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The Swiss Observer

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We wish all our Readers a Happy New Year

HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

SWISS INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

Swiss industrial conditions were slightly better during the third quarter of the year than in the preceding quarter, but in spite of this tendency towards improvement, the general economic situation remains unsatisfactory. Only 10.7 per cent. of the business undertakings reporting were able to record good business; 50 per cent. complained of slackness in trade, while more than one-third stated that their situation was distinctly bad. In the embroidery and watch-making industries conditions remain very serious; 78.2 per cent. and 66.4 per cent. of the concerns being badly affected by the crisis. The machine-making industry is hard hit by export difficulties combined with the decline in orders at home, and it has proved necessary to introduce cuts in both wages and *personnel* and to curtail the number of working hours. In the silk and rayon industry, and in the cotton industry, 60 per cent. and 59 per cent. respectively of the factories are suffering from excessive unemployment. On the other hand, the position is more hopeful in the chemical, wool, linen, and clothing branches, while the wood-working and building trades are stated to be enjoying normal activity in the majority of cases. The prospects for firms dealing in food-stuffs are comparatively satisfactory.

STRONGER ARMY FOR SWITZERLAND.

The credit of 82,000,000 Swiss francs (£5,000,000) for the strengthening of Switzerland's defence was voted last week in the National Council.

Members of the Socialist Party opposed the measure, but the Chief of the Federal Military Department, M. Minger, pointed out that war might break out before the Socialists obtained a majority in Switzerland, and the country must in the meantime have at its disposal an army which would inspire confidence and respect in its neighbours.

The Chief of the Military Department added that the Swiss Army must be equipped with an adequate supply of machine-guns to resist invasions even from the air, and that mortars and heavy artillery were essential for Switzerland's defence.

The new credit is to be spent on the purchase of heavy artillery, a fleet of 80 aeroplanes, machine-guns, and light artillery suitable for use by mountain troops.

CHANGES IN THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE SWISS ARMY

Colonel Georges Marcuard has been appointed commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade (1st Division), in succession to Colonel Billiet. The new commander of the 4th Infantry brigade (1st Division) will be Colonel Du Pasquier from Neuchâtel, he is succeeding Colonel Borel, who was promoted to Division Commander. The 14th Infantry Brigade (5th Division) will be commanded by Colonel Hans von Schulthess (Zurich), its former head, Colonel Isler, is returning to the General Staff. Colonel Daniel Marquard (Berne) will be in command of the 4th artillery brigade (4th Division). Lieutenant-Colonel de Charrière de Sévry (Berne) will take over the command of the 1st cavalry brigade (4th Division). Colonel Hilfiker, has been promoted to division commander.

SWISS MACHINERY EXPORTS.

The Swiss Federal Council issued a decree giving a guarantee of 35 per cent. of the possible loss to exporters of certain classes of machinery.

The Government's maximum liability is fixed at 10,000,000 francs (£400,000 at par). It is hoped that the Cantons will give a similar guarantee, so that the exporter would only lose a third of the value of his exports, in the event of a default.

HISTORIC POST COACH FOR MUSEUM.

The Berne Post Office Department has presented the historic St. Gotthard post coach, which accommodated seven passengers, to the German Museum at Munich. It will form a noteworthy addition to the famous collection.

Used 100 years ago on the Göschenen (St. Gotthard)-to-Brig route, the coach carried several famous travellers and met with hair-raising adventures in the snowy passes of Switzerland.

SCHWEIZ, VOLKSBANK INVESTIGATIONS.

A Commission to investigate the affairs of the Schweiz. Volksbank has been appointed, it consists of the following members: Dr. Ostertag, Director of the "Internat. Amtes für geistiges Eigentum"; Dr. Lenzinger, Public Prosecutor of the canton St. Gallen; Dr. H. F. Welti, Thun; Director Walch, former Manager of the Kredit Anstalt, Bern; Insurance-Judge Albiser, Lucerne; Professor Morf, of the University Lausanne, Federal-Judge Halblützel Lausanne, Director Gut Zurich.

MARKED INCREASE IN SWISS RHINE TRAFFIC.

That the economic situation in Europe is tending to divert freight from rail to river transport is indicated in a report made public.

Rhine and canal traffic at Basel, the only Rhine port in Switzerland, totaled 1,525,000 tons in the first 10 months of the current year, a figure larger than that for the entire year 1932. In each month of 1933, the report shows, shipments were substantially higher than the corresponding months of last year.

Since Swiss imports in the 1933 period were notably lighter than in the 10-months period of 1932 and the general business depression more marked, it seems clear that the increased water traffic was due to a growing ability of the Rhine shipping companies to compete successfully with the railroad, the report states.

The principal products shipped to and from Basel by water, the report shows, are grain, coal, liquid fuels, lumber and chemical products.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The inhabitants of the town of Winterthur at the end of November number 55,063.

The late Mlle. Berta Reiser has left an amount of 25,000 frs. to the Swiss Legation at Berlin, to be distributed amongst the poor Swiss residing in Germany.

BERNE.

M. Hirs, General Manager of the "Schweiz. Volksbank" has withdrawn his resignation from this institution. This step has given great satisfaction in Swiss Banking circles, where his untiring efforts to reconstruct the Establishment, were highly appreciated.

Colonel Franz Siegwart has died at the age of 80; he was for nearly 55 years in the service of the Confederation, during the greater part of which he was chief of the "Eidg. Finanzkontrolle."

M. Karl Reimann, Sub-Manager of the National-Bank at Lucerne, has been appointed Manager of the National Bank in Berne, in succession to M. Paul Rossi who enters the Federal Finance Dept.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1934

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Dr. Arnold Schrag, inspector of the secondary schools of the canton of Berne, died at the age of 63. The deceased was an authority in school matters, and has written a great number of books on educational subjects.

LUCERNE.

M. Eugen Labhardt, director of the "Kreis IP" of the Swiss Federal Railways has celebrated his 60th birthday.

SCHWYZ.

The death is reported from Einsiedeln of Dr. Meinrad Gyr-Wickart at the age of 85, he was a well-known medical practitioner, and for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat."

BASLE.

Professor Ludwig Gelpke has celebrated his 50th "doctor" jubilee, he has for over 30 years rendered his services to the cantonal Hospitals, and is one of the best known surgeons in Switzerland.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Professor Thiébaud died at Neuchâtel last Wednesday. He did important work, partly in the Chair of Church History at Neuchâtel and partly as Editor of the Journal Religieux.

APPENZEL.

Professor P. W. Buser, President of the "Verband Schweizerischer Erziehungsinstitute und Privatschulen," has celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Foundation of the "Voralpines Töchterinstitute" at Teufen, an institution which has, under his management become known all over the world.

ST. GALLEN.

Colonel Constam has been appointed commander of the "Schiessschulen" in Wallenstadt, in succession to Colonel Otter who is retiring at the end of the year. Colonel Constam is commander of the 15th mountain brigade.

LAUSANNE.

M. Pilet-Golaz, the newly elected President of the Swiss Confederation, received a great ovation in Lausanne. A service was held at the cathedral church during which M. Pilet-Golaz gave an address.

SOLOTHURN.

Colonel Walter Frölicher has died at Solothurn at the age of 71; he was, until 1927, chief engineer at the von Rollschon Iron Works in Nieder-Gerlafingen; from 1914-1918 he was in charge of the 3rd artillery-brigade.

FOOTBALL.

17th December, 1933

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Zurich	.....2	Nordstern	.....2
Grasshoppers	.....2	Lausanne	.....2
Concordia	.....0	Blue Stars	.....1
Basel	.....2	Young Fellows	.....5
Young Boys	.....4	Urania	.....5

Three matches had to be postponed, and whilst the two Zurich clubs, playing before their own public, had to be content with one point each, the other two covered themselves with glory in Basel particularly Young Fellows, who soundly beat the league leaders away. Well done; some of their new acquisitions must fit in. Young Boys v. Urania seems a peculiar result and for Y.B. to collect but 9 points in 9 games is not quite what one would expect.

FIRST LEAGUE.

Grenchen	.....2	Fribourg	.....2
Bözingen	.....6	Monthey	.....1
Racing	.....2	Cantonal	.....1
Juventus	.....2	Winterthur	.....0

Monthey has thus frittered away their chance to close up with the Leaders Carouge and Fribourg is now third, equal with Monthey. In the other group Juventus made no mistake, and we have now Kreuzlingen with 12 points two points ahead of Bellinzona, St. Gallen and Juventus. Brühl is fifth, 9 points. In both groups there is still one match to be played to complete the first half of the programme.

To all my Readers my very best wishes for the coming New Year.

M.G.