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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

M. ETTER, PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION IN MENZINGEN.

The community of Menzingen, the birthplace of Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, celebrated last Sunday his nomination to the Presidency of Switzerland.

A procession was formed in which the cantonal and municipal authorities, as well as a number of societies and school-children took part. At a Banquet various speeches were made to which Dr. Etter replied.

INCREASED CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The total revenue of the Federal Customs Administration for 1938 amounts to 267.2 million francs, or 11.5 million francs more than in 1937.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES.

There are 48,000 *Swiss* living in Germany.

There are 134,500 Germans living in Switzerland.

There are 100,000 *Swiss* living in France.

There are 37,300 French living in Switzerland.

There are 16,300 *Swiss* living in Italy.

There are 127,100 Italians living in Switzerland.

There are 15,400 *Swiss* living in Great Britain.

There are 5,800 English living in Switzerland.

YUGO-SLAVIAN PREMIER IN ZURICH.

Monsieur Stojadinowitsch, Prime Minister of Yugo-Slavia, on his return from a holiday in St. Moritz, paid a visit to the Federal Technical University in Zurich, where he witnessed the inauguration of a tablet erected in honour of the former Prime-Minister of Yugo-Slavia, Monsieur Nicola Pasitsch, who was a student at the University from 1868-1872.

A reception was held later at the Yugo-Slavian General-Consulate at which the town and University authorities, as well as leading members of Industry and Commerce were invited. Speeches between Monsieur Stojadinowitch and Dr. Klöti, Mayor of Zurich, were made, emphasizing the friendly relations which exist between the two countries.

SWISS FIGHTING IN SPAIN.

It is reported that up to date 73 Swiss fighting with the government troops, have been killed, 55 are missing and 12 have been made prisoners of Franco.

SWISS KILLED IN BARCELONA.

M. Jakob Studerus from Speicher (Appenzell), who held, for the last twelve years an important post with a Forwarding Agent's firm in Barcelona, was killed during an Air Raid over Barcelona.

ANGLO-SWISS COTTON AGREEMENT.

The Manchester Evening News report that confidential discussions between representatives of the Swiss cotton industry and a special committee of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce with a view to reaching an understanding preparatory to the signing of a trade agreement between the two countries, have at last been concluded.

The Finishing and Allied Trades section report that after consultations with the various branches of the industry the committee were able to reach certain conclusions to which no opposition was offered, and which were then conveyed to the Government.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published, there are at present 82,200 unemployed in Switzerland, or 4,000 more than a year ago.

GERMAN MAIDSERVANTS RECALLED FROM SWITZERLAND.

The German maidservants working in Switzerland have been recalled to Germany. Several thousand girls and women are affected and the Swiss Labour Exchange is taking measures to meet the consequent lack of servants.

SWISS MISSION TO AMERICA.

A Swiss mission has gone to the United States to study the condition of aviation there.

WINTER SPORTS HOTEL ON FIRE.

Fire has broken out in the well-known Belvedere Hotel, at Davos, causing much damage to rooms on the first floor.

Several British visitors for the winter sports are staying in the hotel, including the curling team in the Jackson Cup Competition.

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW BUILDING OF THE SWISS LEGATION IN PARIS.

The Swiss Minister in Paris and Madame Stucki received on Sunday last, the personel of the Legation, the Presidents of the Swiss Societies and their Ladies, representatives of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Press, at the new abode of the Swiss Legation, situated in the Rue de Grenelle.

Minister Stucki, in an address, referred to the history of his new home and its former proprietor, a Swiss citizen of the name of Besenval. He expressed his gratitude to the authorities and private persons, who had enabled the Confederation to find dignified quarters for the diplomatic representative of the Swiss Confederation. Special appreciation was paid to the Federal Council, the two Parliamentary Chambers, the government of the canton of Solothurn, the town of Zurich and the Art Gallery of the town of Berne for having given valuable pictures to adorn the spacious rooms.

A special tribute was paid to the French Government who had lent a number of famous Gobelins from the series of " histoire du roi."

After tea was served, members of the Legation staff, conducted the guests over the new premises, and later on a chamber music concert was given in the beautiful " salons," in which M. Jürg Stucki, the son of the Minister, who is a gifted musician and a pupil of Adolf Busch, played music from Bach and Mozart, accompanied by the well-known artiste Mme. Monique Haas-Stämpfli.

A LUCKY WINNER.

An unemployed farm labourer in Uster, won the first prize in one of the lotteries of the Swiss National Exhibition, amounting to 50,000 frs.

The lucky winner, declared that he would now be able to marry the girl he loved.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS AERO CLUB.

Lieutenant-colonel Walo Gerber has been elected President of the Swiss Aero Club, in succession to Colonel E. Messmer, who had held this post for the last 18 years. M. Messmer was elected honorary President.

Lieutenant-colonel Gerber is one of Switzerland's foremost sportsmen. He took part in the Gordon-Bennett Balloon races in 1912, 1932 and 1934, he is also the holder of a certificate as a pilot.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Rud. Maurer, a member of the cantonal government since 1920, will shortly retire from his post. M. Maurer is a member of the Peasant party.

* * *

Colonel Konrad Bodmer has relinquished his post as " Platzkommandant " of the town of Zurich, which he has held for twenty years.

During the frontier occupation Colonel Bodmer was in command of the Infantry Regiment 26.

His successor is Colonel Hans von Schulthess from Küsnacht. The new " Platzkommandant " held the following commands: 1925-1927 Mountain Infantry Bat. 1, 1929-1933 Mountain-Infantry Regiment 37 and Infantry Brigade 14. For some time Colonel von Schulthess was transferred to the General Staff.

Mme. Susanno Orelli, who had recently celebrated her 93rd birthday, has died in Zurich.

The deceased was the founder of the first non-alcoholic restaurant in Switzerland, and her devoted work in fighting alcoholism was recognised by the Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich which bestowed on her the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

* * *

The population of the town of Zurich, at the end of last year numbered 329,570 persons. The increase over the previous year is 8,370 persons.

LUCERNE.

M. Joseph von Moos, painter and for many years Director of the " Kunstgewerbeschule " in Lucerne, has celebrated his 80th birthday.

M. von Moos studied art at the Universities of Munich and Paris and for some time established himself in Munich. In 1892, he returned to Lucerne, where he soon made a name for himself as a portrait and landscape painter, and later became a master of stained glass painting.

He held the post of Director of the " Kunstgewerbeschule " from 1919-1934.

URI.

M. Isidor Meyer, late " Landammann " and States-Councillor (Ständerat), has celebrated his 80th birthday at Hospenthal.

OBWALDEN.

The death is reported from Sarnen of M. Alois Küchler, a late member of the cantonal government, at the age of 84.

In 1898 he was elected a member of the government of Obwalden, which post he held until 1910. The deceased was for many years a member of the " Kantonsrat," as well as of the cantonal Tribunal over which he presided in 1920/21. At one time he edited the " Obwaldner Volksfreund " and the " Blätter des Obwaldner Bauernvereins."

BASLE.

The oldest inhabitant of the town of Basle, Mme. L. Fritz Mühletaler has died at the age of 97½ years.

APPENZELL A. Rh.

The death is reported from Trogen, of Dr. Ernst Wildi, rector of the " Kantonsschule " in Trogen, from 1904-1937. The deceased enjoyed a great reputation as a teacher, and the University of Zurich bestowed on him the decree of *doctor honoris causa*.

ST. GALL.

A pedlar who died at the cantonal hospital in St. Gall, was found to be the possessor of a fortune of 140,000 frs.

* * *

M. Jakob Ernst, of Gossau near Wetzikon, has celebrated his 98th birthday. M. Ernst took part in the " Grenzbesetzung " 1870/71 and is one of the oldest veterans.

* * *

A laundry maid, who recently died in St. Gall, left an amount of nearly 10,000 frs., which she had saved for many years, to various charitable institutions.

GRISONS.

Doctor Albert von Planta, a well-known medical practitioner in St. Moritz, died at the age of 64.

VAUD.

A parcel containing silver coins and bank notes to the value of nearly 60,000 frs. disappeared from a post office van, which was stationed outside the post office at Chauderon. (Lausanne.) Later on a man called Fumet was arrested, and an amount of 47,000 frs. out of 58,400 frs. missing, was found on him.

NEUCHATEL.

The Institute of Neuchâtel was opened last week at a solemn conclave in the University of Neuchâtel. Professor Claude Du Pasquier, President of the Institute gave the inauguration address.

Amongst the large number of guests was M. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation.