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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

### FEDERAL.

#### THE NOVEMBER RIOTS IN GENEVA.

The report of the military Court of Inquiry into the Geneva shooting affair of November 9, when 13 persons were killed and about 60 wounded during a Communist riot, has been published. The Court examined 220 witnesses, among whom 147 were civilians, many of whom had volunteered their evidence.

The Court found that the soldiers were called out when the police were unable to resist the pressure of the mob and were on the point of giving way. As soon as the soldiers, 108 in all, arrived on the square to assist the policemen they were surrounded by the crowd and urged to shoot their officers. They were then attacked by well-organized groups of men who tried to snatch from them their rifles and ammunition. In a few minutes 10 rifles, 15 bayonets, one machine-rifle, two pistols, and some ammunition were taken from the soldiers, 19 of whom were injured. The position of the small force became so dangerous that the officers ordered it to fall back and take shelter in front of a big hall where 94 men rallied round the officers. As they were being pelted with stones some soldiers asked the officers to be allowed to fire. Permission was refused. A new attack was then made on them and they were ordered to load their weapons. Two revolver shots were fired at them and the officers shouted at the crowd saying that they were going to fire. The bugle was sounded, and as the attack was pressed and the lives of the soldiers were menaced, order was given to fire one round. The first volley had no effect. The attack was renewed with fury and was only stopped when it was realized that several people had been killed and wounded. The firing lasted 15 seconds and 112 rounds were expended.

The Court found that the troops had fired in self-defence and that there was therefore no ground for prosecuting the officers who ordered them to do so.

The findings of the Court have been endorsed by the Federal Military Department.

#### SWISS BANK REPORTS.

For the year ending 1932, the following dividends have been declared:

Preliminary figures of the Swiss Bank Corporation for 1932 show a net profit of Frs.10,282,208, against Frs.12,608,521 for 1931. After placing Frs.750,000 to pension fund and providing for a dividend of 6 per cent. (against 7 p.c.), the forward balance is Frs.1,302,091, against Frs.1,523,031.

Schweizerische Kredit Anstalt: 8 per cent. (1931 8%); Eidgenössische Bank: 5 per cent. (1931 5%); Schweizerische Volksbank: 3 per cent. (1931 3%); Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft: 4 per cent. (1931 5%); Schweizerische Bodenkredit Anstalt: 7 per cent. (1931 7%); Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank in St. Gallen: 5 per cent. (1931 5½%); Bank in Menziken: 5½ per cent. (1931 7%); Volksbank in Hochdorf: 5 per cent. (1931 6%); Spar & Leihkasse Surental, Schöftland: 5½ per cent. (1931 7%).

### LOCAL.

#### ZÜRICH.

M. Felix Hofmann from Zollikon, has been appointed head of the Zoological Gardens at Zurich, in succession to Dr. Steiner, who has recently retired. M. Hofmann, who studied at the University of Zurich spent nearly 20 years in Sumatra where he acquired an extensive knowledge of the animal world.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Werner Sulzer from Winterthur, to the post of Factory Inspector of the 3rd district in Zurich, in succession to Dr. Wegmann.

Owing to the "Flu" three schools in Zurich had to be closed down.

The "Schloss" Schwandegg bei Waltalingen has been partially destroyed by fire. The damage caused is considerable.

#### BERNE.

The cantonal government has decreed, that no married women should be employed in their administration, if it can be proved that the husband has an income sufficient to provide for the respective family.

The death is reported from Berne of M. Karl Indermühle at the age of 55. M. Indermühle was a well-known architect, and many churches and schools were designed and erected according to his plans. The deceased was for many years a member of the Grand and Town Council.

#### BASLE.

M. René Albert Kochlin, the builder of the Kembser Power station has been made an officer of the Legion of Honour.

#### ST. GALLEN.

M. Beat Stoffel, one of the leading industrialists in Eastern Switzerland celebrated his 70th birthday.

In the interests of the Textile industry of Eastern Switzerland and, as head of the firm of Stoffel & Co., Mr. Beat Stoffel has been indefatigable, likewise leading the "St. Gall Fine Weaving Mills," with factories at five different points, dotted over the Canton of St. Gall; the big Spinning & Weaving Mill at Mels, which he bought from Messrs. Schuler & Co., in 1920 and, finally, controlling some of the Finishing, Dyeing & Printing works near St. Gall.

Mr. Beat Stoffel further gave his interest to the development of the Aluminium Trade in Switzerland, as a result of which there emerged, eventually, the great undertaking of "Aluminiumwerke, A.-G." in Rorschach, with which were in close connection the "S.-A. d'Aluminium," Coire and "Folien, A.-G.," Arbon.

The Manager of the Kühlhaus & Handels A.G. in St. Margarethen will be prosecuted for negligence in connection with the disaster which occurred last November when 9 people lost their lives, and 40 workhands were more or less seriously injured.

#### SOLOTHURN.

The death occurred in Solothurn of Dr. Manfred Bott at the age of 77. Dr. Bott was a well-known and popular physician, and for many years gave his services to the "Bürgerspital." In the army he obtained the rank of a Colonel and was for some time "Korpsarzt" of the 2nd Army Corps.

### FOOTBALL.

29th January, 1933.

#### CHALLENGE NATIONAL.

Aarau	.....0	Grasshoppers	.....8
Urania	.....0	Servette	.....0
Nordstern	.....3	Carouge	.....2
Young Boys	.....1	Lugano	.....1
Blue Stars	v	Basel and	
Zurich	v	Chaux-de-Fonds	

postponed.

#### FIRST LEAGUE.

In this division, the second half of the Championship with its promotion and relegation problems has commenced.

Old Boys	.....2	Seebach	.....2
Brühl	.....2	Locarno	.....1
Oerlikon	.....2	St. Gallen	.....2
Luzern	.....2	Winterthur	.....0
Montreux	.....1	Cantonal	.....1

Next Sunday, Swiss Cup, Round Four.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

for the  
**DINNER AND DANCE**  
at the  
**MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.**

## OF THIS AND OF THAT.

By Kyburg.

Even I, I confess, do not always find time or have the inclination to read through my weekly copy of the Swiss Observer at once and so it came that, a slight attack of Lumbago preventing me from playing Golf, I sat down for a quiet hour yesterday afternoon and started to browse through the pages of several weeks' copies of our Swiss London Paper. And a jolly sight more profitable, I found it, than wallowing through the pages and pages of mostly dreary Sunday Express stuff.

It so happened that I read my good friend "ST." 's article of a week or two ago, in which he gives our Swiss Federal Government the hint to subsidise the Swiss Observer to the extent of £500 per annum, although, as far as I am concerned, the sum might easily be exceeded. This "hint" sent me dreaming, because I foresaw possibilities affecting me, and I forthwith began to think what I could possibly write about, to justify any claim, I might put in, later on, to share in the rain of gold that might fall on all the collaborators of our Paper who, hitherto, have worked, and worked willingly, for the love of the thing and for the love of our Country and whose sole reward, so far, has been the sense of duty nobly done. — (Splendidly expressed — Ed. S.O.)

Naturally I also began to envisage how the paper might be made greater and better, how technical developments now impossible might be achieved, how more able and better qualified writers might be drawn upon to supply our Readers with really first-class reading matter. And, as is so often the case, when one considers such matters and when, as one grows older and more experienced, one also thinks of the possible reactions such development might produce. And it occurred to me a saying which took my eye when reading the introduction of John Stuart Mill's essay "On Liberty" namely "Success discloses faults and infirmities which failure might have concealed from observation."

How true this is. Of Newspapers perhaps still more than of other enterprises and certainly more than of individuals.

We who have the task or who at any rate wish to study the expressions of opinion set out in the Press, find ourselves face to face with the "failures and infirmities" exhibited by the successful newspapers pretty soon. We have only to compare their opinions on any given subject, or better still, we have only to see how they endeavour to trick their readers into believing their own particular brand of politics, by reporting speeches and opinions of leading men and women in such a way, as to blend them nicely to fit in with their particular brand, and we shall soon feel something akin to physical nausea.

There would be pretty few "successful newspapers," if their readers took the trouble to read also other papers, and if by doing so they then found out how they are being misled. I think we could count the honest newspapers on the fingers of our hands.

I am not even trying to be bitter because the Daily Express published an utterly scurrilous article about Switzerland and Captain Hope. No one in his senses attaches any importance to what any of the Beaverbrook Papers write and most people, I imagine read those papers daily, because Punch appears once a week only.

Naturally I know that "Truth has many facets," but some of the "truths" put before the readers of the daily Press could not, by any stretch of imagination, claim to be genuine facets.

Not only sins of commission, but notably and in most instances, sins of omission are the nefarious weapons of those scribes, and when I find, for instance, that an important Company with a capital running into seven figures publishes a balance sheet to which eminent Auditors of London have added a rider to the effect, that some of the assets are, in their opinion, overvalued, and when I find that most papers publish the results of that Company in glowing terms and with flattering headlines, and omit any mention of that rider, well, what am I to think about the honesty not only of the City-Editors in question, but of these papers?

When again, I find leading articles willfully misrepresenting the doings of the League of Nations, when I read summaries of speeches made in that assembly and find, looking into another paper, a summary of the same speech but giving a totally different impression, what, I ask again, am I to think about? Truth has many facets? Yes, and methinks most Editors consciences have many convenient facets too.