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# Che Swiss Observer

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# HOME NEWS

# FEDERAL.

# SWISS BUDGET.

**SWISS BUDGET.** The Budget of the Swiss Confederation for 1931, just passed by Parliament, estimates expen-diture at £16,128,000, and receipts at £15,820,000, thus leaving an estimated deficit of £308,000, while it had been expected that the Budget would record a surplus. The estimated deficit is not due to a drop in receipts, but to an increase in expendi-ture, which is £40,000 higher than last year in consequence of various extraordinary subsidies. For example, £170,000 has been granted for the Federal Polytechnical High School in Zurich, £80,000 for primary schools, £112,000 for unem-ployed insurance, and £30,000 for professional education. Moreover, and despite a certain op-position on the part of the Socialists, Parliament agreed to grant £160,000 for the reorganization and re-equipment of the Air Corps, and £112,000 for national defence and the purchase of military material and equipment. material and equipment.

#### SWISS CENSUS, 1930.

The following official figures regarding the Swiss Census taken last month have been published :

	icu .				
	Cantons		1930	1920	
	Zurich		616,961	538,602	
	Berne		686,400~	674,394	
	Lucerne		189,455	177,073	
	Uri		23,017	23,973	
	Schwyz		63,002	59,731	
	Obwalden		19,386	17,567	
	Nidwalden		15,100	13,956	
	Glarus		35,666	33.843	
	Zug		34,406	31,569	
	Fribourg		143,393	143,055	
	Soleure		144,578	130,671	
	Baselstadt		153,624	140.708	
6	Baselland		92,643	82,390	
	Schaffhausen		51,227	50,428	
	Appenzell A.	Rh.	48,927	55,354	
	Appenzell I. 1	Rh.	13,981	14,614	
	St. Gallen		285,893	295,543	
	Graubünden		126,459	119.854	
	Aargau		260,002	240.776	
	Thurgau		135,706	135,933	
	Vaud		331,323	317.498	
	Valais		137,741	128,246	
	Neuchâtel		124,704	131,349	
	Genève		173,308	171,000	
				,	

The figures for the Canton of Ticino are not yet available. It is estimated that the popula-tion of Switzerland per 1st December, 1930, will be about 4,056,000 compared with 3,887,000 in 1920, an increase of 169,000.

## RECEPTION AT THE PALAIS FEDERAL.

M. Häberlin, President of the Swiss Con-federation, received a visit of the diplomatic corps in corpore on New Year's day.

#### OPPOSITION TO TOBACCO DUTY.

The Central Committee of the Communist party has decided to initiate a Referendum against the tobacco and cigarette tax which has been passed by Parliament.

#### A SUBVENTION FOR THE PRESS.

The Federal Council has granted an amount of 5,000 francs towards the cost of erecting and maintaining a permanent home to Journalists accredited to the Secretariat of the League of Vertices Nations

# MITTELHOLZER'S AFRICAN FLIGHT.

The Swiss Aviator Mittelholzer arrived at Thies near Dakar on his return flight from Africa. N.Z.Z.

#### LOCAL. ZURICH.

M. Emile Zubler, a bank clerk, who met with an accident when ski-ing on the Flums mountain, has succumbed to his injuries. N.Z.Z.

A burglary took place at the premises of Messrs. Halder, Sports Outfitters, at Mihlegasse, where large quantities of goods were stolen. N.Z.Z.

# LONDON, JANUARY 10. 1931.

BERNE. King Albert of Belgium and his Queen have arrived at Murren, where they intend to make a prolonged stay.

Miss Beatrice Marbach, daughter of the pro-prietor of the Hotel Bären in Berne, has lost her life on the Männlichen, having been overtaken and buried by an avalanche when on a ski-ing expedition. N.Z.Z. \* \* \*

The "Burgdorfer Tagblatt " has celebrated its 100th anniversary.

#### GLARUS.

**GLARUS.** A party consisting of fifteen Germans who were on a ski-ing tour on the Wichenalp, fell into a crevasse and were buried by a mass of snow. Twelve members of the expedition managed to free themselves, but the other three, Dr. H. Clare and the Misses E. Klöttner and H. Gelpke, all from Berlin, lost their lives. St.T.

#### BASLE.

The Senate of the University of Basle has con ferred on M. H. Haeberlin, President of the Swiss Confederation, the degree of "doctor honoris causa" in recognition of his eminent works on Pedera Linear Science (1997). N.Z. Federal law.

### AARGAU.

M. A. Roniger-Hurliman, Manager of the Feldschloessli Brewery at Rheinfelden, has made several bequests to public and private institutions, amounting to 32,500 frs., on the occasion of his 50th birthday. A.T. \* \* \*

August Schmid, 39, a bricklayer, was run over and killed by a motor car whilst crossing the road at Frick. The car, which was travelling in the direction of Basle, did not stop. N.Z.Z.

# NEUCHATEL.

A fatal accident has occurred in a train travelling between Vaimarcus and Saint-Aubin. A passenger, M. J. Schmid, 64 years old, tried to pass from one carriage to another, when he slipped on the platform, which was covered with ice. He fell underneath the train and was killed in-stantaneously. stantaneously. VZ

#### ST. GALL.

On New Year's Eve, a fire destroyed four homesteads with two stables at Gretschins, de-priving seven families, numbering 23 persons, of their homes. The houses being insufficiently in-sured, heavy losses will be sustained by those who have been already so sorely tried. N.Z.

#### SCHAFFHOUSE.

The death is reported of M. Traugott Waldvogel, National Councillor, who played a prominent part in the affairs of his canton, M. A. Rahm, a member of the Grand Council and adherent to the Peasant party, will succeed to the seat in the National Council. J.S.P.

#### GRAUBUENDEN.

A native of St. Gallen, who spent his Christ-mas holiday at St. Moritz, presented a sum of 10,000 frs. to the Maire as a gift for the poor of the parish. J.s.P.\* \* \*

The Cantonal Government has sent an exposé to the Federal Dept. of Post and Railways in Berne setting forth the reason why they oppose the project of the Piz-Bernina Railway, proposed by the Communities of Samaden and Pontresina,

#### GRINDELWALD.

Johann Baumann, the veteran peasant of Grindelwald, well known to many visitors to that Alpine resort, died on January 3rd at the age of 91 years. Baumann, in his younger days, was one of the most famous guides. J.G.



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#### NOTES AND GLEANINGS. By KYBURG.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON

#### 1931-1 9 3 1=14.

Seven being a holy or lucky number, 1931 is going to be doubly lucky for all of us ! q.e.d.

# A good friend of Switzerland.

(a) Seven being a holy holesy frames, i.e., i.e., i.e., on one of be doubly holesy for all of us! q.e.d.
(a) good friend of Switzerland.
The Times of January, 1931:
Mr. J. A. B. Bruce, whose death is recorded in The Times of January 1, was a very well-known figure in mountaineering circles both here and in Switzerland. No one in this country di so much as he in bringing together British and Swiss climbers. He realized many years ago that British climbers in the Alps did not as a rule belong to the Swiss Alpine Club, and that there was in consequence a feeling in Switzerland that we took advantage of the mountain huts without playing our part in their upkeep by joining that club which builds most of them. Bruce set to work in 1909 to rectify this state of affairs, and amid great difficulties he got together a strong body of British climbers who were already members of the S.A.C., an association which is now worknown as the Association of British Members of the largest British climbing clubs. In order to show the estimation in which our countrymen hold Switzerland, he put his remarkable energy into the work of collecting funds to build and present to the Swiss Alpine Club are Saas Fee, and was opened in 1912. Nothing in the way of an international gesture could have been so well timed, and form that moment the hitherto merely satisfactory relations between climbers in the two countries became definitely cordial. In international gatherings in the Alps since that time Bruce's name has always been received with enthusiasm, and he was particularly well known in Geneva. His personal popularity with the Swiss and his friendships with them were a passion with him, so that he came to regard anything which made for close relations between this country and Switzerland as the chief thing in his life, and the association which is not the moment the hitherto merely satisfactory the stand during the late without being in any way a great mountain.

relations between this country and Switzerland as the chief thing in his life, and the association which he founded kept his interest to the end. Only six weeks ago he was present at its annual dinner, probably his last public appearance.

## World Rover Moot.

Next Summer there will be a World Rover Moot at Kandersteg, anent which I find the Bulletin & Scots Pictorial writing as follows :

The youth of Scotland's Scott movement are on tiptoe with eagerness already for the first great World Rover Moot in Switzerland next July-August. About 200 Rovers scattered throughout the

About 200 Rovers scattered throughout the country have made application to attend. Edin-burgh heads the list with 74, Glasgow, is next with 42. The others are—Ayrshire, 15; Stir-lingshire, 12; Perthshire, 11; Angus, 10; Kin-ross, Dumfries, Morayshire, Wigtownshire, 5 each; Galashiels, 4; Fauldhouse, 3; Strathaven, 2; Selkirk, 1; and Dunoon, 1. "The request for applications was more or less a 'feeler' to see how the lads would respond to this great opportunity, and our ex-pectations have been fully realised," Captain E. M'Intyre, Scottish Headquarters' secretary of the Boy Scouts' Association, told "The Bulletin."

"The enthusiasm shown at the Auchen-gillan Moot a few months ago is evidently being maintained in Scotland.

maintained in Scotland. "This is the first World Rover Moot The venue is Kandersteg, Switzerland, and the dates are from July 30 to August 7, inclusive. The Rovers will come from everywhere. I have just heard of one in America who hopes to be there. It will be one of the best things we have ever done for our own fellows. They will get a grasp of the other fellows' points of view that will be a good influence on the peace of the world."

I heartily welcome these meetings, where boys of different countries get to know each other, to appreciate each other and above all to learn that they are all boys. These meetings, be they Boy

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