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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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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).

FEDERAL.

HERR HITLER'S PROMISE.

In a special communiqué released by the Swiss Federal Council assurance is said to have been given to the Government of a German guarantee of Swiss neutrality.

M. Schulthess, a former President of Switzerland, conveyed this guarantee to the Swiss Government at the special request of Herr Hitler, whom he had seen on February 23rd, while on a business trip to Berlin. Herr Hitler's words were reported to be:

"The existence of Switzerland answers one of the needs of Europe. We wish as good neighbours to have the best relations with her and to have a loyal understanding with her in all things.

In speaking in my recent address to the Reichstag of the neutrality of two other States (Belgium and Holland) I intentionally omitted to mention Switzerland because the traditional neutrality always clearly stated by her and always respected by the Powers is therefore no new thing and is beyond all question.

At all times — need I say? — we shall respect the integrity and neutrality of Switzerland. This I affirm categorically. I have never given cause for any idea to the contrary."

While it is felt in Swiss quarters that this is reassuring there has been no relaxation of the defence measures that have been taken on the northern frontier.

PROFESSOR KARL BURCKHARDT.

Before taking over his appointment as High Commissioner for Danzig, M. Karl Burckhardt has made his first acquaintance with London.

M. Burckhardt is at home in most of the capitals of Europe. His knowledge of the climatic eccentricities of Berlin and Vienna should help him to discount those which London has been enjoying.

His present travels, which include Paris and Stockholm, have a purely political object. This is to see the members of the League Committee of Three which looks after the affairs of the Free City.

The trio consists of Mr. Eden, who is rapporteur to the League on Danzig, M. Yvon Delbos and M. Sandler, the Swedish Foreign Minister.

Amongst the democratic Swiss M. Burckhardt enjoys the prestige which comes of a long and illustrious pedigree. His father was a leading Swiss statesman 30 years ago.

But after beginning a career in diplomacy M. Burckhardt gave himself up to study and travel. His fellow-countrymen admire him at 44 as a man-of-letters, and still more as a polished man of the world.

ALPINE AVALANCHES AND LANDSLIPS.

Rain and snowfalls in the last few days have caused several landslips and avalanches in the Alps.

Near Meillerie, on the southern shore of Lake Geneva, the railway line and main road have been interrupted by a landslip. The Furka railway line has been blocked near Oberwald by a huge avalanche of snow. Near St. Niklaus, in the Zermatt Valley, the railway and telegraph and telephone lines have been cut by an avalanche of snow and stones.

At Elm (Glarus) the spring avalanche, which usually comes down towards the middle of March from the Zwölfhorn, came down last week. It was abnormally big this year and destroyed a forest and several farms, while the air pressure

swept away chimneys and broke many windows in the hamlet of Obmoos.

NEW ROADS.

The Swiss Federal Council has approved a scheme for making a road along the shore of the Walensee in order to improve communications with the Grisons. Another road will be built over the Susten Pass, 7,420ft., connecting Interlaken and the Hasli Valley with Canton Uri, and 80,000,000f. (£3,728,600) will be spent on the improvement and building of Alpine roads during the coming 12 years.

SIGNOR PRATO'S APPEAL REJECTED.

The Swiss Federal Department of Justice has rejected the appeal of Signor A. Prato, an Italian refugee journalist, who was ordered to leave Switzerland on the ground that he had indulged in political activity.

A SWISS RAILWAY'S LOSSES.

In order to cover losses sustained in 1936 and probable losses in the current year, the Bernina Railway Company has applied for a credit amounting to Frs.200,000 (£9,500 at current rates) from the authorities of the Canton of Grisons and the Federal authorities at Berne.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AS PLAINTIFF.

The Federal Council has lodged a complaint with the judicial authorities against the editors of the "Freiheit" (Basle) Max Wullschlegler and Ernest Walter (Zurich) for defamation.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT RETURNS.

Freiherr vom Weizsäcker, the German Ambassador in Berne, is shortly returning to his post after an absence of eight months.

WINNER OF THE BARLAN LOTTERY.

The first prize of the Barlan Lottery, amounting to 100,000frs. has been won by "Hafnermeister" Lerch in Brittnau (Aargau) father of a large family.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The Swiss Ice Hockey team which competed at the World Ice Hockey Championship in London received a great reception at Dübendorf on their return flight from London.

* * *

M. Fritz Widmann, a well-known painter, and son of the famous author J. V. Widmann, has died at Rüslikon at the age of 69. Many of his pictures are exhibited in Swiss Art Galleries.

The deceased was a reputed chess player.

BERNE.

Corporal Alfred Sieber from Büren age 23, was killed near Brugg when on a night patrol.

* * *

Dr. Arthur Alder, at present "Sektionschef" at the Federal Insurance Office in Berne, has been appointed Professor of mathematics at the University of Berne.

* * *

M. Joseph Jobin, a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Berne, has been appointed President of the Cantonal Commercial Court.

LUCERNE.

A self portrait of the painter Abraham Hermanjat, valued at 2,000frs. was stolen from the Art Gallery in Lucerne.

ZUG.

The late town councillor Albert Uttinger-Speck from Zug has left an amount of 34,600 frs. to the town of Zug for charitable purposes.

GRISONS.

M. Jakob Möhr, formerly Director of the Federal Emigration Office in Berne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary at Chur where he lives in retirement.

AARGAU.

At Schönenwerd, died at the age of 77, M. Arnold Bally-Marti, President of the Board of the ribbon firm Gebrüder Bally A.G.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Please Reserve

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th, 1937,

for the

Dinner and Dance

at the

MAYFAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

VAUD.

Mlle. Lucy Dutoit, for 40 years a teacher at the "L'école Vinet" and from 1916-1932 President of the "Association vaudoise pour le suffrage féminin" has died at Lausanne at the age of 69.

GENEVA.

The death is reported at the age of 61 of M. Maurice Delesert. The deceased, who was an Engineer by profession, was for some time President of the Swiss Automobil Association.

LA POLITIQUE.

La peur des mots.

A Genève, les partis nationaux viennent d'adopter un projet de loi contre le communisme qui sera déposé prochainement sur le bureau du Grand Conseil. A Neuchâtel, l'assemblée législative a voté, mardi, une loi visant le même but. La discussion a été très animée, voire un peu houleuse par moments, comme on pouvait s'y attendre; mais le résultat n'en a pas moins été atteint, grâce au concours des trois partis décidés à résister à l'assaut bolchéviste. Tour à tour, M. Albert Rais, au nom des radicaux, M. Pierre Favarger, au nom des libéraux, et M. Tell Perrin, au nom du parti progressiste national, M. Béguin, au nom du Conseil d'Etat, ont fait valoir des arguments décisifs pour la protection de l'Etat contre les menées révolutionnaires; et l'accord même d'hommes politiques de tendances aussi diverses (car personne ne pourrait, par exemple, sans prêter à rire, qualifier M. Rais de "réactionnaire") montre que bien des yeux se sont dessillés, depuis l'époque, proche encore, où il était de bon ton de nier l'existence du danger communiste. L'éloquence des faits a toujours été et reste la plus convaincante; les provocations moscoutaires, l'insolence croissante des ennemis de l'ordre, l'intensité de leur propagande et les commencement de réalisations qu'ils ont tentés, finissent par avoir raison de l'apathie bourgeoise. Il était temps!

Il faut noter que les socialistes neuchâtelois ont combattu le projet, tout en affirmant, par la bouche de M. E. P. Graber, qu'ils sont opposés à la violence... Décidément, il y a une logique que la logique ne connaît pas.

Rappelons que, dans le canton de Vaud, où le Conseil d'Etat a toujours fait preuve de vigilance pour la protection de l'ordre public, on a pris à plus d'une reprise des mesures spéciales, commandées par les événements. Ainsi donc les cantons, notamment dans la Suisse romande, comprennent la nécessité d'agir pour sauvegarder l'indépendance du pays et l'intégrité de ses institutions.

On n'en regrette que davantage de voir les autorités fédérales si peu pressées. Lorsque le Conseil fédéral eut résolu en principe d'arrêter des dispositions contre le communisme, il semblait que l'on ferait diligence et qu'en quelques semaines l'œuvre serait sous toit. Or, non seulement le projet n'a pas été discuté au cours de la session de décembre, mais, lors de la prochaine session, en mars, seul le Conseil des Etats, qui jouit de la priorité, s'occupera de cet objet. Encore n'est-ce qu'au tout dernier moment que sa commission a fini par tomber d'accord sur un texte, abondamment remanié et considérablement allégé.

SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

Conductor: Mr. E. P. DICK.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Under the Patronage of the Swiss Minister
Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI.

FRIDAY, the 12th MARCH, 1937

at

CONWAY HALL, (Small Hall)

Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

(Start of concert 8.30 p.m. sharp.)

Tickets at 2/- (incl. Tax) can be obtained at the
box office or from any member of the Orchestra.