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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. P. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### SWISS ARMAMENTS IMPROVED.

Switzerland, on the eve of the Disarmament Conference, has introduced several measures for strengthening her national defence.

The Swiss Federal Council has just purchased two fresh mountain batteries, which are soon to be used in the manoeuvres.

It has further been decided to supply the Swiss troops with gas-masks. The Federal Council estimates the total cost of this equipment at between £320,000 and £360,000 at par. The expenditure is to be spread over a series of years. The Council has also resolved to replace the rifle in present use by a new one four centimetres shorter and costing twelve shillings less apiece.

The Swiss delegates to the forthcoming Disarmament Conference have been in consultation these past few days to consider their plan of campaign. It is maintained that the Swiss militia system is far too peculiar to this country to be brought under the general provisions of a universal agreement between nations.

The comparatively high military expenditure in Switzerland is explained by the fact that the Swiss Government grant a much bigger sum than do certain neighbouring Governments for the maintenance and comfort of the individual soldier. The Federal air force is so numerically weak in comparison with some other European countries that it cannot admit of reduction.

#### SWISS IMPORTS.

The Federal Council adopted special measures with regard to the limitation of imports which affect chiefly furniture, woods, silks, ready-made wear and hosiery.

Imports are not abolished, but restricted, and articles free of restrictions have to pay increased duties.

The Federal Council does not insist on goods being marked with the country of origin, but the right is reserved to inquire into the present system and to enforce certificates of origin if necessary. Special measures with regard to Germany were adopted. The measures will enter into force on 5th February.

#### SWISS BANK REPORTS.

For the year ending 1931, the directors of the Crédit Suisse propose to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. on the share capital of 150,000,000 francs. The net profit is returned as 12,968,469f. (1930—14,555,323f.).

#### SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

Further evidence of the difficult conditions experienced by banking institutions during the past year is afforded by the preliminary results of the Swiss Bank Corporation, but while net profits again show a decline, the fall is not nearly so severe as that reported a year ago.

Net profits at £504,341 are £138,186 lower and the dividend is reduced to 7 per cent., as compared with 8 per cent. The allocation to pension fund is maintained at £20,000, while the carry-forward is £20,153 higher at £60,922.

#### SWISS AVIATOR KILLED

M. Albert Klug, from Basle, left on Thursday last, the Aerodrome at Birsfelden, in order to visit his mother in Barcelona. He acted as pilot, and his sister was the only passenger. Near Gandesa, about 150 km. from Barcelona, they encountered thick fog, and in order to avoid same, Klug decided to fly at a lower altitude; but as the country around was very mountainous, he crashed into a rock. The machine caught fire, and both pilot and passenger were burnt to death.

#### STATE SUBVENTION FOR BERNINA RAILWAY.

The Federal Council has allotted an amount of 15,000f. towards the costs of keeping the Bernina Railway open during the winter.

### Mlle. PAYOT'S NEW TITLE.

In winning the women's French covered court championship Mlle. Lolette Payot became the first Swiss holder of that title. She is a native of Geneva, and learnt the game on courts near the headquarters of the League of Nations.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Bobst, a former Editor of the communist paper "Kämpfer," has been expelled from the communist party for counter-revolutionary propaganda.

The Silk Weaving firm, Karl Weber, in Winterthur, has reduced the wages of their staff by 10 per cent.

The death is reported from Zurich of Chief engineer Wilhelm Reitz, at the age of 71. M. Reitz was a member of the Engineer Staff of the firm Escher Wyss & Cie, from 1889-1921.

The old Engineering firm Escher Wyss & Cie, has given notice to all their staff, numbering about 1,500. The newly formed company, "Escher Wyss Maschinen Gesellschaft," has offered to re-instate all those who agree to a reduction of wages amounting to 15%.

#### BERNE.

M. Ernest Arni, a notary at Büren a. A. was killed when trying to move a safe from one place to another. The deceased was 48 years of age.

The population of the town of Berne at the end of 1931 amounts to 114,272 inhabitants, or 598 persons more than at the end of 1930.

M. K. Mescher, for many years, Editor in Chief of the "Berne Intelligenzblatt" died in Berne.

#### LUCERNE.

M. B. Holt, a wealthy American, has left his estate at the Utenberg to the town of Lucerne. He also made a legacy to the town amounting to 500,000f. to be paid after his death.

#### GLARUS.

The late Colonel Tschudi-Freuler, has left an amount of 185,425f. for charitable institutions.

#### BASLE.

Burglars entered the premises of the "Staatliche Arbeitslosenkasse" at the Klaraplatz. A safe was forcibly opened, and its contents amounting to 46,000f. were stolen. So far the police have no clues to the intruders.

The death is reported from Basle of M. Johann Frei at the age of 62. M. Frei was born at Wolfinswil (Aargau) in 1870, he was at one time Editor of the "Basler Vorwärts," he was also a member of the Grand Council over which he presided. From 1911-1918 he belonged to the National Council. On retirement from the position as Editor of the "Vorwärts" he left the socialist party and resigned from all political offices which he held. Since 1919 until his death he was Chairman of the Siedlungsgenossenschaft Freidorf.

#### THURGAU.

The management of the Saurer Works at Arbon announced that from and after the 1st of April, the working hours will be reduced to 44 hours per week, and that a cut of 6.4 per cent. in wages will come into force.

#### ST. GALL.

M. I. Grütter, Manager of the Federal Bank (Banque Fédérale) in St. Gallen, has retired from his post, which he occupied for many years. M. K. Lendenmann has been appointed Manager, and M. E. Schaer has been promoted Sub-Manager.

#### GRISONS.

Günther Grönhoff, the famous German glider, who holds the world's record for the longest

gliding flight, was towed up to Davos in his Fafnir glider on January 19th by the Swiss aviator, Fretz, in his Puss Moth. The glider was released from the towing line soon after the two machines came in sight of Davos, and about half an hour later made a graceful and successful landing on the frozen and snowcovered Davos lake, where the aeroplane had already come to rest. This experiment involved the making of two records. It was the first time a glider had been towed in the Alps, and the altitude of 3,700 metres (just over 12,000 feet) reached on this occasion is believed to be the highest at which a glider has ever yet been towed. Grönhoff said this was one of the finest flights he has made.

For nearly a week the Fafnir was in Davos, making daily flights and experiments, and was towed back to Zurich by the Puss Moth last Saturday. For one of his Davos flights Grönhoff was catapulted from just above the Höhenweg station of the new Parsenn Railway, 2,200 feet above Davos.

Colonel J. P. Stiffler, from Davos, has died in Mäienfeld at the age of 84. The deceased has been a member of the Grand Council, and later on joined the cantonal Government, from which he retired in 1908. Colonel Stiffler was at one time commander of the 16th Brigade.

#### VALAIS.

M. I. Escher has been sworn in as a member of the cantonal Government, he has taken over the military Dept.

#### VAUD.

The amount of the defalcation committed by Gustave Mignot, "inspecteur des pauvres" of the community of Lausanne amounts to 207,000f.

### FOOTBALL.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Sunday, 31st January, results in Groupe 1 once more proved the strength of the leaders, Zurich recording their tenth win in 12 games, this time at the expense of Bern 5-2. At the same time Young Fellows put St. Gallen further into the mire, beating them 6-2. Zurich now lead with 20 points before Young Fellows, 16 points but two games in hand. Nordstern rather unexpectedly defeated Chaux-de-Fonds 3-1 in Basel. This success enabled Nordstern to separate from the other tail-clubs and the two points gained may prove invaluable.

Groupe 2. All eyes were on the important game in Biel, where Grasshoppers clashed with the local club, second in the table, only 2 points behind the "Sauterelles" with a game in hand. However, Grasshoppers made no mistake and scored a fine win, 4-0. This severe setback to their chief rivals for the leadership must be very welcome to our champion. Their present form is amazing. In their last three League-games the scores were 4-0, 9-0, and 8-0, or 21 goals for and nil against. Phenomenal! Young Boys are slowly but surely climbing up the league table and are now fourth by virtue of their victory over Aarau 3-1. And the greatest surprise of all—Servette receive lowly Etoile Chaux-de-Fonds and have to leave the field well beaten 0-2!

#### FIRST LEAGUE.

Lausanne Sports just beat the wooden spoonist Stade Lausanne 3-2, very creditable result for Stade, seeing they lost early in the season on their own ground 13-3! Cantonal v Grénchen 3-2, also against expectation.

In the second Groupe, Concordia well maintained their lead, beating Luzern 4-2.

#### F.C. GRASSHOPPERS VISIT.

Aunt the previously announced tour of our champion team and their proposed games against the Casuals on the 24th and the Corinthians on the 27th inst., due to the F.A. rearranging the date of the amateur international match between England and Wales for 27th February, it has now become extremely doubtful whether Grasshoppers will play on the dates mentioned. Many of the crack players of the Corinthians will be on duty in the international match and it is recognised that our champions are worthy of the best team Corinthians can place in the field. Under the circumstances, the match would no more provide a fair test of the respective merits of the two famous clubs. It is to be hoped that a more convenient date can be mutually agreed upon.

M.G.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th  
for the  
DINNER AND DANCE.  
at the  
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.