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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

MINISTER STUCKI'S NEW APPOINTMENT.

As reported in our last issue, Minister Dr. Walter Stucki, has accepted the post as Swiss Minister in Paris, which was offered to him by the Federal Council, owing to the resignation of Monsieur Dumant.

Minister Stucki, who is 49 years old, practised for many years as a lawyer in Berne. From 1917-1920 he occupied the post of General Secretary of the Federal Economic Dept., after which he returned to his former practice as an advocate. In 1925, he was recalled by the late Federal Councillor Schulthess to the Economic Dept., where he was appointed chief of the Commercial section, he was also entrusted with various commercial missions abroad. Minister Stucki was one of the members of the Swiss Delegation to the League of Nations, where he played an important rôle. His promotion to the rank of Minister followed in 1933. Two years ago he entered Parliament (National Council).

SWISS BUDGET DEFICIT.

The Swiss Budget for 1938 provides for an expenditure of Frs.543,000,000 (£25,250,000 at current rates) and a revenue of Frs.520,000,000 (£24,200,000).

There is thus a deficit of Frs.23,000,000 (£1,650,000). Last year the estimated deficit was Frs.40,000,000.

£9,300,000 SWISS LOAN TO FRANCE.

Negotiations which have been going on for some days between representatives of the new French National Railway Company and a group of Swiss bankers for a loan have been satisfactorily concluded.

The loan will be for a total of Swiss Frs. 200,000,000 (about £9,300,000), which equals French Frs.1,396,000,000 at current exchange rates. It will take the form of Two-year Four per Cent. Mortgage bonds, issued at 90.

There is reason to believe that the bonds will not be issued with the guarantee of the French Government, but will be secured on the whole of the assets of the French National Railway Company.

It is also understood that the bonds will be in Swiss francs, with the option of payment in dollars or sterling.

It is unofficially stated here that the Swiss banking group in question is under the direction of the Credit Suisse, and that the loan will be issued in two tranches of Swiss Frs.100,000,000 (£4,650,000) each.

SWISS REARMAMENT.

Switzerland is to spend £6,000,000 on her rearmament programme, an increase of nearly £1,000,000 on the current year's expenditure. Most of the money will be used in strengthening the air arm.

ULRICH WILLE SIXTY YEARS OLD.

Army-Corps Commander Ulrich Wille, "Waffenchef" of the Infantry reached the age of 60 years on Tuesday last.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures published in Switzerland there were 51,876 unemployed registered at the end of September, or 31,000 less than at the same period twelve months ago.

DEPTHS OF SWISS LAKES.

The "Statistische Jahrbuch" mentions the depths of some of the 44 Lakes in Switzerland; here are some of the figures: Langensee: 372m; Lake of Geneva: 310 m; Lake of Lugano: 228m; Lake of Brienz: 261m; Lake of Constance: 252m; Lake of Lucerne: 214m; Lake of Zurich: 143m; Lake of Zug: 198m; Wallensee: 150m; and the artificial lake of the Grimsel 100m.

DR. FRITZ WEGMANN †.

From Zurich comes the news of the death of Dr. Fritz Wegmann, President of the Board of the "Schweizerischen Lebensversicherungs- und Rentenanstalt," at the age of 71.

Dr. Wegmann was born in 1867 at Naples, he attended the schools in his native town of Zurich, and later studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Göttingen and Berlin. For some time he was a member of the District Court Zurich, and later on joined the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon."

In 1906 he went over to Banking and until 1918 he was Sub-Manager and later on Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Zurich.

The deceased was a member of the Board of the "Schweiz. Lebensversicherungs- und Rentenanstalt" for forty years and since 1913 its President. He rendered great services to the "Schweizerische Stiftung für das Alter" of which institution he was President since 1919.

DIRECTOR BALZ ZIMMERMANN †.

Late National-Councillor Balz Zimmermann, Managing-Director of the "Swissair" was died after a short illness. (An obituary article will appear in our next issue — Ed.)

SWISS SCIENTIST HONOURED.

Professor Dr. Wilhelm Knoll, a Swiss medical practitioner in Hamburg, well-known as a "Sportarzt," has been appointed Honorary President of the international "Sportärzteverbandes."

Professor Knoll is already an honorary member of the Belgian "Sportärzte Verbandes;" he is the author of a great number of books on Sports medicine.

SURPLUS OF THE FEDERAL ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATION.

The Federal Alcohol Administration shows for the last financial year (1st of July, 1936 — 30th June, 1937) a profit of 5,021,000 frs.

PROFESSOR KARL BARTH HONOURED.

The Scottish University, St. Andrews, has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Professor Karl Barth.

M. MOTTA IN LUGANO.

On the occasion of the opening of the Swiss Industrial Fair in Lugano, M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, made a speech in which he emphasized the unity which exists between the Italian-speaking Swiss with their brethren beyond the Gothard.

DR. FRIDOLIN SUTER †.

"Prälat" Dr. Fridolin Suter, who had officiated for twenty-five years as a priest in Bischofszell, has died at the age of 74. The deceased was "Bischöflicher Kommissar" and "Ehrendomherr" of the "Bistums" Basle.

A SHOCK ABSORBER FOR WATCHES.

A watchmaker of Neuveville (Canton Berne) has invented a shock absorber which protects the balance-wheel from injury. Some watches fitted with the shock absorber were dropped from an aeroplane several hundred feet above the Granges aerodrome, and all, even one which fell on a road, were afterwards found to be in perfect order.

DR. CARL SPENGLER †.

The death of Dr. Carl Spengler, at Davos, in his 78th year removes the last link of a remarkable family association. He was the younger of the two sons of Alexander Spengler and Elisabeth Ambühl, and attended the village school, going on from there to the cantonal school in Chur, and later to the Universities of Zurich and Heidelberg. For some years he held a medical assistantship at Strasbourg, and then returned to Davos-Platz to help his father, a year or two after his brother had gone through much the same

preparation. The difference between the two brothers then became apparent, because while Lucius became a pure clinician, basing his work almost entirely on his observation of patients, Carl developed an interest in experimental methods. He went to Berlin to assist Robert Koch in the early tuberculin epoch, and after his return he devised a bovine tuberculin for use in pulmonary tuberculosis which avoided the violent reactions of the older tuberculin. He went on to devise other immunising substances, and finally staked his reputation on the efficacy of an immune body to be found in red corpuscles which was known as *Immunkörper* (I.K.). Latterly his attention had turned towards methods for the conquest of cancer. It was hardly his fault that he lived in an age when the correlation between treatment and results was not submitted to a censorship as strict as it is now; he seemed to pass rather readily from success in one method to equal success in another method. Moreover he possessed in high degree the faculty of exciting, both in his patients and in his assistants, an unmerited confidence. Time will show how much of his work will remain; his contemporaries are witnesses of the influence he exerted in his time.

(The Lancet).

ROCK AVALANCHE IN THE ALPS.

About 7,000 cubic yards of rock became detached from the base of the "First Gendarme" Peak of the Jungfrau (13,670ft.).

The south-eastern approach to the summit, hitherto the easiest, will probably be closed to all save the most skilful mountaineers.

At one point of the route the rocks have formed a vast mass with smooth sides and a razor-like edge, while the displaced snow is piled 25ft. high. Blocks of debris, each as large as a three storey house, landed on the Aletsch, the largest of Alpine glaciers — 15 miles long.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

A well-known notary in Berne, Haldimann, has disappeared, investigations by the police have shown that he has embezzled about 120,000 frs. belonging to his clients. The flight of Haldimann has caused a great sensation in Berne, where he was a prominent personality.

GLARUS.

The "Glarnerische Offiziersgesellschaft" has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. A Banquet was held in Glarus at which members of the cantonal government were present. Colonel Lardelli, commander of the 6th division and army-corps commander Bridler were amongst the principal guests.

M. Jenny-Schuler, late National-Councillor and President of the Cantonal Bank of Glarus, has died at Ennenda at the age of 75. The deceased has rendered great services to the canton of Glarus. From 1909-1915 M. Jenny was a member of the cantonal government, in 1914 he entered Parliament (National Council) of which he was a member until 1935. For over 17 years M. Jenny was the head of the cantonal bank.

FRIBOURG.

The late Edmond Andrey, from Bulle, has left his entire fortune, amounting to 52,000 frs. to the community of Charmey to be used for charitable purposes.

A large fire partly destroyed the "Bürgerhospital" in Fribourg, the fire was caused by a patient, named Albin Thalman, who recently escaped from the cantonal Asylum at Marsens. Thalman was arrested later and confessed to the crime.

M. Jos. Pauchard, editor-in-chief of the "Freiburger Nachrichten," has celebrated his 30th anniversary as a member of the editorial staff.

BASLE.

Msgr. Dr. Franz von Streng, the Bishop of Basle and Lugano, has paid an official visit to the government of the canton of Basle.

Dr. E. Wieland, head of the Children's Hospital and Professor of medicine at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

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The "Birsigtalbahnhof," which connects the town of Basle with the "Leimental" as far as Rodersdorf, has celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

Lieutenant-colonel Werner Imholz, has celebrated his 25th service Jubilee as a member of the Military Administration of the canton of Basle.

Dr. Fritz Goetzinger, President of the Appeal Court in Basle, and Professor at the University of Basle, has resigned from his post for reasons of age. Professor Goetzinger was for nearly forty-five years connected with the law courts of the canton of Basle; he served on many occasions on different federal commissions.

VAUD.

M. Maurice de Blonay, an engineer, who was a specialist in the building of mountain railways, died at Nyon, aged 56. He constructed the cog-wheel railway from Chamonix to Montevens and the cable railway up the Aiguille du Midi.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

M. Geiser, Manager of the Municipal Electricity works and tramways of the town of Schaffhausen has resigned from his post, which he had occupied for the last 38 years, M. Geiser is 70 years of age.

APPENZEL A Rh.

An anonymous donor has sent a cheque amounting to 50,000 frs. to the "Stiftung für das Alter" of the canton of Appenzel a./Rh.

SOLOTHURN.

Much material damage was done when a goods train was derailed near Olten.

ST. GALL.

The death is reported, at the age of 77, of M. Karl Doka, who was an engineer from 1894-1931 with the "Rheinkorrektoren" where he rendered eminent services.

AARGAU.

At the age of 69, died in Aarau, M. Walter Grob, since 1904 Manager of the Gas Works in Aarau.

FOOTBALL.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH.

10th October, 1937.

France2 Switzerland1
Over 40,000 spectators witnessed this match at the Parc des Princes in Paris. Once again we finished up on the losing side. True, by one goal difference only, but a defeat just the same, all the more galling as expectations of a win at long last were not mere wild hopes. With the exception of Bizzozero (Lugano) in goal and Lehmann (Lausanne) at left back, for Huber and Weiler (Grasshoppers), Switzerland fielded the same team as that which had acquitted itself so well in Vienna three weeks ago.

Three minutes before half-time Veinante (inside-left) scored with a hard drive which Bizzozero could only divert to a post, whence the ball rebounded into the net. Half-time 1:0 for France. Twenty minutes after the restart our centre-forward Rupp equalised. Switzerland now exerted great pressure without tangible results. Seven minutes from the end Veinante is given too much rope and once again this dangerous inside forward succeeds with a fine cross drive. From now to the end France dominate and easily hold the lead.

Why did we lose? Switzerland played without that determination which is essential for a win on foreign soil. The inside forwards were playing too far back and both Walacek at inside left and Vernati at centre-half had an off-day. Bizzozero in goal was in good form and Lehmann even surpassed his colleague Minelli at back. Switzerland failed to profit from their many chances, whereas France made the best of two of theirs. And thus Veinante secured twice the 1,000 francs bonus promised the goal scorer!

The Sunday previous saw the curtain go up for the Swiss Cup competition. All the National League clubs survived, with the exception of F.C. Bern, who had the misfortune to be drawn against Young Boys and lost 1:2. Two Second League clubs surprised such famous First-Leaguers as F.C. Zurich and F.C. Brühl — St. Gallen who lost to Oerlikon 0:1 and to Kreuzlingen 1:3 respectively. Last years giant-killers Old Boys, Basel, were eliminated by Pruntrut by 2 goals to 1.

M.G.

LA POLITIQUE

A la commission des Etats.

La commission du Conseil des Etats a reçu, tout frais sorti du four du Conseil voisin, le programme financier intercalaire numéro 3. Elle l'examine, le débite en tranches, le soumet à une analyse serrée. La farine ne lui en semblera peut-être pas de la meilleure qualité. Elle vaut bien, hélas, celle du pain fédéral.

Diverses questions préalables se posaient à l'aropage sénatorial.

Et d'abord celle de l'entrée en matière. Au National, il y avait eu, sur ce sujet, un débat assez copieux, et d'ailleurs destiné à la galerie; car on se demande à quoi aboutirait un refus sur ce point. Le programme peut laisser à désirer; il pourrait être détestable que cela ne changerait rien à la nécessité d'aviser. On n'équilibre pas un budget, ou plutôt on n'en diminue pas le déficit (car, pour l'heure, il ne faut pas espérer davantage) avec des négations, si justifiées qu'elles paraissent en théorie. L'assez piètre rabotage auquel s'est livré le département des finances vaut toujours mieux que le néant. C'est vraiment tout ce que l'on en peut dire de bien; mais c'est suffisant pour légitimer une approbation à défaut de laquelle le gâchis serait pire.

Aussi la commission des Etats n'a-t-elle pas fait de difficultés pour se prononcer en faveur de l'entrée en matière, le représentant socialiste s'étant toutefois abstenu.

Plus ardue et plus subtile fut la discussion sur la durée des mesures provisoires.

Les députés ont admis sans trop de peine que cette durée fût d'une année. Les commissaires du sénat, eux, inclinaient assez fort vers une autre solution: la prorogation pour deux ans. Et l'on doit reconnaître que certains de leurs arguments ne manquaient pas de poids. En effet, c'est chose entendue que le programme financier III est destiné à permettre l'élaboration d'un programme définitif, c'est-à-dire en somme à accorder au gouvernement un délai utile pour procéder à une refonte complète du système fiscal actuel, du régime des subventions, etc.

Mais seul un esprit chimérique pourrait imaginer qu'une année suffit à mettre sous toit une construction aussi imposante. La lenteur avec laquelle on procède pour opérer le changement le plus minime, les interminables consultations de l'expert Tant Pis et de l'expert Tant Mieux, les palabres au Conseil fédéral puis dans les commissions, enfin dans les assemblées plénières, nous renseignent sur la sorte de célérité qu'il sied d'attendre de la machine législative, laquelle évoque ces premiers véhicules à moteur, ces tricycles à pétrole, ces teuf-teuf ahahants, que nous rencontrons, ébahis, sur les routes de notre enfance. Compter qu'en quelques mois, voire en un an, une révision constitutionnelle portant sur les attributions financières de la Confédération, corrigeant les abus de la centralisation, répartissant d'une manière plus nette les droits des cantons et ceux du pouvoir fédéral, aurait des chances d'aboutir, ce serait vouloir accrocher la lune avec les dents. On fait semblant d'y croire; en réalité, personne n'y croit.

Les réserves de la commission sont donc fondées. Toutefois, se prononcer pour deux ans, c'est faire coïncider la fin de la validité du programme avec la période agitée des élections de 1939, dont le spectre livide pointe déjà à l'horizon lointain. Rien ne serait plus funeste à l'euphorie parlementaire; et le plus amusant de l'histoire, c'est qu'on l'a déclaré carrément, presque officiellement, alors qu'en général ce genre de considérations est caché sous un voile pudique.

Restait la possibilité de s'arrêter à trois ans. Mais c'est beaucoup, même pour le provisoire éternel. On s'y fût vraisemblablement décidé tout de même, si M. Meyer n'avait plaidé avec chaleur pour le terme d'un an. Il est du reste douteux que le Conseil national eût souscrit à un autre arrangement. La commission s'est inclinée.

Maintenant, si vous voulez parier que, lété prochain, la réforme ne sera pas assez avancée pour déployer ses effets en 1939, et que l'on proposera un programme provisoire numéro IV, vous aurez de fortes chances de gagner.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève.)

"LA SUISSE QUI CHANTE."

An excellent article appeared in the last issue of this paper, about the forthcoming concert which is taking place on Tuesday, October 19th, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

We have but little to add, as the above mentioned article gave full details about the various very interesting items on a programme which caters for almost every musical taste, but we would warmly support the Appeal which was made, that this concert should be well attended.

Mr. E. P. Dick, the energetic conductor and the members of the orchestra deserve in full measure the support of the Swiss Colony, and so do the soloists who enjoy a great reputation in our homeland.

We have not the slightest hesitation in recommending this concert, as we are convinced that whoever attends, and we hope there will be hundreds, will spend a most enjoyable and happy evening. So why hesitate to go to Conway Hall?

PERSONAL.

We express our deep sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. L. Schobinger, of 22, Elm Road, Beckenham, Kent, Mr. Schobinger's father having died in Vevey.

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