Home news

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1939)**

Heft 900

PDF erstellt am: **19.03.2024**

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.
Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.
Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, www.library.ethz.ch

http://www.e-periodica.ch

The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2. *Published every Friday at* 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 20—No. 900 LONDON, 11 FEBRUARY, 1939 PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3/6
	6 " (26 " ")	6/6
	12 " (52 " ")	12/-
SWITZERLAND	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Frs. 7.50
	12 " (52 " ")	" 14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).

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.

MOBILISATION IN CRISIS.

The Swiss Council of States, the Upper House of Parliament, adopted without opposition a draft bill empowering the Federal Council to call to the colours in case of any emergency in 1939 as many men as necessary for a period of three weeks. Men so called up will be exempt from serving their annual training period. Under the bill the Swiss Government will be able to order a mobilisation if there is another crisis.

On the day on which Herr Hitler spoke to the Reichstag, the Swiss Federal Council decided to address a message to Parliament asking for its authority to take this step. Until now the Swiss Federal Government has not had the powers to order a mobilisation.

The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" recently declared that the measure had been made necessary by the events of September. To-day one could not count on a formal declaration of war. Since war would come suddenly it was the duty of the Government to resist sudden invasion and the violation of neutrality.

NO SWISS PRESS BAN.

The Swiss Foreign Minister, M. Motta, issued a statement declaring that Switzerland would not enter into any discussions concerning a Press agreement as had been suggested from Berlin.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The balance-sheet for December 31st shows a decrease in deposits on the year of 86,000,000 francs, mainly in current account deposits. Advances and debtors are only 20,000,000 francs down, but there is a decrease in bills of 57,000,000 francs and of 36,000,000 francs in investments. The cash holding is increased by 90,000,000 francs, to 458,799,902 francs. The net profit for 1938 is 10,029,946 francs, against 9,574,185 francs, and the dividend is maintained at 5 per cent.

FAMOUS BOBRIDER KILLED.

During the first day's racing for the Boblet Grand Prix R. Capadrutt, the famous Swiss rider, crashed off the run and struck a tree. He died from head injuries. The accident occurred just below the famous horseshoe corner. Officials immediately abandoned the race.

Capadrutt was estimated to be travelling at over 60 miles an hour at the time of the crash. He was a former Swiss boblet champion, and captained Switzerland's No. 1 crew in the bobsleigh championships at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the 1936 Olympic Games.

ELOGE DE LA SUISSE AU SENAT FRANCAIS.

Voici le passage du discours prononcé dernièrement à la Chambre, par le doyen d'âge, M. Salles, et relatif à la Suisse:

Après avoir constaté que l'Europe, après vingt siècles de luttes stériles, n'a pas encore réussi à trouver son statut définitif, l'orateur cite, par contre, l'exemple de la permanence de paix qui règne dans les Etats-unis d'Amérique ainsi que "la bonne harmonie et l'entente parfaite qu'a su établir et maintenir entre les vingt-deux cantons appartenant à trois races et parlant trois langues différentes qui se partagent sa population, cette petite Confédération helvétique, si sage, si bien ordonnée, si vraiment démoratique, sur laquelle plus d'un grand Etat pourrait trouver avantage à se modeler.

NIGHT-LANDING IN SAMADEN.

Flight-captain Walter Borner of the *Swissair*, has flown to Samaden during the night, with Dr. Preiss, the well-known Zurich surgeon, who was called to St. Moritz to operate on Dr. Fritz v. Opel, the German sportsman, who received injuries during a Ski Race.

SPANISH ART COLLECTION SENT TO GENEVA.

The pictures in Madrid's Prado Museum, which include Titians, Velasquez and Goyas, are to be moved to Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations. Thus the Spanish Civil War will not harm or destroy one of the finest collections in the world.

FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF THE FEDERAL POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE ADMINISTRATION.

The net profit of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration for 1937 amounts to 25 million francs, or 10 million francs more than the previous year.

SWISS ARMY TRAINING EXTENDED.

The Swiss Parliament has adopted the Government proposal lengthening the period of military training. It has also, by a large majority, granted the Government powers to maintain in service, in case of need, army units undergoing training.

M. Minger, Chief of the Military Department, explained that this would enable the Government to have at their disposal throughout the year a sufficient number of soldiers for assuring, at short notice, the defence of the frontiers.

If our country were to be attacked by any great Power (M. Minger declared) we would have no option but to defend ourselves with all our strength and to the last drop of our blood. Better death than slavery.

FURKA-OBERALP RAILWAY RECONSTRUCTION.

An all-the-year-round railway connection between Coire, the capital of the Grison district, with western Switzerland is discussed in Switzerland. Itt is pointed out that such a connection is of importance from a national defence point of view. At present a through connection exists during the summer months only, by way of the Furka-Oberalp Railway, 60.2 miles long, and opened in 1926, which caters only for the summer holiday traffic. The reconstruction of this line, particularly of the Disentis-Andermatt-Göschenen sections, for a full yearly service is also of economic importance. Electrification is recommended. This would permit the operation of 100-ton trains and reduce the running time from 130 min. to 90 min. Further, it would increase the capacity of the line by some 60 per cent. In Disentis a junction could be made with the Rhaetian railway which runs an electrified service throughout the year to Coire and gives a connection with the Upper Engadine. The cost of electrification, relaying of track and avalanche proctection works on the Disentis-Andermatt-Göschenen sections are estimated at £250,000.

DIVIDENDS OF SWISS BANKS.

The following dividends of Swiss Banks for the year 1938, have been declared.

Crédit Gruyérien, Bulle, 4½ per cent.; Volksbank Interlaken, A.G., 5 per cent.; Hypothekarbank in Winterthur, 6 per cent. (1937: 6%); Crédit Foncier Neuchâtelois, 5 per cent. (1937: 5%); Handwerkerbank Basel, 5½ per cent. (1937: 5½%); Spar- und Leihkasse Bern, 5 per cent. (1937: no dividend); Obwaldner Gewerbebank Sarnen, 4½ per cent.; Spar- und Leihkasse Kaltbrunn, 5½ per cent; Hypothekarbank in Winterthur, 6 per cent.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. J. Koch, Managing Director of the "Schweiz. Wagons and Aufzügefabrik A. G." in Schlieren, has celebrated his 70th birthday, M. Koch has been connected with the firm since the year 1900.

UNIONE TICINESE

Please reserve

Wednesday February 22nd

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL

at

PAGANI'S RESTAURANT, W.1.

TICKETS at 16/6 from Committee Members

* * *

The death has occurred in Zurich of Dr. Hermann Bodmer, for a large number of years a teacher at the "Kantonsschule" in Zurich, at the age of 69.

SCHWYZ.

Dr. Anton Bueler, late "Landammann" and National Councillor has died in Schwyz, at the age of 81. The deceased studied law at the Universities of Munich, Strassburg and Heidelberg, and later on started a practice in Schwyz. In 1913 he entered the cantonal government and in 1919 he presided over the National Council.

BASLE.

The German authorities have decided not to take into consideration studies made by German students at the University of Basle so long as Professor Karl Barth is lecturing there. Professor Barth, who is Swiss, was formerly a professor of theology in Germany, but was compelled to leave because of his opposition to Nazi restrictions on freedom of teaching.

ST. GALL.

Mme. M. R. Strassmann-Fischbacher, from Mosnang, has celebrated her 100th birthday, she is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of St. Gall.

AARGAU.

M. Eduard Thomann, who was connected with the Engineering Works of the A.G. Brown Boveri in Baden for the last 38 years, has celebrated his 70th birthday.

M. Thomann was Manager of the Railway section of the works for 24 years, and as such has rendered eminent services in connection with the electrification of the Swiss Federal Railways.

VAUD.

As a result of the interesting results achieved by the trial trolley-bus service, the Société des Tramways Lausannais has decided to replace six tramway routes by trolley-buses. The total distance covered by trolley-buses will then exceed 17 kilometres (just over 10½ miles). After the company had carried out tests, it was decided, in the light of experience gained on the trial service, that the 32 trolley-buses required for the service should be 9.35 metres long, 2.3 metres wide and 3 metres high. Each bus will have seating accommodation for 23 and standing space for 30 people, and when empty will weigh 7,825 kilograms.

NEUCHATEL.

The death is reported from La Chaux-de-Fonds, of M. Anton Quinet, composer and conductor of the military band, "Armes-Réunis" at the age of 70.

GENEVA.

An exhibition described as "La Ville Nouvelle" (The New Town) was recently organised in Geneva by the International Organisation for Public Health. The exhibition dealt mainly with modern housing and town planning problems, but included a temporary lighting information bureau, at which posters and specimens of domestic lighting fittings were shown. According to the "Bulletin de l'Association Suisse des Electriciens," the Swiss institute of Electrical Engineers (Lighting Section), who took an active part in the exhibition, erected this stand. The posters emphasised the benefit to health of good lighting and dealt with medical aspects of the subject. The familiar study lamp was on view and likewise the testing apparatus giving visitors an opportunity to select the values of illumination they preferred for reading purposes. There were 15,000 visitors during the two and a half months for which the exhibition was open.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH.

(By Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich.)

Continued pressure and disturbances coming from the sphere of international politics have upset our market on several occasions. Fluctuations in prices on the stock market have been unusual for nearly all securities listed on the Exchange. Quite a number of shares have touched or even broken their lows of last year. On the whole a slight recovery has been recorded during the past few days.

Despite the fact that the result of the 4% French Conversion Loan of 1939 has been satisfactory, the issue has declined to about 93%