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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Federal Council has recognised *de jure* the Russian Border States of Lettland and Estland.

The political department handed to the French Ambassador in Berne a note in which the Federal Council expresses its surprise at the inflexible attitude of the French Government in connection with the Savoy Zone dispute.

The Mayors of the Municipalities in Savoy are protesting against the treatment of the Zone question by the French Government.

According to the *Gazette de Lausanne* there is a probability of the French Government being prepared to deal with the Savoy question in a conciliatory way.

The voters of Basel-Stadt have rejected for the fifth time within the year a legislative measure proposed by the Grand Council, where the Socialists and Communists command a majority. A new Income Tax law specially directed against the property classes has been rejected by 14,105 against 10,474 votes, 80 per cent. of the municipal voters participating.

The election for the Grand Council in the Canton of Aargau resulted in a majority of 3 to 1 against the Socialists; the peasants and the middle class parties securing 146 seats, the Socialists 54.

Following the example of Neuchâtel and St. Gall, the Cantons of Glarus and Vaud have also rejected Female Suffrage by a large majority.

May Day demonstrations took place throughout Switzerland, passing off without any untoward incidents.

According to the Swiss Co-operative Societies the index figure to April 1st has dropped to frs. 2,460.28 from frs. 2,493.30 on March 1st.

The semi-Government Kohlenzentrale, whose import monopoly will cease with the end of June, has announced the following drastic reductions in wholesale prices:

Ordinary pit coal	from fr. 170 to fr. 60 per ton
Briquettes	" 190 " 83 "
Coke	" 218 " 75 "
Anthracite	" 192 " 81 "

The Cercle Commerciale Suisse in Paris celebrated on April 24th the Fortieth Anniversary of its foundation.

The newly founded Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Paris held its first Banquet on April 30th under the chairmanship of Mr. Dunant, the Swiss Minister.

The Swiss author Flegenheimer, known as Ed. Fleg, has been elected Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour.

Captain Charles Kuhn, Captain de Ribaupierre and Lieutenant Thommen were elected by the Swiss Federal Military Department to represent Switzerland at the recent "Concours Hippique Militaire Internationale" at Nice, where they attained excellent results in races, hotly contested by officers and horses representing the best class from the various competing countries.

Foremost are the successes of Captain Charles Kuhn, riding instructor at the Federal Cavalry Establishment in Thun, who secured with his mount "Gecko" the Cup of the Town of Nice and also the "Grand Prix de la ville de Nice." 78 starters went to the post for this latter, highly coveted prize, a race which was particularly severe and difficult, in which Lieutenant Thommen on "Kansas" further secured the ninth prize.

In the "Prix de Monte-Carlo" for pairs, which attracted 72 competitors, Captain Kuhn on "Gecko" and Lieutenant Thommen on "Kansas" secured sixth position. Swiss military and sporting circles are justly elated by the commendable victories of our officers.

Some hundreds of horses, purchased in Ireland for cavalry mounts in the Swiss Army, are being shipped in batches at Folkestone Harbour for Boulogne, *en route* for Switzerland.

The recent Census of Switzerland gives her a Protestant majority. She has 2,217,798 Protestants, 1,593,538 Catholics, 56,403 "Old Catholics" and 20,755 Jews.

In Mendrisio (Tessin) the position of Municipal Electrician became vacant. Three applications were received, one from a Swiss and one each from a German and Italian, the post finally falling to the Italian. (Again a foreigner! Is it feasible that Switzerland, who is right in the front rank in the electro-technical industry, does not produce an electrician capable of successfully standing his ground in his native country against all foreign comers?—ED.)

For the purpose of improving communications between London and Switzerland it is proposed to lay three new telephone lines between Switzerland and Paris, two from Geneva and one from Basle and Zurich.

OBITUARY.—Lieut.-Col. J. B. Grütter, who was a well-known figure in the public life of St. Gall, died on April 29th at the age of 72.