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TICINO.

Herr Hans Streuli, a member of the Zurich Aero Club, flying a single-motored Swiss aeroplane in which were two passengers, crashed during a fog in the Val Colla, near Lugano, after a successful flight over the Alps on their way to Tunis. Herr Streuli and his passengers, Herren Brüniger and Cavelti, were killed.

The death is reported from Lugano of Dr. Angelo Bertola, President of the Court in Mendrisio. Dr. Bertola was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, where he played an important part.

**SWITZERLAND.
A RECOVERY IN EXPORTS.**

Swiss foreign trade returns for the first quarter of 1936, though showing a smaller total than in the corresponding period of 1935, are better than was forecast. During the first quarter this year imports totalled 268,501,649 francs, compared with 293,162,507 francs last year, a drop which was partly due to import quotas and partly to reduced purchases of raw materials and manufactured products. Exports totalled 192,406,925 francs, compared with 200,045,951 francs in 1935. But while exports in January and February, 1936, were 7,003,610 francs and 2,953,957 francs respectively lower than during the corresponding months of 1935, in March they were 2,316,816 francs higher. The watchmaking industry is continuing slowly but steadily to improve, and its exports are now greater than in 1935. There has also been a small improvement in the machine industry. The import surplus, which was 93,116,553 in the first quarter of 1935, was this year only 76,094,721 francs.

Trade with Great Britain was satisfactory. Imports from Great Britain at 17,474,705 francs were 1,364,735 francs less than in the first quarter of 1935; and exports were 19,773,969 francs, or 3,007,450 francs more than in 1935. Trade with the principal countries was as follows (in Millions of francs) during the first quarter of each year:—

	Imports from		Exports to	
	1935	1936	1935	1936
Germany	74.4	70.3	48.8	40.6
France	50.0	43.3	26.3	26.0
Great Britain	18.7	17.3	16.6	19.7
Italy	22.3	13.0	21.2	14.1
U.S.A.	15.7	15.1	10.6	11.2

Great Britain has thus secured — both in imports and exports — the third place, formerly held by Italy, whose imports and exports have been reduced by about 42 and 33 per cent. respectively owing to the applications of sanctions.

Banking has been more active as a result of renewed activity in the Swiss Bourses and of a new influx of foreign capital — mostly French — into the banks. Since January last the average value of twelve Federal Government securities has risen by nearly 2 per cent., while that of ninety industrial, transport and banking securities has risen by about 7 per cent.

The number of unemployed, which was 124,000 in January, fell to 119,700 in February and to 98,362 in March, and there was a further drop in April, another sign that economic conditions are improving.

RE-ARMAMENT IN THE RHINELAND.

The reoccupation by Germany of the Rhine demilitarised zone is causing much concern in Switzerland. On the one hand, it suggests that the value of treaties — and the neutrality and existence of Switzerland are based on treaties — is very small; on the other hand, the presence of German troops on the Swiss frontier and the building of fortifications constitute a direct menace to Switzerland. It is for that reason that the Federal Government has decided to hasten the completion of the re-armament scheme adopted last year, which involves an expenditure of 85 million francs, mainly devoted to the re-equipment of the artillery, the development of aviation and the erection of fortifications along the northern frontier. One part of the programme has already been completed, but the fortifications will not be terminated before the end of the year. But, in present circumstances, the programme is regarded as insufficient, and the Government is now contemplating a complete reorganisation and modernisation of national defence involving an expenditure of 235 million francs.

The Government intends to spend a further 25 million francs on fortifications, while the remaining 110 million francs are to be expended on armaments. As the Swiss Constitution does not allow the creation of permanent army units, a new organisation will be created to man the fortifications at once in case of danger. At the same time, light units armed with light artillery and machine guns will be formed for the defence of the frontier. Anti-aircraft and anti-gas defence are to be developed.

The 235 million francs needed for this purpose are to be obtained by means of a State loan of 2½ per cent. Some 176 millions francs out of the 235 million francs are to be spent in Switzerland and will benefit home industries and help in

combating unemployment. The Swiss trade unions and many sections of the Socialist Party are supporting the scheme, as they have now pronounced themselves in favour of stronger defences; although last year they opposed the Bill for the reorganisation of the Army and re-armament. They will propose that the loan be increased up to 500 million francs. The remaining 265 million francs would then be devoted to public works. It is accordingly certain that in its next session Parliament will adopt the Government's proposal, though the sacrifice will be heavy for a country whose population hardly exceeds 4,000,000.

Economist.

HELDEN DER NACHT.

Am 30. April sind Flugkapitän ERNST GERBER und Bordfunker ARTHUR MUELLER in Ausübung ihres Berufes an Bord ihres Flugzeuges vom Tode ereilt worden. Ueber den Verlauf des Unglücksfluges herrscht in Fachkreisen keine Unklarheit mehr. Der in Aussicht stehende Expertenbericht wird die bereits gemachten Feststellungen bestätigen. Zwei Männer fielen in der Erfüllung ihrer Pflicht, nebeneinander der Hauptmann der Fliegertruppe und Flugkapitän und der Gefreite und Bordfunker. Sie starben als Pioniere und Soldaten im friedlichen, doch so harten Kampf um die Erfüllung einer Menschheitsidee, um die Erreichung eines befohlenen Zieles. Sie, die Hunderttausende von Kilometern im Luftverkehr heil zurückgelegt hatten, fielen einem Postflug zum Opfer.

Der Laie kann sich nur ein unvollständiges Bild der Aufgabe des Postfliegers machen. Und doch ist Postflug so verschieden vom Verkehrsflug, fast wie Krieg und Frieden, wie friedlicher Zivilberuf und Soldatenarbeit. Aufgabe des Verkehrsfluges mit Passagieren ist es, diese unter Vermeidung jeder Gefahr heil an den Bestimmungsort zu bringen. Der Postflieger dagegen steht unter einem klaren Zweckbefehl. Bei Tag und in der Nacht, bei gutem und schlechtem Wetter hat er nur eine Aufgabe: Seinen Flug programmgemäss durchzuführen und unter dem Einsatz seiner selbst den ihm übertragenen Auftrag auszuführen, ohne Rücksicht auf Gefahr, ohne Rücksicht auf die lauenden Tücken der Nacht und des Wetters. Und gerade der Flugkapitän ERNST GERBER hat den Unterschied dieser beiden Aufgaben wohl gekannt. Trug er die Verantwortung für Passagiere, deren er Tausende stets sicher und verlässlich nach den Flughäfen des Auslandes und nach dem Heimatflughafen zurückführte, so galt seine Sorge nur ihnen. Dann war er der sorgsam wägende Kapitän, der über die Seinen wachte. Im Postflug aber erwachte der Soldat. Er wusste wohl: Postflug ist keine friedliche Übung irgendwo an einem sonnigen Tag. Postflug ist die schwere Nachtpatrouille in die Feindeslinien, die vollen Einsatz und freudige Opferung verlangt.

Dieses schwerste Opfer haben die beiden Kameraden gebracht. ERNST GERBER, der Offizier, und ARTHUR MUELLER, der Gefreite, beide ein Bild treuester Pflichterfüllung in jedem Preis, selbst um den höchsten. Sie wussten beide: Ihr schwerer Beruf verlangte es. Trotz widerlichstem Wetter gab es kein: Wir können nicht! Die Meldung lautet auftragsgemäss: "Wir versuchen in Basel zu landen!" Aber hinter diesen einfachen Worten steht der feste Wille, steht die hohe Pflichtauffassung und Bereitschaft. Die Macht des Schicksals ist

stärker gewesen. Sie verhinderte die gute Radioverbindung; übermässige Dämmereffekte am Peiler erschweren die Ortsbestimmung. So ging das Verhängnis seinen Lauf. Aus dem Grau der dämmernen Nacht griff die unerbittliche Hand des Todes nach den beiden Soldaten, nach den beiden Helden der Nacht. Sie starben. Aber sie starben als Beispiel, als Mahnung nicht nur für die Kameraden, sondern für unsere zerrissene Zeit: Dass nur ganzer Einsatz, dass nur freudiges Opfer, dass nur Selbstlosigkeit zum Ziele führt, das wir in helleren Tagen erhoffen.

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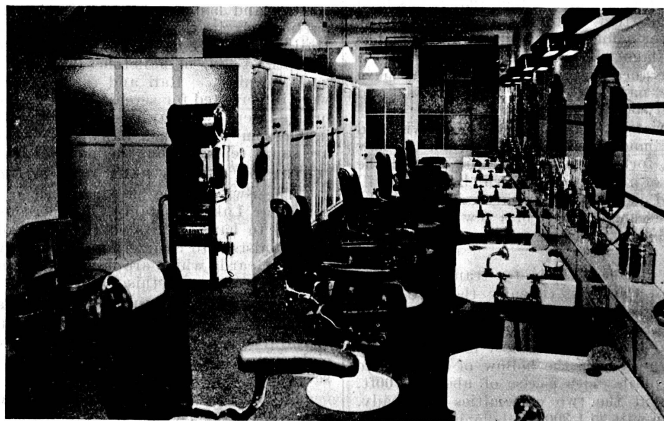
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A NEW SWISS VENTURE.



A tobacconist shop is, of course, nothing new, nor is a hairdressing saloon, but what is new, is, that M. Peter Brun, who is well-known in the Swiss Colony, has acquired the proprietorship of an old established tobacconist business, (Fraser & Co., 50, Southampton Row, W.C.1.) Being of an enterprising nature, M. Brun has combined with the above mentioned business, an up-to-date Hairdressing Saloon, which has been fitted up with the most modern impliments, as

can be seen from the above picture. One distinctive feature of this modern and well equipped saloon, are the three dressing rooms, in which clients at a small fee, who wish to attend any evening function, can change without first having to go home. We can warmly recommend this new venture to our readers, and we have not the slightest doubt, that they will be thoroughly satisfied.