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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### THE SWISS GOVERNMENT AS HOST.

The Federal Council is offering its customary dinner to the Diplomatic Corps, on January 27th at the Hotel Bellevue-Bernerhof.

#### NEW BOARD OF THE "SCHWEIZ. VOLKSBANK."

The meeting of delegates of the "Schweiz. Volksbank" took place last Saturday at Berne. The following have been elected members of the newly constituted Board:

Regierungsstatthalter Charles Bersier in Payerne; C. A. Curti, Kaufmann in Lucerne; Ad. Hochuli, Ziegeleidirektor in Pfungen; Hans Pfister, Generaldirektor der Schweiz. Mobilversicherungs-gesellschaft in Berne; Dr. O. Rohrer, Rechtsanwalt in St. Gall; Dr. Paul Ronus, Advokat in Basle; K. Soldan-Hartmann, Fabrikant in Biel; Nat. Rat R. Strässle in Zurich; Direktor Albert Vassalli in Geneva; D. H. Wuilleumier, Fabrikant in Tramelan.

The Federal Council has appointed the following members to represent the Government on the Board:

Ex-Federal Councillor Dr. Haab in Zurich; States-Councillor Züst in Lucerne; alt Kantonalbank Direktor Leder in Zurich; alt Bankdirektor Walch in Chardonne-Vevrey; Regierungsrat Wenk in Basle; Dr. Meile, Direktor der Schweiz. Mustermesse in Basle; Fürsprecher Ed. von Steiger in Berne; Frau Dr. Schwyzzer, Kastanienbaum-Lucerne; Dr. Weber, Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbund in Berne; Versicherungsagent Thalman in Fribourg, Grossrat Häberli in Moosseedorf.

#### SWISS SCHOLAR HONOURED.

Professor Wilhelm His, the eminent Swiss anatomist, who recently celebrated his 70th birthday, has been presented with the Goethe-Medal by Reichspräsident v. Hindenburg.

#### SIR PHILIP PILDITCH ON SWITZERLAND.

Sir Philip Pilditch, of Weybridge, was present and proposed the toast of the Swiss Confederation at the annual dinner of the British section of the Swiss Alpine Club which took place recently.

Sir Philip said we were all under a debt for the kindness experienced at the hands of the Swiss people. In 1931 he paid the ordinary charge at a Swiss hotel. In 1932 his party were allowed four francs per person per day to make up for the adverse exchange. This year he wrote suggesting "the same terms as last year," and his kind hostess knocked off another two francs each because the exchange was bad. He called that kindly and straightforward dealing.

Proceeding, Sir Philip said there was another Alpine Club represented at that dinner by their distinguished guest, Mr. Rutledge. He (Sir Philip) asked his friend on his right (Lord Wright) if he was eligible to join that, and tried him with the Schwarzsee, approached by the Staffel Alp, the Piz Languard, and the Dia Volazza, the Faulhorn, coupled with the traverse of the Great Scheidegg, but he said "No earthly," or words to that effect. He told him he did not want to join his old club.

Sir Philip, after remarking slyly that those who examined the great peaks from below saw them even better than those who started at un-earthly hours of the night, said his qualification for proposing the toast was that for 40 years he had been seeking out and finding all the beauty spots in that lovely land.

Concluding, he said: "Last summer my wife and I took two young people to Grindelwald. At any rate, they were younger than us. One had been married before; the other, in a longish life, had been so far immune. A few evenings

looking at the Finsteraarhorn in the starry sky, culminating in a moonlight night looking down on the lake from the balcony high up in Spiez, cooked his goose. The first thing I got on my return to England was an invitation to give the girl away."

#### EARLY SWISS POTTERY.

A bowl and dish which have for some time served as umbrella-stand and waste-paper basket in the vestry of St. Paul's Church, Wimbledon Park, have recently been identified as Swiss pottery of the 10th-8th centuries B.C., and are to be presented to the British Museum, which has no comparable specimens. The bowl, of a dark slate colour, standing about a foot high, is roughly finished on the inside. The present vicar, the Rev. Nevill Robertson, who publishes an account of them in the parish magazine, has been unable to account for their presence, though it is believed that they may have been dug up in the Surrey hills, and given to the first vicar, Mr. Brace, half a century ago.

Mr. Christopher Hawkes, Assistant Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum, has examined them, and declares them to be without doubt produced by the Swiss Lake dwellers who filtered in groups into Britain not much later than 800 B.C. Bronze implements used by this people have been dug up in this country, but not as yet pottery of this type, and it appears as difficult to suppose that the original prehistoric settlers brought with them such heavy and clumsy pottery as to believe that modern tourists to Switzerland have burdened themselves with such luggage. Until more definite evidence is forthcoming it is not to be assumed that the early Swiss immigrants introduced their pottery into Britain.

#### FRESH SNOWFALL IN SWITZERLAND.

After an interval of two days, when temperature was higher and rainfall was recorded even at the 2,000ft. level, snow has fallen again all over Switzerland more abundantly in the west than in the east.

There was a large influx of skiers in all the winter resorts for the week-end. St. Moritz and Davos in the Engadine report nearly 3ft. of snow and 14deg. of frost, while from 12 to 10 deg. and nearly 2ft. of snow were reported from Adelboden, Mürren, and Wengen in the Bernese Oberland. Conditions for ski-ing have not been as good as now for many winters.

#### CAMBRIDGE BEATEN BY ST. MORITZ.

The Cambridge ice hockey team were beaten by the St. Moritz Club by four goals to three. Goals were scored for Cambridge by R. T. L. Rober (2) and J. G. Carr. The outstanding feature of the game was the brilliant play of Rudi Ball, the Swiss player, who scored all four goals for St. Moritz. He has only recently joined the St. Moritz team. The score was even at the end of the first period with one goal all. St. Moritz led by 3 to 2 at the end of the second.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The death is reported from Zurich of Doctor Constantin Kaufmann at the age of 81. Dr. Kaufmann, who hailed from the Canton of Solothurn, was for many years established at Zurich, where he enjoyed the reputation of one of the leading surgeons; he was also a lecturer at the University of Zurich.

#### BERNE.

M. Werren, governor of the Thorberg prison was stabbed in the back by one of the inmates, when on an inspection tour through the workshops. Fortunately the wound has not been found very serious, and it is hoped that M. Werren will soon be able to resume his duties. His attacker is Joseph Ghidorzi, aged 20, who has recently been condemned to 20 years imprisonment.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th, 1934

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

### LUCERNE.

M. Erni, a member of the cantonal government, is shortly retiring from his post, he joined the government of the canton of Lucerne in 1916. M. Erni has celebrated last year his 75th birthday anniversary.

### BASLE.

Motor bandits raided the Wever Bank at the Elisabethenstrasse on Friday last. They stole an amount of about 1,000frs., and killed the cashier, Mr. Benter and his assistant, Mr. Kaufmann.

The raid which has been carried out in accordance with the worst traditions of American banditry has aroused great excitement throughout Switzerland.

A car drove up to the door of the bank at about 20 minutes to nine. The only person about was a policeman on duty in the street, who suspected nothing, so rare are bank robberies of this kind in Switzerland.

Two men strode up to the grille of the bank, and, drawing revolvers, ordered the cashiers, to hold up their hands. The cashiers, probably failing to grasp the real significance of the command, appear to have simply looked at the men in astonishment without making any movement. In a second or two the bandits fired and both cashiers fell.

The bandits, without paying any further attention to them, turned to the drawers, which were open. What they found in their hurried search was not a great sum, considering the resources of the bank. It amounted to about 1,000frs. in Swiss money and a number of French and Italian notes and bonds.

Pocketing these, the men returned to their car and drove away in the direction of another bank in the city.

The car was found later on the bank of the Rhine, but there is no clue to the identity of the murderers, who are assumed to have escaped to Germany across the Rhine.

The late M. Ulrich Sauter, a former Goldsmith in Basle, has left half a million francs to the Zoological Garden at Basle.

### SOLOTHURN.

The inhabitants of the town of Olten, numbered 14,048 on the 1st of January, 1934.

### GENEVA.

M. Waldemar Pahnke, Professor at the Conservatoire at Geneva has died at the age of 62.

### APPENZEL I. Rh.

M. Matthias Broger, who was for nearly 20 years Manager of the Cantonal of Appenzel I. Rh. has died at the age of 78.

### THURGAU.

During 1933, bequests amounting to 145,000 frs. (1932: 148,000) have been made in the Canton of Thurgau. About 46,000 frs. were distributed to infirmaries, 27,500 frs. for educational, and 13,500 frs. for church purposes. The remainder was left to various other institutions.

### VAUD.

M. Jules Dufour, member of the cantonal Government, has intimated that he is not seeking re-election when his term of office terminates next March.

M. Dufour was made a member of the government of his native canton in 1920. In the army he reached the rank of a Colonel; he is Chairman of the Cantonal Bank.

### FOOTBALL.

7th January, 1934.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Grasshoppers	.....7	Bern	.....1
Young Fellows	.....6	Lugano	.....2
Biel	.....8	Basel	.....1
Young Boys	.....3	Chaux-de-Fonds	.....2
Locarno	.....1	Blue Stars	.....0
Servette	.....2	Zurich	.....0
Lausanne	.....8	Nordstern	.....2

The match Concordia v. Urania had to be postponed, and instead of Basel receiving Biel the venue was reversed on account of the ground in Basel being a veritable morass and totally unfit for play.

Some of the results are again rather startling in the prolific number of goals scored. No doubt snow covered, icy, slippery grounds must lead to such results when one of the sides is less

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