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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### FELIX CALONDER NOT TO RESIGN.

It is reported that, on account of the incessant exhortations on the part of the Council of the League of Nations, M. Felix Calonder, President of the German-Polish Arbitration Commission, has withdrawn his resignation.

#### DAY'S REST A WEEK BY LAW.

The National Council passed, last week, a bill providing for a compulsory period of 24 hours rest each week in trade and industry.

#### SWISS LOAN FOR HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Commercial Bank has placed with a syndicate headed by the Swiss Bank Corporation Hungarian Seven per cent. Bonds to the extent of 15,000,000 Swiss francs. Subscriptions for the bonds opened at 98.

#### NEW SWISS HOLDING COMPANY.

Details are now available regarding the Swiss holding company which has just been formed to take over the industrial participations of the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt in Vienna. The new company is to be known as "Continental Gesellschaft für Bank und Industriewerte" and is to have its headquarters in Basle. Its object is "to participate in banking and industrial undertakings, principally on the Continent of Europe."

The immediate purpose is to take over a part of the industrial and banking holdings of the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt, which comprise interests in every branch of activity and are widely distributed over Europe. The capital is 60,000,000 francs in 40,000 fully paid shares and 80,000 shares 50 per cent. paid up.

It is expected that the company will proceed at an early date to a bond issue, which is likely to total 40,000,000 francs, of a Five and a-Half per cent. type and having a currency of 15 years, with an option of redemption after 10 years.

The company is being formed under the auspices of an international group of bankers headed by the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, the Oesterreichische Creditanstalt in Vienna, S. M. Rothschild in Vienna, Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd., in London, and Warburg and Co. in Amsterdam. The Board, which is under the Chairmanship of Mr. Armand Dreyfus, of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has among its members representatives of the various participating concerns. Mr. Albert Palache represents the interests of Helbert Wagg and Co., Ltd.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN BERNE.

The Federal Council has allocated an amount of £76,000 towards the expenses of an international exhibition of popular art, to be held at Berne in 1934.

#### SCHOOL CHILDREN'S TRIPS THROUGH THE ST. GOTTHARD TUNNEL.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the St. Gotthard Tunnel, the Swiss Federal Railways arranged specially reduced fares for school children travelling in parties over the line. Schools from every part of the country took advantage of this offer, and on certain days as many as 5,000 children passed through the tunnel. Up to the end of June already 60,000 school children had made the journey.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

After the fiasco of the Communist rally in Schaffhausen the contingent from Zurich tried to demonstrate on their return. They met some of their stay-at-home confrères and held a rally of their own on the Helvetia Platz. Hair-raising stories were told of how the military motors, laden with soldiery and machine guns, were rushed through the streets; how the comrades had been beaten and ill-treated by them until blood ran in streams, but that in spite of all the Communists had not only gained a moral but a very effective victory. The Bourgeoisie had at last realised that Communism is getting more and more powerful even in Switzerland, and that it would become a force which would repay a thousand-fold the shameful acts of the murderers of the Proletariat. From the plinth of the

Helvetia fountain a youngster exhorted his Communist listeners, now that the moment had arrived, to "go for the whole lot" and to establish a Swiss Soviet; the opponents must all "be done in" and no respite should be given until the whole of the miserable opposition had been "done away with."

But the beautiful evening was irresistible and instead of "demonstrating" the crowd of about 300 dispersed after a revolutionary song.

N.Z.Z.

In the night of Saturday-Sunday last a motorist reported himself to the police after having placed his car into the garage.

He stated that he drove some people from Zurich to Baden and that suddenly in Neuhof, near Baden, his off-side rear window was smashed. As he noticed some fellows in front of him, he thought that it was an act of animosity and drove on. On his return journey he noticed at Neuhof a motor car and some fellows standing around it. He did not stop. On arriving home and putting his car into the garage he looked at the smashed window closer and found blood and hair adhering to the frame work of it and he came to the conclusion that an accident must have happened.

On investigation by the police it was found that one of the fellows had lurched towards the quickly moving motor car and with his head had smashed the window. The man had his head split open and fell dead into the road. He is Robert Scherz, 31, single, of Dürllingen, Berne, who, a week previously, had started work on the new Limmat power works in Wettingen. The motorist, who at first was detained on remand, has been liberated.

St.G.T.

#### BERNE.

The Canton of Berne is issuing a 4 per cent. loan of 25,000,000 francs for the conversion of the 5 per cent. loan 1919. The issue price is 98½ per cent., and the bonds are redeemable by 1948.

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The Jungfrau Bahn showed receipts for the month of August of 448,000 Frs. as against 517,000 Frs. in 1929, and expenditure in both years of 83,000 Frs.

The amounts for January to August are: receipts 119,830 Frs. against 255,576 Frs. in 1929 with an expenditure of 457,000 Frs. in both years.

V.

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That quadruplets should celebrate the 50th anniversary of their birth is not a very common occurrence. But this extraordinary jubilee was commemorated by the four brothers and sisters Gehri in Münchenbuchsee on September 26th. Oscar, Berta, Rosa and Anton Gehri were born on the 26th of September, 1880, in Oberlinbach. Their father was the artist Charles Samuel Gehri, who was well-known through his pictures representing Bernese customs and was one of the illustrators of Zahn's Edition of the works of Jeremias Gotthelf.

St.G.T.

#### GRIMSEL STAUSEE.

Since last week the old Grimsel Hospiz has disappeared in the waters of the new lake, which has already gained a considerable size. The one-time clear waters of the Grimsel lakes are now muddy and discoloured, but are filling up the basin which has been artificially formed.

N.Z.Z.

#### BASEL-LAND.

In the night of September 18th-19th a wire was drawn across the road just outside the village of Lausen on the Basel-Olten road, evidently with the intention of attacking any oncoming motorcyclist. A saloon car was, however, the first to encounter this obstacle, suffering only slight damage.

The Basel section of the Swiss Automobile Club has offered a reward of 250 Frs. for the apprehension of the perpetrators. Last Saturday the cantonal police from Liestal arrested the 21-year-old Hans Merz and the 16-year-old locksmith apprentice W. Blatter, both from Lausen. The two have admitted the deed, but state that it was done in a spirit of youthful exuberance. St.G.T.

#### FRIBOURG.

The death is reported of Dr. Félix Rémy, doyen of the medical corps of the canton of Fribourg, at Bulle at the age of 82. He accomplished his studies at the Universities of Berne and Paris and had an extensive practice at Bulle, where he was highly esteemed for his skill and aimability.

Continued on back page.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

### R. 101.

A very gallant party of Englishmen have laid down their lives in yet another effort of mankind to wrest some of Nature's secrets from her jealously guarded bosom. We can but mourn their untimely loss; we can but silently wonder; we can but offer our mute sympathy, our heartfelt condolence to their bereaved families.

Even Time, the great healer, will hardly ever be able to efface from our minds the anguished shudder that ran through us when the dread news came through. Truly, the R.101 was not so much an English adventure as a human effort and as such really affecting all mankind, and the whole human family feels bereaved by the terrible loss of these gallant men.

Ours is not to reason why. Ours is but to praise the Almighty that He in His wisdom has imbued the human race with the sacred fire of searching and probing into Nature's secrets and that He has, in all times since the beginning of man's reign on earth, lit that fire again and again and so enabled mankind to proceed from step to step, always upwards!

And among those who have actively fought that battle against the elements, the heroes of R.101 will ever be remembered and in giving their lives for a cause which, whatever one may think, must always be a great endeavour and a noble effort, they have carried that sacred duty of search a step further, and the knowledge and certainty that their beloved ones have died in active service for mankind as a whole, must be some consolation to the dear ones they have left behind.

We Swiss who, among our native mountains, are ever beset by Nature's dangers and who know what fighting the elements can mean, we salute these gallant heroes, we shall cherish their memories and we feel, as human beings, proud of their valour.

### The Matterhorn takes its Revenge.

Sphere, 27th September:

Among those who live in the high valleys of the Alps there is a saying that the Old Man of the Mountain always wins in the end—that the White Death awaits those who become irreverent or grow blasé over his tolerance. Guides who have grizzled among the peaks and defiles of the Bernese Oberland, the Valaisian Alps, and the Mont Blanc and Jungfrau ranges seldom, when sober, speak disparagingly of the mountains—they have seen them triumph far too often.

The recent tragic (mountaineers find it heroic) end of the career of Hermann Perren of Zermatt, ace of contemporary guides, just as he was about to end his mountaineering days, is a typical example of the Odysseys which are yearly recorded, yet seldom sung on the printed page, among the mountain folk.

Perren was born in the mountains, he lived his life in the mountains, and died in the mountains. At the age of sixty he had conquered the famous Matterhorn, king of Swiss peaks, 143 times. His goal was 150 ascensions, after which he had promised his family and friends that he would retire from the sport—and business. He knew every cranny and crack of the rugged and forbidding peak against which he had so many times matched his instinct and intelligence amid adverse conditions.

But, like Alexander Burgener, around whom they still weave legends in the Oberlands, although two decades have passed since the Bergli hurled an avalanche down upon the intrepid guide and his companions, enveloping them in the white death that is so omnipresent, Hermann Perren could not fight the unknown. He may have passed over the same spot a score of times in the days gone by, yet when a treacherous *pont de neige* opened at his feet he dragged his companion, to whom he was

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