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The Swiss Observer

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Reluctantly surrendering himself to the general desire for holidays, the Editor proposes to take a few weeks' respite. The publication of the "S. O." will therefore be suspended as from the issue of the 17th inst., and the next number will appear again on Saturday, September 14th.

We trust that the faithful ones for whom the "S. O." has become an indispensable weekend diet, will bear with us for this short period.

The date of expiry of the prepaid subscriptions and advertising contracts will be correspondingly extended.

Any correspondence or enquiries received in the meantime will be attended to as usual.

THE PUBLISHERS.



HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

THE FIRST OF AUGUST.

Throughout Switzerland our National day has been observed and celebrated in the traditional manner. In Berne, M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation made a patriotic speech outside the Cathedral. M. Motta spoke to the Swiss abroad on the wireless, his address, in German, French and Italian was broadcasted by all the Swiss radio Stations.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

During the week ended July 31st, the gold reserve of the Swiss National Bank increased by roughly 12,000,000fr. and reached 1,300,000,000fr. The bank note circulation was 1,281,000,000fr., an increase of 5,000,000fr., which is nearly equivalent to the rise recorded last year for the same period. On July 31st the gold reserve represented 81.91 of all the engagements of the Bank.

DR. HAAB'S 70TH BIRTHDAY.

Dr. Haab, late Federal Councillor, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary on Thursday last.

He rendered his country great services during almost half a century. Dr. Haab was, in 1899, elected a member of the "Obergericht" of the canton of Zurich; nine years later he entered the cantonal government. In 1911 he was appointed General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, and in 1917 he left this post to become Swiss Minister in Berlin as successor of the late Dr. von Planta. A year later, he succeeded Dr. Forrer as Federal Councillor. His resignation from the government, a few years ago, was universally regretted. Two years ago the Federal Council has appointed Dr. Haab, Chairman of the newly organised board of the "Banque Populaire Suisse" (Schweiz. Volksbank), in his letter of acceptance, he wrote, "I wish to render my country a service, and therefore do not require any payment."

ADMIRAL LUIZ EMILIO BELART. †

The death which was announced some time ago in the Daily Press, of Admiral Luiz Belart, commander-in-chief of the Brazilian Navy, at the age of 72 has revealed that the deceased was the son of a merchant from Brugg who emigrated to Brazil. Admiral Belart, attended in 1875 till 1879 the Bezirksschule in Brugg, after his return he entered the Brazilian Navy to which he belonged for over 40 years. In 1925 he was appointed commander-in-chief, but owing to ill-health he soon afterwards retired from his post.

CHEAP SWISS HOLIDAYS.

In order to assist in restoring prosperity to the hotel and tourist industry in Switzerland, a Swiss Hotel Plan has been evolved by Mr. G. Duttweiler, a prominent Swiss business man, which provides a considerable reduction in the fares to Switzerland and concessions in hotel rates.

For example, a nine days' tour to the Lake of Lucerne district is offered at eight and a half guineas, which includes the return fare from London to Switzerland — third class fare in England and Switzerland, second class in Belgium and France — hotel, board, season ticket for mountain railways and lake steamers, and free entry into casinos, lidos, and amusement resorts.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS.

Two Germans, Herr W. Stosser and Herr P. H. Seybold, of Pforzheim, started last Thursday morning from the Gspaltenhorn hut to climb the Morgenhorn. In the afternoon, as they had not returned, the keeper of the hut examined the mountain through his telescope and noticed that an ice cornice under which the two men had been climbing had collapsed. A search party failed to find them, and it is feared that their bodies are lying in an ice couloir which will be very difficult to reach.

A young man of St. Gallen fell while climbing on the Kasten and was killed. This brings up to 100 the number of persons killed since the beginning of the year while climbing in the Alps.

NEW AUSTRIAN MINISTER TO SWITZERLAND.

Dr. Wilhelm Freiherr von Engerth, has been appointed Austrian Minister to the Swiss Confederation; he occupied, until recently the post of General Consul at Munich.

THE JACOB CASE.

The German and Swiss Governments have agreed on the appointment of arbitrators to examine the case of Herr Berthold Jacob, the German-Jewish journalist who was kidnapped in March on Swiss soil, and is now in prison in Berlin.

The Chairman of the arbitration board will be Dr. Raphael Erich, Finnish Minister in Stockholm. The German and Swiss representatives will be Baron Axel von Freytag-Loringhoven, a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague, and Professor Max Huber of Zurich, formerly Vice-President of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The neutral arbitrators will be M. von Juhasz, formerly President of the Hungarian Royal Curia, and M. Hansson of Oslo, formerly President of the Mixed Court of Appeal in Egypt.

SWISS PROFESSOR HONOURED.

The "Goethe-Preis" of the town of Frankfurt a. M. for the year 1935 has been awarded to Dr. H. Stegemann, Professor at the University in Berne.

GENEVA'S CHAMPION TALKER.

Geneva's champion talker is — a woman. She is Madame Jeanne Delorme. She has just won a contest organised by shopkeepers of the town for pedlars, patent medicine vendors, circus "barkers" and many others who came from all parts of French Switzerland and Savoy to match their powers of salesmanship.

LOCAL.

BASLE.

From Basle comes the news of the death of M. K. Kächlin, the founder of the well-known Variety Theatre of the same name, at the age of 71. The deceased started his Variety shows in 1900 at the old "Cardinal" (now the cinema Alhambra) and later on built his own theatre in the "Steinenvorstadt."

The Berlin correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" has been asked by the German Government to leave the country, no reason was given. (The "Basler Nachrichten" is prohibited in Germany).

GENEVA.

In consequence of a motor accident, the death has occurred at Geneva of M. Jules Neher, Manager of the "Motosacoche, S.A." in Geneva at the age of 65. M. Neher was honorary President of the "Union Motocycliste Suisse" and the "Fédération Internationale des Clubs Motocycliste."

TICINO.

The Federal Council has prohibited the sale of the paper "Adula," which is published in Lugano.

BERNE.

No less than four members, representing the Peasant Party in the National Council, have declared their intention to retire next autumn. They are Messrs. Tschumi, Jenny, Gnägi and Siegenthaler.

The resignation of National Councillors Tschumi and Jenny does not come as a surprise, the former is 77 years of age and the latter 78. National Councillor Jenny entered Parliament in 1890, he presided over the National Council in 1922/23.

* * *

The old part of the Town of Bienne is being renovated, with the result that old oriels and balconies, oak doors, quaint iron-work, picturesque fountains, etc., are touched up and entire quarters of the town regain their picturesque aspect of former times. Open-air performances held in an open place, with "The Ring of Bienne" as their subject, are fixed for August 31st and Sept. 1,3,5,7,8. Social and sports events will take place during these days.

GRISONS.

Professor C. Dorno, the founder of the "Schweizerischen Forschungsinstitut für Hochgebirgsklima und Tuberkulose" in Davos has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

ZURICH.

The remuneration and travelling expenses of the members of the "Kantonsrat" for 1934 amount to 101,490 frs.

* * *

National Councillors Emil Heller in Eglisau and Carl Bertschinger in Kempttal will not contest their seats at the next Parliamentary elections. M. Heller entered Parliament in 1928 and M. Bertschinger in 1917. Both are members of the Peasant Party.

VALAIS.

Sixty granaries which were situated between the villages d'Iserables and l'Andes caught fire. In spite of great efforts by the fire brigade of several neighbouring villages, practically all the sheds, containing corn, hay and oats, were burnt to the ground. The damage caused is estimated to be between 80-100,000 frs.

APPENZELL.

The Säntis suspension railway has started its service last week.

GLARUS.

National Councillor, H. Jenny-Schuler from Ennenda has informed the Liberal Party Office that he does not wish to stand again at the next re-elections, owing to his advanced age. (M. Jenny is 75). He entered the National Council in 1914, and during his parliamentary life, he has rendered great services to the country as a member of various commissions.

LES SUISSES A L'ETRANGER ET LA MERE-PATRIE.

Par GERHART SCHURCH, Berne.
Article publié "Dans Mon Pays"

(Continued).

Nos autorités militaires comptent sur la volonté servir de nos concitoyens de l'étranger. 25,000 hommes de plus ou de moins, pour une petite armée comme la nôtre, ne sont pas quantité négligeable. La taxe d'exemption du service militaire payée par les Suisses à l'étranger libérés du service personnel représente elle aussi une prestation dont nos cantons se passeraient difficilement. La grande majorité de ceux qui, dans nos colonies, réclament avec insistance une réforme du relèvement de cette taxe, n'entendent pas par là que les Suisses à l'étranger en soient complètement dispensés; ils désirent simplement que la façon de fixer et de percevoir la taxe militaire soit plus équitable et tienne compte dans une plus large mesure des circonstances.

Notre pays va au-devant de jours difficiles. Autour de la Maison Suisse, l'air est agité; à l'intérieur, on est depuis longtemps inquiet. L'esprit nouveau qui souffle un peu partout ne saurait nous laisser indifférents, mais il ne doit pas nous faire oublier que la Suisse est toujours allée à la ruine, chaque fois que, pour imiter l'étranger, elle oublie l'esprit qui l'avait fondée: l'esprit de l'homme libre qui, au-dessus des races, des langues et des confessions, entend rester uni à son frère confédéré, l'esprit qui place, par delà tout intérêt particulier, l'intérêt général de la Confédération Suisse.