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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.

#### GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The final result of the Gordon-Bennett Balloon race is as follows:

1. Balloon "Kosciusko" Poland 1331.8 km.
2. Balloon "Warszawa" Poland 1345.5 km.
3. Balloon "Polonja" Poland 1184.2 km.
4. Balloon "Belgica" Belgium 1177.8 km.
5. Balloon "Zurich" Switzerland 1051.4 km.
6. Balloon "Basel" Switzerland 920.9 km.
7. Balloon "L'Aigle" France 876.0 km.
8. Balloon "Dux" Italy 843.1 km.
9. Balloon "Deutschland" Germany 815.9 km.

Then follow "U.S.A. Navy" America, "Buffalo Courier Express" America; "Wilhelm von Opel" Germany; "Lorraine" France; "Stadt Essen" Germany; "Brüssel 1935" Belgium and "Bratislava" Techecho-Slovakia.

The names of the Swiss pilots were: Balloon "Basel": Dr. van Baerle and Dr. Dietschi; Balloon "Zurich" Lieutenant-Colonel Walo Gerber and Dr. Tilgenkamp.

#### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IN EGYPT.

The Federal Council is going to put forward a proposal to the two Chambers to erect a Swiss Legation at Cairo.

#### SWISS FRONTIER DEFENCE.

The Swiss Government have decided to spend 6,000,000 Swiss francs on fortifications on the Rhine frontier to provide work for the unemployed.

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AT EINSIEDELN.

In the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Verdier, Archbishop of Paris, the French Minister to the Swiss Government, Comte de Clauzel, and several Bishops and Abbots from home and abroad, this year's traditional "Engelweihfest" was celebrated at Maria Einsiedeln with the greatest solemnity, in view of the Benedictine monastery's millenary.

#### SWISS PLAN FOR TOURISTS.

A novel experiment is being attempted in Switzerland to attract British tourists for the coming winter sports season.

Owing to the fluctuating value of the pound British tourists and residents in the past three years have been obliged to reduce their expenditure in this country to a minimum, and this has resulted in an enormous loss to the hotel industry and the numerous trades depending on it.

Therefore, to encourage tourists to spend more, the Swiss Government has been petitioned to fix a definite rate for the pound for the coming season.

Payments on this basis will be accepted by all branches of the tourist industry.

If during the season the rate falls below that fixed the Federal Government will make good the difference to the industries involved.

#### SWISS CLEARING OFFICE.

The Federal Council has decided to set up an organisation to be responsible for clearing arrangements with foreign countries. It will be known as the Swiss Compensation Office.

#### GERMAN POLICE CAUGHT.

There has been yet another violation of Swiss territory by agents of the German Government. During the night between Wednesday and Thursday last Swiss frontier guards in the canton of Basle surprised on Swiss territory two men in civilian clothes, who, when they saw the guards, tried to cross the frontier into Germany. They were caught, however, before they reached the frontier, and found to be armed.

It was afterwards discovered that they were German police sergeants, whose business it was to spy on German refugees suspected of attempting to take forbidden publications into Germany. The two men are in custody at Basle and the Public Prosecutor of the Swiss Confederation has been informed of the arrest.

No doubt the German Government will make excuses, as it did in the affair of the arms and munitions seized in the canton of St. Gall.

Recently a German refugee in Zurich was induced by false pretences to enter a motor-car and carried off across the frontier into Germany.

#### PICCARD'S NEW PLAN.

Professor Piccard announced that he proposes to make a new balloon ascent into the stratosphere next year from Switzerland.

He hopes to reach nearly twenty miles — seven miles higher than the present record held by the Soviet balloon Osoaviakhim.

He has, it is learned, placed an order for a new balloon with a Warsaw firm of aircraft builders.

#### SWISS REDUNDANCY.

Zurich has more than 20 cinemas containing 15,000 places. The Cinematograph Association consider that the number is in advance of the requirements of the town, and has issued a warning that the building or opening of new cinemas will be a dangerous undertaking for those who are not specialists in the industry.

#### TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPORTS.

The Swiss textile machinery industry continues to report more satisfactory export figures than last year. As the following table shows the total for July was well ahead of that for a year ago.

	JULY 1934	JULY 1933
Spinning and doubling machines	793,893	251,926
Looms	607,951	347,444
Other weaving machines	472,273	345,890
Knitting machines	295,954	279,935

Germany was the best customer for spinning and twisting machines with a total of 363,600 frs. followed by Turkey with 270,000 frs. The respective average values per 100 kilogs. for these two countries were 229 and 135 frs. from which it is concluded that Turkey purchased a quantity of second-hand machines. In the looms section, France headed the list with 181,500 frs., Argentina being next with 168,000 frs. Germany was also the leading customer for other weaving machines, her purchases amounting to 140,000 frs.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

From Zurich comes the news of the death of Dr. A. Rosenberger at the age of 80. The deceased was for many years a judge of the Supreme Court of the canton of Zurich.

#### BERNE.

Dr. Carrière, Chief of the Federal Office of Health has celebrated his 40th Jubilee, he has been connected with this Department since 1894, and in 1916 he was made head of this institution.

The town authorities of Berne have purchased an amount of 100,000 kilos of apples to be distributed to the unemployed in December.

The inauguration of a monument to the late Federal Councillor Scheurer took place at Gampelen last month. Amongst the 5,000 spectators were: Federal Councillors Schulthess, Minger and Baumann, late Federal Councillors

Haab and Häberlin, all the members of the cantonal government and several superior officers of the Swiss Army.

The 75th Anniversary of the "Freien Gymnasiums" took place on the 23rd of September at Berne; a service was held at the "Französische Kirche," and addresses were given by Pasteur Stucki, President of the school council, Dr. Schweingruber, Headmaster and Dr. Dürrenmatt, member of the cantonal government. A Banquet was held at the "Kasino," during which an amount of Frs.1,500 as a present from the town authorities was presented. The university of Berne was represented by the rector, Professor M. Haller. Dr. E. von Tavel, a former pupil of the school presented a cheque amounting to 30,000 frs. as a donation on behalf of former pupils.

#### LUCERNE.

M. Arnold Ott, a member of the cantonal government has tendered his resignation owing to ill health. M. Ott, who is 56 years old entered the government of his native canton in 1927 in succession to Dr. Wey. M. Ott is the son of the well-known Swiss writer Arnold Ott, he entered into the political arena at an early age, and for many years he was President of the Liberal Party of the canton of Lucerne. M. Ott is a gifted orator and his resignation from his post is universally regretted.

M. Franz Elmiger, a noted painter has died in Lucerne at the age of 52.

#### GLARUS.

The couple Luchsinger-Störi of Schwanden in Hätzingen, were killed when gathering "Edelweiss." They fell to death over the Eggstock (2450m.) above Braunwald. Mr. Luchsinger was 22 years old and his wife 19 years, they were only recently married.

#### BASLE.

Dr. Franz Welti, creator of the Swiss Communist Party, and its president until his independent attitude displeased Moscow, has died in Basle at the age of 55.

Formerly Dr. Welti was a leading member of the Socialist Party, but left it in 1920. By profession he was a barrister, and he was at one time examining magistrate.

Besides being a member of the second chamber of the Swiss Parliament, Dr. Welti was a deputy in the Basle Grand Council.

Professor, Dr. Wilhelm Barth, who was for 25 years "Konservator" of the "Kunsthalle" has died in Basle at the age of 65.

#### FRIBOURG.

M. Rossier, "sous-chef" of the railway station at Fribourg, was found dead near the chapel of Saint-Barthélemy; on the body a bullet wound was found, at present it is not yet established whether a crime has been committed or if it is a case of suicide.

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

M. Paul Courvoisier, Co-Editor of the "l'Impartial" has died at La Chaux-de-Fonds at the age of 54.

The death is reported from La Chaux-de-Fonds, of M. Louis Droz, a former Manager (1883-1919) of the Banque Fédérale there at the age of 88. From 1921-1924 the deceased undertook a mission, with which the Federal Council charged him in connection with the watch industry, he was a well-known personality throughout the canton of Neuchâtel.

#### ST. GALLEN.

States Councillor Löpfe-Benz has resigned from the leadership of the Liberal party of the canton of St. Gall, which post he has occupied since 1929 with great success. Pressure of his professional and parliamentary work made it impossible for M. Löpfe to carry on.

#### TICINO.

A serious motor-coach accident has happened at Biasca, the vehicle which carried 20 people, was coming from the Grisons, when it fell into a ravine near Biasca. Six of the passengers were more or less seriously hurt, three of them had to be taken to the hospital at Bellinzona, one of them, M. Maisson Seno, of Rabices near Disentis, aged 50 and father of seven children, later on died.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Members of the Committee.