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# The Swiss Observer

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## ARMAND GUGGENHEIM †.

Monsieur Armand Guggenheim, the Swiss Consul in Manchester, died on Thursday, November 15th, after a long illness, from which he had been suffering for the last three years; he was cremated on Saturday, Nov. 17. At the funeral service, Monsieur A. J. Fontannaz, Swiss Consul in Liverpool, represented the Federal Council, and referred in touching words to the great qualities of his colleague; a short address was also given by Monsieur Ulrich Hagenbuch, the chancellor in Manchester, who presented the condolences of Monsieur Paravicini and the Swiss Legation in London. Both these gentlemen deposited beautifully inscribed wreaths, displaying the Federal colours. Mr. Jucker spoke on behalf of the Consular Association of Manchester. Amongst those present at the funeral were the two sons of the deceased, Mr. L. Guggenheim (his brother), members of his firm, and representatives of the Swiss institutions in Manchester.

The deceased, who leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter, was born in Zurich in 1860, where he was educated, completing his studies at Neuchâtel. He commenced his commercial career with a Zurich firm, subsequently going to Marseilles and Bombay, and finally settling down in Manchester with Messrs. E. Spinner & Co., merchant shippers, of which firm at the time of his death he was the senior partner. In 1917 he was appointed Swiss Consul for the Manchester district. Monsieur Guggenheim, who had travelled a great deal in Europe and the Near East, was very highly respected by all with whom he came in contact, and rendered signal services to our country, whose commercial interests found in him an extremely able exponent. Madame Guggenheim has received from the Political Department in Berne a letter of sympathy, expressing the high esteem in which her husband was held in official quarters, and acknowledging the valuable services rendered by him to the Confederation.

The Conradi trial at Lausanne resulted in the acquittal of the accused. To most of the questions, submitted by the judge, the jury, after an absence of about two hours, returned positive answers by a majority of five to four, which, as the Valais cantonal law prescribes a majority of six, is equivalent to a "not guilty" verdict. Conradi and his accomplice, Poloumine, have been released, being simply mulcted in the costs of the trial. The verdict has been received in Switzerland with varying comment, the opinion being freely expressed that such a crime should not remain entirely unpunished, although the extenuating circumstances called for a certain display of clemency. It is also feared that the unfavourable impression, created in Russia, may prejudice our relations with that country. Arcadius Poloumine, who was accused of complicity, is, by a decree of the Federal Council, expelled from Switzerland; if none of the neighbouring states is willing to receive him, he will be interned.

The Federal Council proposes to allocate a sum of Frs. 50,000 for the benefit of the victims of the Japanese earthquake.

The October figures of totally unemployed in Switzerland exhibit an increase of 5.2% against the September figures; they amount now to 24,013, the largest quotas being contributed by the unskilled (5,808) and the building trade (4,584).

In order to ratify the Opium Convention, to which Switzerland has given her consent, it is proposed to promulgate a special law, which will regulate and control the manufacture and sale of opium, morphia and cocaine.

A police officer, named Monachon, of Brassus (Vaud), was shot dead whilst in pursuit of two criminals who escaped from a local penitentiary; the murderer was being hidden in a house occupied by relatives, from the window of which he kept firing before being re-arrested.

A conscientious objector, Corporal Dr. Bernhard Lang, of Langenthal, has been condemned, for the third time, to fifteen days' imprisonment, in addition to degradation, for having refused to fulfil his military duties.

The prohibition of boxing matches in the canton of Zurich is likely to be the sequence of some undignified scenes, enacted in Zurich during a recent boxing match.

A new electric line, called the Centovalli Railway, leading from Domodossola to Locarno, will be opened to traffic on Monday, the 26th inst.

Antonio Battaligni, who in former years took an active part in the political life of the canton Ticino, has died at Massagno at the age of 78.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

"Die ürsprüngliche Feuerwehr." — Im Kanton Thurgau war nach einem Brandfall zwischen einer Ortsvorsteherschaft und einem Gemeinderat Streit entstanden darüber, wer die Kosten eines Feuerwehrtrunkes zu übernehmen hat. Im strittigen Falle unterhielt die Ortsgemeinde ihre eigenen Feuerwehren, und so zankte man sich über die Frage, ob die Kosten des Trunkes von den die Munizipalgemeinde bildenden Ortsgemeinden gemeinsam oder von der vom Brandfall betroffenen Ortsgemeinde allein getragen werden sollen. Der thurgauische Regierungsrat hielt die Sache für wichtig genug, in seinem Rechenschaftsbericht grundsätzlich zu der Frage Stellung zu nehmen. Er kommt mit Recht dazu zu erklären, dass es als allgemeine oder doch sehr verbreitete Übung angenommen werden dürfte, dass die vom Brandfall betroffene Gemeinde als Erkenntlichkeit für die freundschaftliche Hilfeleistung die Kosten der den auswärtigen Feuerwehren verabreichte Erfrischung übernimmt, nachdem die Barentschädigung für die Feuerwehrleute von deren Wohngemeinde getragen wird. Im Interesse rascher und williger gegenseitiger Hilfeleistung sollte die bisherige Übung bei nicht übermässiger Brand- und Erfrischungsfrequenz weiter bestehen bleiben und die vom Brandfall betroffene Gemeinde ihrem Dank an die hilffleistenden Nachbargemeinden nicht bloss durch freundschaftlichen Händedruck oder durch wohlge-setztes Inserat Ausdruck verleihen. (*Sarganserländische Volksz.*)

Hilfsaktion für die Russlandschweizer. — Wie allgemein bekannt, herrscht grosses Elend bei unseren Landsleuten, welche Russland, das Land ihrer Tätigkeit, unter dem Druck der Verhältnisse verlassen mussten und mittellos in die Schweiz heimkehrten. Deshalb sah sich die Schweizerisch-Russische Hilfsgesellschaft, unter dem Ehrenpräsidium von alt-Bundespräsident Dr. F. Calonder, veranlasst, eine grosse Lotterie zu veranstalten, dank welcher bis anhin 500,000 Franken für Unterstützungszwecke verwendet werden konnten. Zum Verkaufe gelangte nun die dritte und letzte Emission der Lose dieser Wohltätigkeits-Lotterie, welche aber auch zugleich ganz ausgezeichnete Gewinnchancen bietet. Von der Gesamtverlosungsumme von 1,250,000 Franken wurden bis jetzt an Treibern zirka 700,000 Franken ausbezahlt, wonach noch Gewinne im Gesamtwerte von rund 550,000 Franken verbleiben. — Auch auf die jetzt zum Verkauf gelangten letzten Lose dieser Lotterie entfallen Haupttreffer von 50,000 Franken, 15,000, 7,000, 4,000 Franken, usw. Es ergeht nun die herzliche Bitte an unsere Mitbürger, diese Lotterie durch Ankauf von Losen à 1 Fr. das Stück tatkräftig zu unterstützen. — Anfragen, Bestellungen und Spenden werden mit Dank entgegengenommen von der Schweizerisch-Russischen Hilfsgesellschaft, Zürich 1, Limmatquai 12; Postscheck VIII/8368. (*National Zeitung.*)

## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The subscription lists for the new Federal Loan opened on the 23rd of November. The term of the loan has eventually been fixed at eight years, and the amount to be issued at Frs. 100,000,000. The rate of interest is 5% and the price of issue, par.

It is reported in the Press that the Swiss National Bank has asked the various Swiss banks to render a statement of their holdings of gold, bank notes and silver. The object of this enquiry is to establish, as nearly as possible, how great a proportion of the Swiss note issue is really in current circulation in the country, and how much is to be presumed to be abroad. It is generally realised that many very haphazard estimates of the foreign holdings of Swiss money have been current in the Press. The amount so held is, no doubt, very large, and any authoritative estimate of the position is to be welcomed as helping to illuminate a situation which may well form a grave menace to the stability of Switzerland's exchange.

The Directors of the Sulzer Concern in Winterthur have now issued the preliminary figures of the accounts for the business year which ended with the 30th of September last. The results show a net profit of Frs. 229,496. This serves somewhat to reduce the large deficit left at the close of the preceding year, and a debit balance of Frs. 724,015 which still remains will have to be carried forward to the new year.

The approach of the Winter Sports season causes the interest of many people in this country again to be focussed on Switzerland. The occasion may, therefore, be suitable to call attention to the convenience of the system of Postal Travellers'

Cheques, which provides a very useful and simple means by which the visitor to Switzerland may assure himself of a ready supply of Swiss money, without the inconvenience of carrying large supplies of notes or cashing larger cheques in the banking centres. The cheques may be bought from the Swiss Bank Corporation's offices in London, and are issued in booklets of 10 cheques, each of Frs. 50 or Frs. 100, as desired. They can be cashed without formality at any Post Office in Switzerland—and the advantage of such a privilege is clear to all who know the ubiquity of the Post Office in Switzerland. Ready cash can thus be obtained in every outlying hamlet upon presentation of the booklet of cheques at the counter. The system is the essence of simplicity, safety and convenience.

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Nov. 13		Nov. 20	
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	75.12%	74.00%		
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	100.50%	100.35%		
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	77.65%	76.77%		
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	101.50%	101.95%		
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	67.00%	67.50%		

  

SHARES.	Nov. 13		Nov. 20	
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	639	641	
Crédit Suisse	500	672	673	
Union de Banques Suisses	500	532	535	
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3110	3160	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2185	2198	
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1090	1092	
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	617	617	
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	600	600	
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	500	269	265	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	167	167	
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	107	107	
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	485	485	



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