 kg. (39,600 lb.) at the drawbar and 24,000 kg. (52,800 lb.) at the wheel rims. The overall length is 20.26 m. (66¼ ft.), and the wheel arrangement is 1—Co+Co—1; the end axles are of the Bissel type. The diameter of the driving-wheels is 1,350 mm. (53 in.). The locomotives are equipped with the Signum automatic train control apparatus and with a dead-man pedal, enabling them to be manned by a driver only.

TRUBSEE AERIAL CABLEWAY REBUILT.

The Trubsee aerial cableway, above Engleberg, was re-opened on December 17th last, after reconstruction, with considerably increased capacity. The line was originally opened on December 17th, 1927, and in 1931 was equipped with new lightweight cars, each accommodating 7 more passengers. Ever-increasing winter-sports traffic to the Titlis district made further improvements necessary, and practically the whole installation has now been rebuilt. Two additional supporting pylons have been provided, and the existing four strengthened. A new Oerlikon motor at the upper station develops a maximum of 370 h.p., and the old 127 h.p. motor remains in reserve. The passenger cars, built by the Schlieren Carriage Works, are mainly of Anticorodal, and are of 2,700 kg. capacity. The normal speed is 4 m. per sec. and the maximum 6 m. per sec. Special attention has been paid to the automatic speed regulating devices, brake equipment, and telephone connection between the cars and stations. The following figures show how the line has been adapted to increasing traffic:—

	Car capacity, passengers	Passengers an hour (each way)
1927 to 1931	17	92
1931 to Dec., 1938	27	123
From Dec., 1938	33	231

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death has occurred in Kilchberg of M. Robert Stünzi-Sprüngli, for many years Managing Director of the chocolate works, Lindt & Sprüngli, S.A.

* * *

M. Otto Pfister, a member of the cantonal government, is shortly retiring from his post, which he held since 1929. M. Pfister, was a member of the "Kantonsrat" from 1917-1929, he is also a Member of Parliament. (National Council).

* * *

Dr. Heinrich Weisflog, late National Councillor, and an eminent personality in the political sphere of the canton of Zurich, has died at the age of 67.

BERNE.

M. Hans Hunziker, General-Manager of the Swiss Postal Administration since 1935, has celebrated his 60th birthday.

SCHWYZ.

The death is reported of States-Councillor Martin Ochsner, at the age of 77.

The deceased held for a number of years the post of "Untersuchungsrichter" in Schwyz. In 1911 he entered the cantonal government. M. Ochsner was sent to Parliament (States Council) in December 1908 and thus held his seat for 30 consecutive years.

SOLOTHURN.

The French Government has presented to the Central Library of the town of Solothurn, a large number of books, dealing with French Literature and Science.

BASLE.

M. E. Frey-Vogt, for many years Managing Director of the "Basler-Handelsbank," has celebrated his 70th birthday.

ST. GALL.

Dr. Karl Jäger, late Federal Judge, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

Dr. Jäger was born in St. Gall on January 3rd, 1869. After having studied law at the Universities of Berne and Munich, he received in 1891, an appointment as Secretary of the Department of Justice, in St. Gall. Five years later, he entered the cantonal tribunal. At the early age of 31, he was elected, in 1900, a member of the Supreme Court, over which he presided in 1907 and 1908. During the long tenure of his high judicial office, Dr. Jäger has distinguished himself as one of the most able judges of the Federal Court of Justice, he retired from his post in December 1937.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

to-day as much as ever. For the benefit of those anxious to add to their knowledge the Swiss Mercantile Society are again organizing evening classes in

English	Currency and Banking
French	Commercial Law
German	Bookkeeping and Accountancy
Spanish	

Shorthand (English, French, German)

S.M.S. members 8/- per course, non-members 10/6 per course; Shorthand courses 6/- and 8/6 respectively. The new term has just begun but there is still time to enrol if you apply immediately to the Secretary

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. Telephone: Museum 6693.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH.

(By Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich.)

During the past few weeks our market has been almost completely dominated by the most spectacular rise of the French Bonds. The 5% Conversion loan of the Maroc R.R. being a complete success and another much more important conversion loan of French foreign Railway bonds in sight, 4½% P.L.M. and 4½% Railways Alsace-Lorraine advanced from 100% to 115% and 114½% respectively, bringing them nearly to the par level against Dutch guilders. 4% Midi R.R. and 4% Alsace rose to 46% from a low of 34% at the beginning of this month. Trading in these bonds has been unusually active. For the first time since a good many years French buyers for these bonds have come to the market. Guilt-edged Swiss bonds have been rather irregular, leaving the year fractions of a point lower.

Due to the political uneasiness transactions on the share market have been at a low ebb.

Quotations.	Nov. 30th, 1938.	Dec. 30th 1938.
Schweiz. Bankverein	628	619
Schweiz. Kreditanstalt	667	651
Elektrobank	476	457
Saeg Ser. A.	71	65 asked
Motor-Columbus	262	253
Elektrizitäts- & Verkehrsges.	167	142 asked
Italo-Suisse	139	130
Schweiz. Rückversicherung	3900	3750 asked
Saurer	280	282
Aluminium	2770	2770
Lonza	505	493 asked
Nestlé	1234	1193
Brown Boveri	205	202
Sulzer	708	700