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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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### FEDERAL.

#### NEW NATIONAL BANK DIRECTORS.

The Federal Council has nominated M. Picot, Member of the Geneva Government, and M. Köchlin-Vischer, President of the Chamber of Commerce in Basle, Directors of the National Bank. M. Picot will replace M. Moriaud, who has resigned from the Board and M. Köchlin is the successor of Mr. Stauffacher, who recently died.

#### COMMERCIAL VISITORS FROM SWITZERLAND.

A party of about 100 representatives of commercial and industrial Switzerland, including the Vice-President and many members of the Swiss National Chamber of Commerce, and the Vice-President and about 23 members of the Swiss International Rotary Association, passed through Folkestone on Thursday on their way to the British Industries fair at Olympia, and a tour through England.

The party made the crossing from Boulogne to Folkestone on the s.s. "Biarritz," arriving in this port at one o'clock, and leaving by the 1.35 boat train to Victoria. They were received at the Harbour by the Mayor of Folkestone (Alderman J. W. Stainer), who was accompanied by the Town Sergeant (Mr. E. J. Chadwick).

The object of the tour, which is to include visits to the British Industries Fair, the White City, and Birmingham, is to give the heads of the commercial interests of Switzerland an opportunity of seeing what Great Britain offers in preference to other countries. It is anticipated that a number of trading negotiations will be entered into during the visit, and that it will pave the way to a very important increase in the commercial relations between Great Britain and Switzerland.

#### TELEPHONE LOAN.

The Federal Council has granted a special loan of 31,000,000 fr. for improvements to the telephone; 15,000,000 fr. will be devoted to renewals and additions of cables, and 16,000,000 fr. to the construction of new telephone exchanges on the semi-automatic system.

#### LEAGUE BROADCASTING STATION.

The League of Nations radio transmitting station, which is intended to be used in times of crisis, was opened at midnight on February 16th-17th by Sir Eric Drummond, Secretary-General of the League, who spoke to the American Continent.

#### SWISS ELECTRIFICATION.

The work of electrification having been completed, electric trains are now running over the whole length of the Bodensee-Toggenburg railway between Romanshorn, St. Gall, and Neslau.

#### SWISS CHOCOLATE FIRM IN ENGLAND.

The Suchard Chocolate Works have made arrangements with an important English firm for the making of their chocolates.

### LOCAL.

#### BERNE.

The well-known "Heustrich Bad" at the foot of the Niesen has been completely destroyed by fire. The cause of the fire is at present a mystery, but arson is suspected.

The General Assembly of shareholders of the Dr. A. Wander, A.G., took place last Friday in Bern. A dividend of 10% will be paid. (1930—10%).

#### LUCERNE.

M. Josef Widmer, a well-known criminal judge has died at Lucerne after a long illness.

#### BASLE.

The election of three new "Strafgerichts-Präsidenten" took place last Sunday; the following three candidates (out of four) have been

elected: Dr. Oettinger (4403); Dr. Wille (3939); Dr. Miville (3534). Dr. Knüttel received 2319 votes, and is not elected.

#### GENEVA.

Two Geneva scientists, MM. Jayet and Amondruz, have discovered at a distance of about 30 miles west of Geneva, in the Ussets valley, a cave containing remains of the reindeer epoch, at the end of the paleolithic age.

The discovery is an important one, as it shows the way followed some 10,000 years ago by the first man who settled in this region. The presence of Magdalenian men had hitherto been traced as far as the Ain and Isère rivers, but it was not known that they had reached the banks of the Lake of Geneva. The discovery of the Ussets cave shows that they followed the Rhône and penetrated in the side valleys, whence they passed the hills and arrived at the Lake of Geneva. Some prehistoric settlements in the crags of the Salève mountain, five miles south of Geneva, seem to belong to the same period.

The Ussets cave contained some Roman remains, mainly broken pottery, and a number of relics of the neolithic and paleolithic periods. At the reindeer epoch, the huge glaciers which covered Switzerland and the greater part of the Continent had already retreated, some alpine districts were free of ice, and forests began to grow on the moraines. The inhabitants of the Ussets cave settled there at that time, and the two scientists found in the cave, at a depth of about 3ft., some 2,000 flint implements, the longest being 6½in. These, as well as fragments of spear and arrow heads, made of reindeer antlers, bear some coarse decoration consisting of small parallel lines. Bones of reindeer, wild horse, ibex, marmot, were also unearthed, but no human remains.

Fifty-eight different makes of cars will be displayed at the annual Swiss Motor Exhibition to be held in Geneva from March 11th to 20th next. America will be in the lead with 17 makes, followed by France with 15, Germany 8, Great Britain 6, Italy 4, Austria and Belgium 3 each, and Spain and Switzerland one each.

#### GRISONS.

After a violent quarrel with his wife, a former chef named Wehrenfels, attacked his wife with a wooden chair, injuring her seriously, so that she had to be taken to the hospital, the husband afterwards committed suicide by hanging himself.

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

Mme. Auguste Mayor, the oldest inhabitant of Neuchâtel has died at the age of 98. Mme. Mayor was a relation of the celebrated naturalist Agassiz.

#### ST. GALLEN.

M. Eduard Sturzenegger, who recently died in St. Gallen, has left an amount of nearly two million francs to various charitable institutions.

### FOOTBALL.

A number of matches were played on Sunday, 28th February:—

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Basel .....	3	St. Gallen .....	2
Lugano .....	1	Nordstern (in Bern) ..	2
Biel .....	0	Servette .....	2
Aarau .....	2	Carouge .....	1

The two Basel teams in Groupe 1 continue to play well and F. C. Basel has worked the miracle of getting away from the relegation danger zone by gaining 3 points advantage over Bern and St. Gallen. Servette also put another two points in the locker against redoubtable Biel. That is the spirit which will overcome all the difficulties that threatened to swamp them. Aarau too, is on the upgrade and are displacing Old Boys in the table.

#### FIRST LEAGUE.

Racing .....	3	Lausanne-Sports .....	2
Solothurn .....	5	Monthey .....	0
Fribourg .....	1	Stade Lausanne .....	3
Concordia .....	5	Winterthur .....	1
Luzern .....	2	Oerlikon .....	1

The unexpected has happened: Lausanne-Sports have lost their first League match of the season and what makes the pill all the more bitter, the deciding goal was scored by their own full back! Stade Lausanne are making valiant efforts to get away from the last 3 places. Have they left it too late? Solothurn is equally anxious

to keep their place in the First League but Fribourg is now also in danger.

Concordia go on without faltering and Luzern advance from 7th to 5th place by virtue of their victory over Oerlikon who drop to 7th, a rather uncomfortable exchange.

#### SWISS CUP.

In the replay in Zurich between Young Fellows and Urania, the Geneva team won decisively 6:2, and so pass at the second attempt into the semi-final. They are drawn against Lausanne-Sports, on neutral ground in Berne on 13th March. This should prove a very interesting encounter.

I wonder whether Lausanne-Sports lapse last Sunday has sufficiently disturbed their equanimity to constitute a danger to their chance in the Cup? An unexpected defeat sometimes brings quite inexplicable reverses in its train. Anyhow my tip for the Final is Lausanne-Sports v Grasshoppers and the last named for the Cup. But then, the "Sauterelles" too have an unexpected reverse in their portmanteau!

M.G.

#### ICE HOCKEY.

England 3, Switzerland 6.

England were defeated by Switzerland in an ice hockey match at the Birmingham rink on Saturday. Switzerland were more decisive in attack and their forwards gave a masterly exhibition, and Elvins, who kept goal for England, made many fine saves. England opened the scoring, Ramus putting in a swift shot after clever individual play. Penchi later scored the equalising goal, and before the end of the first period Morris gave Switzerland the lead. In the second period play was mainly in favour of Switzerland, and they added three goals through Meerkaemper and Torriani (two). In the third period Cliff and Davey scored for England, but before the close Morris added a further goal for Switzerland.

#### SPITTLER IN ENGLISH.

W. G. LOCKETT.

CONTINUED.

Whether or not the world will ever find Carl Spitteler (as Weingartner thought it must), and place him by the side of Homer, Virgil, Dante, and Milton, must, so far as I am concerned, remain "dahingestellt." Hitherto he has to his account such distinctions as the Nobel Prize, the recognition of the French Academy, the honour of many authors, especially in France and Germany, but almost no sale, and even in his own country a slight estrangement since his death.

But one thing is certain: Spitteler was a man of quite extraordinary, indeed unique, make and material. His mind had an irresistible urge towards the creation of myths and epics, so that, as Gottfried Keller said of him, it seemed as if a poet of the primitive world, of the age when religions and myths of the gods grew into being, had suddenly come to light in our own day and begun to sing his mysterious and magnificent songs.

First came that extraordinary poem in prose, "Prometheus und Epimetheus," which Dr. Muirhead has now translated, and which will be published shortly in London. (Has now been published. Ed.) The original was welcomed with a quarter of a century of silence. It was scarcely as much as mentioned by any literary journal.

Spitteler was not then a man who could afford to write books that nobody would read. As a young fellow he wanted to be a painter or a musician, but could not have his way. Then he studied for the Church, but the theologians turned him down for want of faith and for alleged want of knowledge. Off he went to Russia for eight years as tutor. Back in Switzerland, he was a teacher in small schools, and a journalist. In 1892 he became financially independent, and could devote himself to writing as many unreadable books as he liked.

Although he published little until he became independent, he had written incessantly. Spitteler's published works are indeed but a part of

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