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The Swiss Observer

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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).

LOCAL.

SWISS WAR CLAIMS.

At a public meeting the League Council finally disposed of the demand by the Swiss Confederation for reparation from France and other States for damages suffered by Swiss citizens as a result of events during the war.

The committee of the representatives of Spain, Argentina, and Czecho-Slovakia, to which the matter had been referred in January, had to recommend whether the Council should continue to attend to the matter as one "threatening to disturb international peace or the good understanding upon which peace depends." Their opinion was that the question should not be set aside merely on the ground that in the view of the parties themselves peace and good understanding between them were not in danger, though this circumstance limited the scope of the Council's action. In a dispute which, like the present, did not involve an immediate threat to peace and was not a conflict of a political nature but was founded only on a pecuniary claim they held that the Council could not go beyond the limits of an effort at conciliation. They had reached the conclusion that, apart from direct conversations, which it considered always possible, the probability of conciliation was not sufficient to justify the keeping of the question on the agenda.

M. Motta (Switzerland, which was a member of the Council ad hoc) expressed the regret of his Government for the decision, and said that he could not accept the conclusions of the committee even if the Council, apart from Switzerland, was unanimous.

Mr. Osusky (Czecho-Slovakia) said that as a member of the committee he must explain the reasons that had guided him in the drafting of the report. He regretted that in the Twentieth century the relations between States should still be in a condition of semi-anarchy, but the committee felt that in its conclusions it had arrived at a reasonable interpretation of the Covenant. It was regrettable that the existing international machinery did not permit of a settlement of all disputes existing between States.

The report was adopted, all the members of the Council voting in favour of it except Switzerland, which voted against.

ARBITRATION IN THE JAKOB CASE.

The German acceptance of the proposal to refer to arbitration the kidnapping of the German-Jewish journalist Herr Jakob has been examined by the Swiss Political Department. The German Government suggested a number of amendments to the proposal. They have been accepted by the Swiss Political Department, which will suggest a few other modifications. These alterations involve only minor points, and it is stated in Berne that Swiss Government circles are well satisfied with the good will now shown by Germany in that matter, and that there is every hope of reaching a satisfactory settlement.

SHORTENING OF FRONTIER.

That part of the Austro-Swiss frontier marked by the Rhine has been shortened by six miles as the result of a project designed to prevent flooding. The work, which was begun 42 years ago, involved two new cuttings and the rebuilding of two stretches of the old Rhine course. Freight can now be carried to Lake Constance.

MOTOR CYCLE GRAND PRIZ.

The Swiss Grand Prix will be held on June 30th at Berne over the Bremgarten Circuit. The races this year will all be held on one day and not spread over two days as in previous years. There will be classes for 250 c.c., 350 c.c., 500 c.c., solos and 600 c.c., and 1,000 c.c. sidecar races.

STATISTICAL COMPARISONS.

"If the services of the Swiss Federal Railways were spread evenly over the whole year on one line, running from Berne to Jerusalem, a train would be leaving every 42 minutes all the year round. There would continually be 136 trains under way, with 7,296 passengers and 4,936 tons of freight."

SNOWFALLS IN SWITZERLAND.

Snowfalls in Switzerland have been the heaviest recorded in May for 80 years. More than 2ft. of snow has been reported from the Grand St. Bernard and Little St. Bernard, and from 20ft. to 28ft. on the mountains in the St. Gothard region.

TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPORTS.

As compared with the corresponding period of last year, exports of textile machinery from Switzerland during the first quarter of 1935 have declined from 2,601.2 tons (6,200,000 frs.) to 2,047.6 tons (4,900,000 frs.). Exports of looms fell by nearly 50 per cent., of other weaving machines by about 14 per cent., and of knitting machines by some 28 per cent. On the other hand there was an increase in the exports of spinning and twisting machines of nearly 10 per cent.

NEW ROLLING STOCK FOR FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

Following a meeting which took place in Berne on March 12th, the Board of Administration of the Federal Railways has sanctioned the purchase of 45 new carriages, 12 luggage vans, and 50 goods trucks. By virtue of Art. 5 of the Federal Decree of December 1st, 1934, dealing with means to combat the economic crisis and create possibilities of employment, the Federal Council will contribute Fr. 1,352,000 towards the expenses connected with the purchase of new rolling stock. Orders are to be placed at once for the construction of ten first and second class, and 30 third class coaches, all of which will be of all-steel construction intended for international circulation. The new bogie luggage vans are also to be built of steel.

FEDERAL.

BASLE.

M. Ernst Probst, a partner of the firm Probst and Co., manufacturers of pumice-stone, was run over by a train and killed. He was 40 years of age.

Dr. Eberhard Vischer, a former Professor of Theology at the University of Basle has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

The death has occurred at Basle of Dr. August Burekhardt, a noted historian at the age of 67.

Dr. Friedrich Zschokke, formerly Professor of Zoology at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary.

AARGAU.

A large fire broke out at the saw-mill Ruf in Murgenthal, the damage caused is estimated to exceed 25,000 frs.

GENEVA.

M. Jules Louis Vannod, head gaoler of the prison of St. Antoine in Geneva, has retired after 26 years in the Genevese prison service.

It was M. Vannod who discovered and cut down the body of the anarchist Luccheni, the murderer of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, who hanged himself in his cell after 12 years' imprisonment.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

REUNION D'ETE

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées à prendre part

MARDI 4 JUIN à 7 HEURES 50

au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, HENDON,

Diner (6/6) - Danse jusqu'à minuit.

Tenue de Ville

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)

Le Comité.

The Empress Elizabeth, wife of the Emperor Francis Joseph, was stabbed on the Quai de Mont Blanc, Geneva, in September, 1898, by an Italian. She died in the hotel which at present is headquarters of the British delegations to the League of Nations.

ST. GALLEN.

The death is reported from Dietfurt of M. Felix R. Schönenberger, manufacturer and President of the board of the "Ersparniskasse Bütschwil." The deceased was for many years a member of the Grand Council.

SCHWYZ.

The accounts of the canton Schwyz for 1934, register a deficit of 476,207 frs.

TICINO.

Dr. C. Gatti, President of the criminal tribunal in Lugano, met with an accident, when he was run over by a motor-car. Dr. Gatti received serious injuries. The chauffeur of the car was arrested.

The death is reported from Vacallo of M. Francesco Bertola, for 20 years a member of the Grand Council, at the age of 52.

FOOTBALL.

22nd-26th May, 1935.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Grasshoppers	.....5	Young Boys	.....3
Lausanne	.....3	Nordstern	.....0
Chaux-de-Fonds	.....0	Servette	.....1
Locarno	.....3	Bern	.....1

FRIENDLIES.

Basel	.....1	Manchester City	.....5
Zurich XI	.....1	Everton	.....3

There remain two more matches unplayed, Chaux-de-Fonds v. Lausanne and v. Nordstern. If Lausanne win this last game, they are Champions; if they lose, Servette keep the title; and if they draw there will have to be another match between them, as goal average, which would favour Lausanne, does not count in Switzerland. The only reason why is, I believe, that it provides another opportunity for a money producing game, as these needle matches naturally draw good crowds. Who says Football is a Sport and not a Business?

The First League has finished its programme and I am all cock-a-hoop, for good old F. C. St. Gall, my old club, have ended at the head of Group East, with 28 points and the best goal average of any team, 49 for and 22 against. Three rousing cheers, for the Leaders! Who said, green was an unlucky colour? Well, in fact perhaps it is, at any rate for the local rivals, F.C. Brühl, who lost their last game at home against Kreuzlingen 1:3 and thereby ended third in the table with 26 points, Luzern being second, one point ahead. And when you note, that Everton beat Kreuzlingen by ten goals to one, you may get a shrewd idea of the comparative merits of English and Swiss First League Football.

And so we have those old stagers, F.C. Aarau and F.C. St. Gallen qualified for promotion to the National League. Will they avail themselves of the opportunity or will they elect to continue in the First League, like Kreuzlingen did last year? We shall see; but I do hope, neither of them will chose to go up, unless they have good reason to believe, that they will be able to compete successfully in the highest circle. Far better to play a role of some consequence in the First League, than to linger all the season at the tail-end of the top-class, as it happened to Etoile Carouge, promoted last year and now relegated once more, having won but 6 points in 26 matches, scored but 14 goals and conceded 85! However, let us tender hearty congratulations to both clubs and may their choice be guided more by wisdom than by ambition. M.G.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We again wish to direct the attention of the members and friends of the City Swiss Club, to the first "Réunion d'été," which is taking place on Tuesday next, June 4th, at the Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. The ladies are cordially invited, and after dinner a dance will be held.

In order to allow the Committee to make adequate arrangements, it is necessary to book as early as possible.