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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

DEATH OF THE POPE.

The President of the Swiss Confederation has addressed the following telegram of condolence to Cardinal Pacelli:

" Le Conseil fédéral suisse apprend avec une vive affliction de la mort de Sa Sainteté le souverain pontife, dont l'auguste personnalité marqua profondément notre pays. La Suisse vénérait en Pie XI — qui aimait nos paysages et notre peuple — un courage, une hauteur morale et une noblesse de pensée rarement réunis à un tel degré et s'incline avec respect devant sa mémoire.

Le Conseil fédéral prie Vos Eminences d'agréer pour elles-mêmes et pour le sacré collège l'hommage de ses condoléances émues et de sa profonde sympathie."

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR POPE PIUS XI.

A memorial service for Pope Pius XI, was held on Thursday last, at the " Dreifaltigkeits " church in Berne. The Federal Council was present *in corpore*.

GERMAN FRONTIER GUARDS ENTER SWITZERLAND.

A frontier incident is reported from the mountains of Canton Grisons. Two Austrians, a young man and a 19-year-old girl, escaping from their own country, came over the Rhätikon mountains, walking for hours through deep snow, pursued by two German frontier guards in mufti, who followed them into Switzerland and overtook them on the Grüsch Alp. They took their passports and money from them and ordered them to come back and surrender at latest on Sunday.

The two refugees descended to the valley and told their story to the Swiss authorities. Swiss frontier guards were sent to the meeting place and arrested the two German guards on Swiss territory and brought them to Schiers and thence to Chur, where an inquiry is now being made by the cantonal authorities.

SWITZERLAND TO RECOGNISE FRANCO.

The Swiss Federal Council decided to give de jure recognition to the Franco Government. As the first step in establishing official diplomatic relations with Burgos the post of official representative will be raised to that of Minister.

SWISS DELEGATION.

The Federal Council has delegated, Professor K. Doerr in Basle, and M. J. Baer in Neuchâtel, to the 3rd International Congress of Microbiology, which will take place in New York in September next.

PROFESSOR K. SCHROETER †.

The death is announced from Zürich at the age of 84 of Professor Karl Schröter, the well-known botanist who studied principally the Alpine flowers and published several books on them. He was one of the creators of the Swiss National Park in the Engadine and devoted all his efforts to furthering the protection of nature in Switzerland. He was a Doctor *honoris causa* of several foreign universities, among them Cambridge.

SCHWEIZERISCHER KAUFMAENNISCHER VEREIN.

The " Schweizerischer Kaufmännischer Verein " in Switzerland registered a large influx of new members during the year 1935. The figures published show a membership of altogether 42,000 persons.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

On January 31st, the gold reserves of the Swiss National Bank amounted to 2,889 million Swiss francs; discounts and advances on securities reached 171.3 millions. The notes in circulation (1,650 millions) and the other liabilities at sight (1,725 millions) were covered by 85.6%.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Federal Council has granted a further subvention, amounting to 800,000 frs. to the administration of the Swiss National Exhibition, which will take place in Zurich in the month of May. (May 6th-October 29th.)

SPIRITUAL DEFENCE.

In recent months there has been much discussion on the subject of the "-spiritual defence " in Switzerland as a means of combating the disentegrating influences of foreign political propaganda. The Press has stressed the importance of keeping politics out of school and fostering education for citzenship and democracy, and quotes in support of the former plea the example of Germany, where theories and ideals, not sufficiently absorbed, were destroyed overnight. Proposals have been made in the Federal Parliament to promote this " spiritual defence " by a deeper study of the four national languages and Swiss history in elementary, secondary and military schools; by the institution of vacation courses in these subjects for university students and teachers who should, if possible, always follow such courses elsewhere than in their own language-areas; by the cross-translation of national literary masterpieces; and by the liberal use of the Press, radio and films, and popular excursions to such places of national interest as the Rütli, where the four forest cantons made their first federation in the thirteenth century.

The age of admission to apprenticeship to professions has now been fixed by the Federal Parliament at 15 years but as the numbers leaving school always exceed the number of vacant posts, the Swiss Federation of Trade Unions and the Swiss Peasant Youth Movement have arranged that all young persons not placed immediately, shall spend a year working in the country, to the mutual benefit of themselves, their country hosts and the cause of " spiritual defence."

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

On the occasion of the General Assembly of the Army Officers of the canton of Zurich, homage was paid to the memory of the late General Wille and Colonel von Sprecher, chief of the General Staff, nearly 2,000 officers attended at this yearly gathering.

* * *

For the first time, since 1934 the Municipal Tramway administration registered a profit amounting to 211,199 frs.

* * *

Dr. H. Homberger, has been nominated " Direktor des Vorortes des Schweizerischen Handels- und Industrievereins," in succession to Dr. E. Wetter who has recently entered the Federal Government.

Dr. Homberger has represented our country on several occasions during negotiations for commercial treaties with Foreign governments.

BERNE.

Dr. Carl Wegelin, Professor of Pathology at the University of Berne, has celebrated his 60th birthday.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The death has occurred in Schaffhausen of Professor Karl Jezler, for 45 years drawing master at the " Kantonsschule " Schaffhausen.

BASLE.

Dr. George Schmidt has been appointed Director of the Art Gallery in Basle.

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 is reported from Basle of M. Josef Borer, Managing-Director of the " Schweizerischen Jsolarwerke " Breitenbach, at the age of 60.

AARGAU.

The death is announced from Lenzburg of Colonel Heinrich Jrmiger, at the age of 81. M. Jrmiger was for many years a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Aargau; he also was for a considerable time a member of the Grand Council over which he presided in 1910/11. From 1902-1929 he occupied the post of Manager of the " Hypothekarbank " in Lenzburg.

TICINO.

All the members of the cantonal government have been confirmed in their office; they are: MM. Altognini (radical); Forni (radical); Celio (conservative); Martignoni (conservative); and Canavascini (socialist).

VAUD.

Doctor Auguste Widmer-Curtal, the Doyen of the medical practitioners of the canton of Vaud, has died in Lausanne at the age of 86.

GENEVA.

The government of the canton of Geneva has voted a donation of 5,000 frs., towards the Funds for the Spanish refugees.

FOOTBALL.

12th February, 1939.

PORTUGAL 2 SWITZERLAND 4.

Played before an enthusiastic crowd of 28,000 at Lisbon, the result, though somewhat unexpected, was by all accounts well deserved. Without bothering to look up reference books, I think I am safe in saying that thereby Portugal becomes the only nation we ever beat in the first three international soccer encounters. And strange to say, the most emphatic victory was achieved right in the lion's den, at Lisbon. Portugal are far from being a negligible quantity in football; in fact their play is very much akin to that of the Spaniards who were the first to lower Britain's colours on the Continent.

Whether the enforced infusion of new blood in our almost standard national eleven was the cause of the good display, no one can say. Several of our internationals were unable to make the trip, so that our team stood as follows:—

Goal: Ballabio (Grenchen); Backs: Stelzer (Lausanne), Sauvain (Young Fellows); Halves: Guinchard (Servette), Vernati and Rauch (both Grasshoppers); Forwards: Bickel, Sydler, Trello, Walacek and G. Aeby.

The defence therefore did not include one Grasshopper, yet acquitted themselves in excellent fashion. The young goalkeeper is said to be exceptionally good . Of the rest they are all well known names with the exception of Sydler and he, by scoring the fourth goal places himself at once in a favourable light. Who knows, perhaps he is a descendant of one of the Sydlers' who represented Switzerland some thirty years ago.

As to the game, G. Aeby, our outside-left was in great form and scored the first goal early on. The Portuguese managed to equalise through their inside-left Sousa almost at once and it was not till just before half-time that Aeby booked our second point. After the restart the Swiss goal came under heavy pressure and in due time Santos, the inside-right, managed to put the score level once more. And now it was that our team ran into wonderful form, reminiscent of the best phases against England at Zurich. Halves and forwards showed beautiful combination and in the end were rewarded by a third goal from Bickel and a fourth, as already related, from Sydler. Towards the end Portugal tried all they knew to ward off certain defeat, in vain. The game ended at the score of 4:2 in Switzerland's favour and the players left the field accompanied by the cheers of a fair and sporty crowd. Well done ,the Reds!

M.G.