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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

COMMUNISTS EXPELLED.

Two foreign communist agitators who have taken a leading part in recent demonstrations have been expelled from Swiss territory by order of the Federal Council.

THE BASSANESI AFFAIR.

The official enquiries have not yet led to any definite conclusions; it seems that some local residents in Lodrino have been drawn into the affair without being aware of its character or portent. An Italian labourer working in this district has since been arrested by the Ticinese police as he is suspected of being an accomplice.

BROWN BOVERI & CO.

The annual report of this great engineering concern has just been published. The profit is similar to last year's (about 5.3 million francs), and the dividend is again 9 per cent. Among its manifold interests the subsidiary companies in France and America have done exceptionally well, on the other hand business in Poland has resulted in a loss.

SWISS CURRENCY.

On July 15th 1930 a new 20-franc banknote was put into circulation, as decreed by the law on the Swiss National Bank of June 21st, 1929.

This note is a little smaller than the present one and has on the front the portrait of Henry Pestalozzi. It is a reproduction of the beautiful picture by Felix Maria Diogg (1764-1834) and is the work of the Art Institute Orell Füssli in Zurich.

It is a deep copper print in which the selection of the colours and their combinations as well as the arrangements of the print are all combined to protect them from counterfeiters. The present 20-franc notes will, however, remain in circulation for some time yet.

On this occasion it will be recalled that according to federal law on the National Bank the copying of Banknotes is prohibited.

Lately many complaints have been voiced that the circulation of notes in Switzerland leaves a lot to be desired, particularly as to cleanliness. It is to be remembered in this connection that the National Bank is devoting its attention to this point. It has instructed all its branches that torn, dirty or defaced notes shall be withdrawn from circulation. In the last few days also the Railways, Post and Customs Offices have been instructed to assist in reducing the circulation of dirty notes. The National Bank also appeals to Private Banks and Establishments to retain torn or otherwise defaced notes so as to return them to the Note Bank by exchanging them at their official branches.

MILITARY REPETITION COURSES 1931.

A new situation will present itself in the coming year as no soldiers have to do any military service, who have been on active service, as the 1898 class will enter this year into the 1st Reserve (Landwehr).

Through this the rules of the Military Organisation come into force without any exceptions. To the Repetition Courses next year have to present themselves: A *Elite I*, All troops, with the exception of Cavalry; all Officers, higher non-commissioned Officers and sergeants who have not yet served ten Repetition Courses; corporals, lance-corporals and soldiers who have not yet served seven Repetition Courses. The soldiers who pass their Recruit School in 1931 have only to enter the Repetition Course when personally ordered to do so. 2.—Cavalry: All Officers, all higher non-commissioned Officers and sergeants, all corporals, lance-corporals and troopers who have not served eight Repetition Courses. For the troops of the Motor-Service and the Medical Corps the regulations of the above named troops are in force. 3.—Also the soldiers of the 1st Reserve belonging to the mixed Headquarter Staffs have to enter, the service being considered as a 1st Reserve Repetition Course.

B First Reserve (Landwehr). Six Infantry Regiments will be called up. All Officers, non-commissioned Officers, lance-corporals and soldiers of the classes 1893-98 as well as those who have been previously placed into the 1st Reserve of the 1899 class are called up.

Grand Manoeuvres will take place in the 4th and 5th Division, Detachments Repetition Courses with manoeuvres in the Brigade in the 2nd and 6th Division and detail Brigade Repetition Courses in the 1st and 3rd Division. *St. G.T.*

THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

Unemployment during June has shown a slight improvement on the May figures but is still very unsatisfactory as compared with the statistics for the corresponding period last year. The improvement is evident in the building, metallurgical and textile trades. The crisis in the watch industry still continues and is accentuated by a further reduction in the men employed.

LOCAL. ZURICH.

In the Great Town Council of Zurich Dr. Buomberger proposed that the Town Council be invited to study and to transmit the result to the Great Town Council, if it were not possible to provide help from resources of the town, to families with a large number of children, who have at least a 5-years' uninterrupted residence in Zurich. He reminded his hearers as to the splendid results of this help in France, which has been copied in Belgium and Holland. Also Italy gives premiums to large families. In Switzerland, he mentioned that the Roll's Ironworks have created a fund to support worker's families with many children. He proposes that the town of Zurich as such should start such an undertaking and thereby set a good example to the whole of Switzerland. The sum which would come into consideration would not be a large one as there are only 1,443 families with 5 and more children. Taking into account that half of this number, or 720, would come under the classification of necessitous and which should be granted 300 Frs. per annum. The annual amount would be 216,000 Frs.

The speaker paid a glowing tribute to the large family. After several speakers from different parties joined in the debate the voting resulted in 42 in favour and 26 against the proposal. These 26 were made up by the votes of the Socialists and Communists. *N.Z.Z.*

The 51-year-old upholsterer Frowmelt attempted to murder his 28-year-old sweetheart by shooting her. They were neighbours and the engagement which started in 1927 was broken off by the woman.

On Tuesday morning he called her and when she approached he drew a pistol and shot her through the heart. He then turned the weapon upon himself, without, however, much damage. The doctors doubt as to his being in possession of all his faculties. *N.Z.*

Schweiz. Bundesfeier
Fête Nationale Suisse
Festa Nazionale Svizzera

G R E A T

Patriotic Demonstration

Arranged by the Swiss Clubs and Societies
ON
Friday, August 1st, 1930
From 3 to 9 p.m.
on the Grounds of the Swiss Rifle Association at
HENDON

ADDRESS by the Swiss Minister
FOLK-LORE SONGS by members of the Swiss Choral Society
RIFLE SHOOTING at the 100 yds. Automatic Targets for valuable prizes
MILITARY BRASS BAND of 18 performers
LARGE DANCING FLOOR to hold about 400 dancers

Many other attractions such as Coccoanut Shies, Ball Board, "Dandy," Treasure Hunt, Stop-watch Competition, etc.

Refreshments at popular prices

ADMISSION FREE to all Swiss and their families

BERNE.
The well-known firm of Dr. A. Wander A.G., in Berne, has decided to open a factory in Warsaw for the manufacture of Ovomaltine. Large concessions for Income Tax have been made to the firm by the Polish Government. *N.Z.Z.*

LUCERNE.
As the result of the poll on Sunday the 13th July, the compulsory Unemployment Insurance for all workers has come into force in Lucerne. This includes all workers in trade and commerce who are not already insured against unemployment or whose income from all sources does not exceed 5,000 Frs., or £200. *V.*

BASLE.
After a long illness, Dr. Casimir Schulthess-Schulthess died in Bale. He came of an old Zurich patrician family. Although active as one of the best-known dentists in Bale for many years, his love for his native Zurich was uppermost. He was the president and founder of the Odontological Society in Bale, the interests of which he pursued with fervency and zeal. He was also the founder of the dental clinic in Bale of which institute he was the Director. As representative of the Swiss Dentists he was at several International Congresses and was president of the Congress at Chicago in 1890. His death is a great loss to many a charitable and social institution amongst them the Grand Lodge Alpina, which loses in him a great and ardent supporter. *N.Z.Z.*

GENEVA.
On the occasion of a shooting competition arranged by the "Société du bataillon 13" at the shooting range at Bernex two competitors were hit by ricocheting bullets and had to be removed to the Cantonal Hospital. M. Stocker was detained, a bullet having entered his abdomen, whilst P. Segnon, who was hit on the left arm was discharged after having been attended to. *T.G.*

A char-a-banc taking 15 schoolgirls from a French boarding school on a picnic fell 100 yards into a ravine, while travelling on the mountain road from the Col de la Forelaz to Chamonix. The driver and one of the teachers were killed outright and one of the girls was so badly injured that she died a few hours afterwards. Six other girls are badly injured and eight have received minor injuries. It is stated that the driver disregarded a warning of the Swiss authorities that the road was not yet safe for traffic. *D.T.*

NEUCHÂTEL.
A very cruel joke was played on a small child who was watching some lead being boiled, which was to be used for canalisation purposes at the Rue des Jeannerets. A complete stranger passing the child started a conversation and suggested that it should dip its hand into the lead; after hesitating at first, the child, due to the insistent encouragement of the stranger, did so. Terrible shrieks brought people at once to the spot. Whilst the child, who suffered from terrible burns was attended to, the miserable stranger disappeared. *J.S.*

APPENZELL.
A fight between ravenous birds of the air and devouring beasts of the field was witnessed by the game keeper Zimmermann in the district of the Schwägelalp. He saw an eagle on a snow-field devouring his prey, a hare, being attacked by two crows, which he was only able to keep at bay with heavy beats of his wings.

As usual when two parties engage in a fight a third one is attracted, in this case a stately fox. The fight lasted for over an hour in which the king of the air defended his belongings and alternately had his feed. Having had his fill he took to his wings leaving to his jealous adversaries the remainder of the feast, over which another fight ensued. *N.Z.*

ST. GALL.
The firm of Bebie & Co., spinners in Linthal, has decided to close down its works for several months as from the middle of August. This is the outcome of the continuous bad state of business preventing the disposal of their manufacture, thereby causing the firm very heavy losses. The closing down will affect 70 workers. *St. G.T.*

VAUD.
The Executive Council of Lausanne has voted the following credits, without any opposition or discussion: 1,250,000 Frs. for the enlargement and restoration of the "Théâtre Municipal," 41,000 Frs. for further agrandissement of the "Quai d'Onchy," and 68,000 Frs. for the acquirement of land to cultivate flowers. *J.S.*