Zeitschrift:	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber:	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band:	- (1936)
Heft:	772

Rubrik: Home news

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. <u>Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.</u>

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. <u>Voir Informations légales.</u>

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. <u>See Legal notice.</u>

Download PDF: 14.05.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

Che Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595. Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON

Vol. 15-No. 772

SWITZERLAND

Đ

FEDERAL

(Swiss subscription

LONDON, AUGUST 29, 1936.

cally forbids a permanent army, but it is believed that it would be possible to find a way out of the legal tangle. 3/6 6/6 12/-

SWISS COMMUNISTS SENT BACK. Twelve young communists from Zurich, who intended to join the government forces in Spain, were detained at Basle by the police; they were sent back by the next train from "whence they came.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK. The statement of the Swiss National Bank for the week ended August 22nd shows that the gold reserve has increased by 10,000,000f., to 1,471,700,000f., while the bank note circulation has decreased by 4,800,000f. to 1,245,000,000f. On August 22nd the gold reserve represented 86.89 per cent. of all the engagements of the Bank cent. of all the engagements of the Bank.

cent. of all the engagements of the Bank. SWISS NEUTRALITY IN CIVIL WAR. The Swiss Federal Gouncil decided to take several new measures to ensure Switzerland's com-plete neutrality in the Spanish civil war. According to these regulations, which came into effect immediately, anyone leaving Switzerland to take part in the hostilities, or preparing for or actually collecting money for any other than charit-able work in connection with the war, or publicly provoking or inciting anyone to break the new reguable work in connection with the war, or publicly provoking or inciting anyone to break the new regu-lations, is liable to a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment or a maximum fine of 10,000 Swiss frances (more than £600), or to both. The measures also provide that money collected to help to finance the hostilities, and all booklets, posters, or other printed matter which are considered likely to load to on infrastire of the work for

likely to lead to an infraction of the regulations, will be seized by the police.

Finally they provide that all demonstrations organised in favour of one or other of the belligerents in Spain (particularly public meetings or parades) are forbidden without permission.

The new regulations complete the measures taken about a fortnight ago by the Federal Council, which provide for a total embargo on arms to Spain and forbid the enlistment of Swiss subjects as soldiers for either side.

The new measures are considered to be primarily an act of censure against the Socialist Mayor of Geneva, Leon Nicole, who a few years ago actively took part in a lively protest meeting against Spanish Fascists organised by the local Socialist and Communist party.

SWISS BANKING MORATORIUM. Closuit and Co., a private banking firm, of Martigny, in the Canton of Valais, has been granted a 12 months' moratorium. The bank was founded in 1885.

AIRPORT FOR ST. MORITZ. A scheme to enable British visitors to get into an air liner at Croydon and land within ten minutes of St. Moritz and Pontresina is being discussed by the municipalities of the Engadine towns. The proposal is to build an airport, to be called "Upper Engadine Aerodrone," at Samaden. The site is a large flat field, near the golf course, fre-quently used in the past as a landing ground by private aircraft. private aircraft.

The estimated cost is approximately £13,000. The settimated cost is approximately 2.15,000. The Swiss Labour Board will make a grant of about one-tenth of the total towards wages and workmen's insurances. Part is to be raised by collections in the neighbouring communes, and the remainder by a Cantonal lottery.

It is hoped to have the aerodrome ready by the beginning of the winter sports season in December.

LOCAL. ZURICH.

The deficit for 1935 of the accounts of the canton of Zurich amounts to 5,293,525 frs. (Deficit 1934: 8,488,252 frs.)

The founder and since 1928 President of the Christian-Socialist party, National-Councillor Bernard Widmer, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. H. Pallmann from Frauenfeld to the post of Professor of Chemistry at the Federal Technical University in Zurich. * *

The town council of Zurich has made a presen-tation (Kunstmappe) to Doctor Bircher-Benner on the occasion of his 60th birthday anniversary, in recognition for his services rendered to medical science

BASLE.

Through the death of Pastor Jakob Täschler, the congregation of the Basle Minster loses one of its favourite former preachers, who for 25 years occupied the pulpit.

BERNE.

M. Eduard Egger-Lehnherr, proprietor of the "Bären " and Hotel " Schweizerhof " in Kander-steg, has died at the age of 70. M. Egger was a well-known personality in Hotel circles both at home and abroad. 14

Lieutenant H. Bosch, attached to the Field-Battery 43 at Thun, was killed in a motor accident. LUCERNE.

M. Hans Emmenegger, one of Switzerland's best known landscape painters, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. After having studied in Paris and Munich, he established himself in Switzer-land in 1900; his pictures were exhibited at numerous exhibitions both at home and abroad.

SOLOTHURN. The death is reported from Solothurn of Dr. W. Kottmann, who was for many years connected with the "Bürgerspital." From 1927-1932 he occupied the post as surgeon-in-chief.

THURGAU.

The canton of Thurgau makes no exception from other cantons in showing a deficit in their accounts for 1935. (Frs. 360,720,40.) * * *

The late Colonel P. Lardy from Kreuzlingen has left an amount of 65,000 frs. for charitable purposes. ST. GALLEN.

M. Walter Zollikofer-Kern, senior partner of the well-known Printing Works, Zollikofer and Co. in St. Gall has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. GENEVA.

Pastor Ernest Sauvin died at Geneva at a great age. He took over a pastorate in the canton of Neuchâtel in 1882 and in 1899 he was appointed pastor at Geneva. For many years he was Euro-pean Secretary of the Y.M.C.A.

NEUCHATEL.

The Cement Works at St. Sulpice have closed down for want of work. Forty-five workmen are thus unemployed.

TICINO.

Great excitement was caused at Cureglia, where a bomb exploded at the town hall. It is reported that the damage caused to the structure of the building is considerable. The police have opened an investigation.

The buildings of the "Korkplattenfabrik Margaroli" at Biasca were destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to be considerable.

SWISS FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS.

SWISS FOREIGN TRADE RETURNS. The foreign trade returns for the first half of 1936 show a decrease over 1935 both in imports and exports, but the 1936 results are not as unsatisfac-tory as had at one time been forecast. Imports totalled 542,013.1816 frances, a drop of nearly 80,500,000 frances over 1935, which was mainly due to import quotas. Exports totalled 396,210,434 frances, a drop of about 6 millions over 1935. The import surplus, which was 220 millions last year, was reduced to 145,750,000 in 1936. The results: for the four chief exporting in-dustries are nevertheless encouraging. These in-dustries' exports totalled 186.5 millions for the first is months, as against 178.75 millions the previous

dustries' exports totalled 186.5 millions for the first six months, as against 178.75 millions the previous year. Exports of the watch-making industry reached 55.7 millions, compared with 48.8 millions in 1935; the market for Swiss watches has somewhat expanded, and there was a noticeable improvement in the demand for the better quality watches. Silk and cotton goods exports showed a small decrease over last year, but the machines industry's exported products reaches.

over last year, out the machines maustry s exported products rose by 3 millions. Imports from Great Britain dropped to 33,600,012 frances from 37,719,719 frances in 1935, and exports to Great Britain rose from 35,443,683 frances in 1935 to 41,934,255 frances in 1936. Trade with the five principal countries was as follows (in millions of france):—

	Imports from		Exports to		
	1935	1936	$193\hat{5}$	1936	
Germany	161.6	144.8	90.1	85.1	
France	106.2	82.4	60.4	52.2	
Great Britain	37.5	33.3	35.1	41.7	
U.S.A	32.6	29.8	20.7	23.8	
Italy	47.0	28.4	38.2	29.0	

SWISS GRAND PRIX. The German driver Bernd Rosemever, at the

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

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Basle V 5718).

ay be paid into Postschech-Konte

HOME NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM $\begin{cases} 3 \text{ Months (13 issues. post free)} \\ 6 \\ 12 \end{cases}$

The German driver Bernd Rosemeyer, at the wheel of an Auto-Union, won the Swiss motoring Grand Prix in Berne, on Sunday last. He covered the distance of about 325 miles in 3hr. 9min. 1.6sec., at an average speed of 161.755 kilometres an hour. The only British competitor, Earl Howe, driving a Bugatti, retired in the twenty-fifth lap owing to engine trouble. The British racing motorist, R. J. B. Seaman, driving a Delage, won the Prix de Berne, the event for cars of under 1.500c.c., for the third year in succession. Seaman covered the twenty-eight laps of the 4½ mile course—a distance of about 125 miles—at an average speed of 141.381 kilometres (approximately 884 miles) an hour. The Swiss driver H. Ruesch won the Prix de Berne on a Alfa Romeo car. Romeo car.

SILK IMPORT TARIFF INCREASED.

Of the 15,000 looms which were operating a few years ago in the Swiss silk industry, once the largest and most flourishing of the Swiss exporting indusand most nourising of the Swiss exporting indus-tries, only about 4,000 are running to-day, and these, moreover, are on short time. Exports, too, have declined during the past nine years to less than one-sixth of their former volume. With a view, therefore, to protecting the home market as far as therefore, to protecting the nome market as far as possible to the advantage of the domestic sulk in-dustry, the Swiss Federal Council has increased the import tariffs on silk tissues to between 600 and 800 frs. per 100 kgs, and on silk wearing apparel to between 1,200 and 1,500 frs. per 100 kgs.

SWISS FRANC'S FUTURE.

Dr. Jean M. Musy, a former President of the Swiss Confederation and ex-Finance Minister, who is on a visit to Holland, states in an interview with the "Algemeen Handelsblad" that an automatic

the "Algemeen Handelsblad" that an automatic adaptation of prices in the on-gold countries to those in the devaluation countries cannot be achieved. The only alternative is deflation or devaluation. As to whether deflation—of which Dr. Musy had been a strong supporter—still has a chance of success in Switzerland, he said "I feel it is now too late for carrying on deflation. The Swiss popu-lation has lost its courage."

He added that any devaluation of the French franc would not automatically lead to devaluation of the Swiss currency. There was no close connec-tion between the two currencies and the gold stocks of the Swiss National Bank were large enough to resist attacks. The Swiss authorities would there-fore retain their liberty of action in the event of France devaluing her currency.

QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Queen Wilhelmina and Princess Juliana of the Netherlands left Switzerland after a fortnight's holiday at Weissenburg in the Bernese Oberland.

SWISS STANDING ARMY PLAN.

Creation of a standing army to defend Switzer-land against sudden invasion is being discussed by the Swiss General Staff, and a report on the subject will shortly be made to M. Minger, the Minister for Defence.

Up to the present Switzerland has had only a wards, according to the number of men undergoing training at any one time, and it has been thought that it would always be possible to mobilise the force in time to meet any threatened invasion, as was done in 1914.

Recent developments of mechanised armies, however, have convinced the military authorities that there would be no time for molilisation before an invader would be able to sweep across the northern frontier. The federal constitution specifi-

PRICE 3d.