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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### ERECTION OF NEW SWISS POWER STATION.

In view of the growing need of the Federal Railways for power for traction, it was decided at a recent meeting of the Board of Administration that the construction of a new power station at the Etzel, on the River Sihl, in the Canton Schwyz, should be started this summer. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the autumn of 1934.

This new station will be erected by the Federal Railways in collaboration with the "Nordostschweizerische Kraftwerke A.G.," one of the principal power supply companies in this country. The plant owned by the railways will comprise three single-phase generators coupled to turbines of 20,000 h.p., while the "Nordostschweizerische Kraftwerke A.G." will have three three-phase generators coupled to turbines of 16,600 h.p. The cost is estimated at 62,000,000 Swiss francs (2,480,000) and will be shared by the railways and the power company to the extent of 55 and 45 per cent, respectively.

#### SWISS METAL PROFITS.

The Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Metallwerke, of Basle, the Swiss holding company for the Metallgesellschaft, of Frankfurt-on-Main., reports a net profit for 1930-31 of 1,600,000 Swiss francs compared with 2,450,000 Swiss francs in 1929-30. A dividend of 5 per cent. is recommended on the share capital of 25,000,000 Swiss francs against 9 per cent. The decrease in profit is attributed to increased expenditure and lower returns from its affiliated companies.

#### OLD SWISS UNIVERSITY CUSTOM MAY BE STAMPED OUT.

Duels between students at Swiss universities, which are sanctioned by age-old custom, are now being strenuously defended against legislative threats by the organised university societies of Switzerland.

This campaign in defence of duels has been aroused by a Bill now pending before the Swiss Parliament, which would class all duelling with ordinary crimes.

The organised university societies, however, protest that, whatever penalty may be inflicted for students' duels, they should not be classed as criminal offences.

Student duelling, which is now rigidly suppressed in Germany, is still in vogue at the universities of Berne, Zurich, Basle, and Fribourg.

#### NESTLÉ'S DIVIDEND.

The general meeting of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company passed the accounts for 1930, and the directors decided on a dividend of 8 per cent. on Preference shares and 16 per cent. on Founders' shares.

#### BANQUE POPULAIRE GENEVOISE.

The net profits of the Banque Populaire Genevoise amounted to 403,000f. for 1930, the same as for 1929. The dividend has been reduced from 6½ per cent. to 5½ per cent.

#### FEDERAL "SAENGERFEST," 1935.

On the occasion of the meeting at Olten of the "Eidgenössischer Sängerverein," under the chairmanship of M. Troyon; Basle has been elected as the town in which the competition in 1935 will take place. The voting was as follows: Basle 194 votes, Berne 117 votes.

#### METALLURGISTS' CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

Switzerland will be the scene of this year's autumn meeting of the Institute of Metals. It is being held in Zürich from September 13th-18th by invitation of the Schweizerische Verband für Materialprüfung. The evening of September 13th will be devoted to the formal opening of the meeting, addresses of welcome by the inviting body, and the autumn lecture. The latter is to be given by Mr. U. R. Evans, M.A., on "Thin Films on Metals in Relation to Corrosion Problems." After the lecture an entertainment will be given

in the Great Hall of the Zürich Polytechnic. The mornings of September 14th and 15th will be devoted to the reading and discussion of papers, whilst for the afternoons visits have been provisionally arranged to various works. In the evening of September 14th members and their ladies will be the guests of the City and Canton Zürich at one of the hotels on the heights above the city, whilst on September 16th an excursion will take place to the Rigi. On September 18th the main party will divide, one going to Biel to visit a watch factory and leaving for England in the evening, whilst the other will go via Lötschberg to visit the new aluminium alloys rolling mills at Chippis-Siders in the Rhône Valley.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The Students Home in Zurich has been granted a loan of 60,000f. out of the school fund of the Federal Technical University at Zurich.

N.Z.Z.

The University of Zurich has conferred the degree of "doctor honoris causa" on Miss Merina Baragila, a teacher of the "Töchterschule" in Zurich on the occasion of her 50th birthday anniversary.

N.Z.

The inauguration of the monument of Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, will take place next month at Zurich. The Federal Council will be represented by M. G. Motta.

St.T.

#### BERNE.

National Councillor Hans Stähli has been elected last Sunday as member of the Bernese Government, replacing State Councillor Moser who was recently elected as President of the Cantonal Bank in Berne.

N.Z.Z.

Berne is preparing for the great Exhibition of Hygiene and Sport which, under the name of "Hyspa," it will hold from July 24th to September 20th. The impressions to be gained will be indelibly enhanced through the stately city's incomparable situation, the natural charms of its surroundings and, last but not least, the majestic Alpine panorama it affords.

The forthcoming Exhibition will form a comprehensive show of all that has been achieved in the domain of public and private hygiene. An important programme of sporting contests and games has also been drawn up with a view to illustrating the importance and extent of physical training and exercise.

Medical men and those in search of health and cures will find occasion to learn all about the climatic conditions of the Swiss health-resorts and sanatoria, the curative values of Swiss springs and watering places.

There will be a special section dealing with Alpinism in all its aspects.

The first days of the exhibition are to be enlivened by the Swiss Music Festival, which will take place on July 24-27 and will be attended by 8,000 entrants from all over Switzerland.

The inauguration of the Spitteler Monument designed by the Swiss sculptor August Suter will take place on May the 3rd in Liestal. Federal Councillor Meyer will represent the Federal Council.

N.Z.

In January 1930, a great number of fish were found dead in the river Aare, between Solothurn and Aarau. Investigations revealed that the death was caused through the sludge water discharged from the Zellulosefabrik Atisholz and which contained a chemical substance. A commission under the chairmanship of M. Hagenstein, President of the "Fischereiverein" at Olten, was appointed in order to report on the approximate loss which the various fishing lease holders have sustained, it has taken this commission over a year to come to a decision with regard to the amount of the damages, which have now been estimated at 31,486f., and which will have to be borne by the above mentioned factory.

N.Z.

Professor Dr. Milliet died in Berne at the age of 74. The deceased, was since 1889 chief of the "Eidg. Alkohol Verwaltung" and represented Switzerland on many international congresses. He was also a lecturer at the University of Berne, and has written numerous books dealing with statistical matters.

N.Z.

M. E. Probst, a former Swiss Councillor of Legation, who's death we announced in one of our recent numbers, has bequeathed practically his entire fortune, amounting to nearly £40,000 to the Berne Orchestral Society.

#### GLARUS.

During a performance of the wellknown Circus Knie at Glarus, a lion attacked the tamer who was badly bitten and had to be taken to the hospital.

St.T.

#### BASLE.

Federal Councillor Schulthess paid an official visit to the Basle Fair. During the speech, which he delivered at a Banquet offered to him by the Exhibition authorities, he alluded to the fact that he had the honour to open the 1st Basle Fair fourteen years ago, in the capacity of President of the Swiss Confederation.

St.T.

The Swiss Ministers in Brussels and Warsaw, Messieurs Barbey and von Segesser, as well as the Swiss Councils in Stuttgart, Dresden, Turin, Amsterdam, Dijon, Genoa, Lille and Elbing paid a visit to the Basle Fair on Friday last. A dinner was offered to the distinguished guests.

N.Z.

#### FRIBOURG.

The Government of the Canton of Fribourg has offered a dinner in honour of Colonel de Diesbach, the new commander of the 2nd division on which occasion M. Bover, President of the "Conseil d'Etat" congratulated him on his new appointment in the name of the cantonal government.

N.Z.Z.

During the present year the canton of Fribourg will celebrate the 450th Anniversary of its entry into the Swiss Confederation. This important event will be commemorated by big festivities.

#### GENEVA.

A Farewell dinner in honour of the retiring commander of the 1st division, Colonel Grosselin, took place in Geneva. Amongst the speakers, who related the great services which this eminent officer has rendered to the army were:—Major Moppert, Frederick Martin, Director of the Cantonal Military Dept., and Colonel Sarasin, commander of the 1st Army-corps.

Silver medals were presented on Sunday by the Geneva government to 59 veterans of the force which in 1871 interned the French army of General Bourbaki in Switzerland.

T.G.

The death is reported of M. Raoul Gautier, former rector of the University of Geneva and director of the Raoul Gautier Observatory.

N.Z.

#### AARGAU.

The directors of the Kraftwerke Laufenburg have declared a dividend of 10 per cent., the same as in the two previous years.

N.Z.

#### NIDWALDEN.

Landammann von Matt has resigned from the cantonal government.

St.T.

#### TICINO.

The Ticino painter Giacomo Santarini has died at Loco at the age of 90. The greater part of his life was spent in Geneva and the canton of Valais; but about ten years ago he returned to his native town Loco.

St.T.

#### MORE LANDSLIPS.

A landslide has been going on for several days at Lintenwil, a village at the foot of the Stockberg, and a crevasse more than half a mile long and about 300 yards wide has appeared in the ground.

Cracking noises are to be heard, and other large cracks are to be seen. In certain other places 650,000 cubic yards of earth are expected to collapse, and several buildings have already fallen.

A geological survey has shown that two hamlets, Produnt and Montagnon, in the canton of Valais, are in danger, and must be abandoned at once. The catastrophe is expected to take place daily. Walls everywhere are in a precarious condition. At Montagnon, out of 114 houses, only five still remain in good condition.