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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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FEDERAL.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK REPORT.

The Swiss Federal Council has given its approval to the accounts of the Swiss National Bank for 1936, which have also been approved by the general meeting of shareholders. The surplus for 1936 amounts to 4,753,120f., against 5,253,000f. in 1935; of this sum 1,250,000f. will be appropriated for paying a dividend of 5 per cent., and 250,000f. for paying an extra dividend of 1 per cent. There remains a balance of 3,253,120f., which will be paid into the Federal Treasury for distributions among the Cantons, which are all shareholders of the Bank.

Outstanding among the events of the year, as the Board of Administration notes in its report, was the devaluation of the Swiss currency and the adhesion of Switzerland to the Tripartite Monetary Agreement of October, 1936. The first effect of devaluation was to stop the hoarding of bank notes and gold, and to increase the liquidity of the money market. Between September 28th, when the currency was devalued, and the end of the year the gold reserve of the National Bank rose by 2 per cent., or 1,172,000,000f., 538,000,000 f. of which represented the appreciation in the value of the currency.

Devaluation resulted also in a considerable rise in the number of Bourse transactions accompanied by a general advance in the value of all securities. The Swiss security index, which was 109 before devaluation, went up to 142 in October, and to 160 at the end of the year.

During the first part of the year the economic situation of the country was unsatisfactory; unemployment increased, foreign trade was at a low ebb, and agriculture suffered severely from adverse weather conditions; cantonal and municipal finances moreover were almost all in a difficult position, and the earnings of all transport undertakings continued to dwindle. During the last quarter, after devaluation had been decided upon, economic conditions rapidly improved, greater activity being noticed in all branches of commerce and industry. The report notes with the greatest satisfaction that the Federal Council is firmly resolved to balance the Budget and to reorganise the Federal Railways, the financial situation of which is decidedly unsound.

FIRST LORD CONSULTS OCULIST.

Sir Samuel Hoare, First Lord of the Admiralty, who has been on a health visit to Switzerland, consulted the famous oculist, Professor Vogt at Zurich.

THREAT TO BEAUTY SPOT NEAR GENEVA.

Strong protests, which so far have found no echo in Government circles in Geneva, have been published in the local Press against the proposed erection on the hill of Coligny of buildings which would completely spoil the beauty spot where stand Byron's villa and monument. It is expected that the British colony in Geneva will join in the protest and help to save the hilltop, from which there is a magnificent view of the Lake of Geneva and the city. Byron lived there in 1816 in the villa Diodati while writing the third canto of Childe Harold, and in 1926 the memorial to the poet, the glacier-borne boulder against which he used to sit while looking down at the lake of Geneva, was unveiled.

BIG LANDSLIP IN THE JURA.

In the Jura, near Montiers, the main road and railway line from Biemme to Basle have been damaged by a landslip. A mass of earth estimated

at about 1,500,000 cubic feet and 200 yards wide, is sliding down at the rate of a foot a day. The railway line subsided while a goods train was passing, and a van was derailed and traffic interrupted.

A STOLEN TINTORETTO.

In compliance with a request from Italy the authorities at Basle have seized a Tintoretto which, it is alleged, had been stolen from Professor Rubinacci in Genoa.

The painting was in the possession of a Basle art dealer. He had recently bought it from a person who asserted that it came from the palace of the Duke of Alba in Madrid, and was being sold by order of the Spanish Government. The theft was discovered when the Duke of Alba, informed by the art dealer that the painting was at his disposition, replied that it never belonged to him.

LAUSANNE UNIVERSITY 400 YEARS OLD.

The University of Lausanne is celebrating its fourth centenary beginning of June next. Founded in 1537, it was at first a School of Theology, in which Pierre Viret and Théodore de Bèze taught. In 1548 it received the title of Academy from Berne, and in 1890 it was enlarged into a University. To the five fundamental Faculties: Theology, Law, Medicine, Literature and Science, the following were added: a School of Advanced Commercial Studies; a Scientific Training School for Police Work; a School of Social and Political Science and a section of Consular Service studies, attached to the faculty of Law; a Pharmaceutical School and an Engineering School, both attached to that of Science.

One of the best initiatives taken by the University was the establishment of Special Summer Vacation Courses in French, organized yearly since 1895. These classes are intended for those wishing to perfect their knowledge and their use of the French language, as well as for teachers of French from Switzerland and abroad. This year the vacation courses start on July 19th and last, in four series of three weeks each, until October 9th.

Through its exceptional educational advantages in public and private schools, Lausanne has become a city of young people. Living and tuition costs are moderate and opportunities for wholesome entertainment and excursions at low rates are amply provided.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

Swiss Federal Railway earnings from passenger and parcels traffic in February were 8,221,000 fr., or 40,065 fr. less than in February, 1936, while passengers carried decreased by 46,000; there was an extra day in February, 1936, owing to Leap Year. The tonnage carried (1,275,586 tons) increased by no less than 415,895. Earnings from goods traffic (14,534,000 fr.) showed an increase of 3,868,288 fr. Total operating revenue amounted to 23,594,000 fr., or 3,959,481 fr. higher, whilst expenditure was 93,118 fr. less. The operating surplus (6,756,000 fr.) was 4,052,599 fr. higher than in February, 1936.

SWISSAIR'S SUMMER PLANS.

On April 4th, Imperial Airways will rejoin Swissair on the Basle-Zurich run from London, so there will be two departures daily in each direction. As in the case of their daily winter service, Swissair will operate on Sundays, whereas Imperials will only fly on week-days. The afternoon departure from Croydon will connect with the R.A.S. arrival from Belfast, Dublin and Liverpool. The new D.C.3, should shortly be in service.

On the same date Swissair will start Zurich-Paris and Zurich-Berlin runs, the latter in conjunction with D.L.H., while the Zurich-Vienna service will be opened on May 1st with the company's new Jumo-engined Ju.86.

BASLE FAIR.

The "official" day at the Basle Fair has been fixed for April 7th.

The two Federal Chambers will be represented by M. Troillet and M. Killer, President and Vice-President of the National Council, and by M. Hauser and M. Weck, President and Vice-President of the States Council.

NESTLÉ'S DIVIDEND.

The Board of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding Company Ltd., has declared a dividend of 14 per cent. (1935: 14%) for the year 1936.

SWISS MOTORING.

For the convenience of motorists the Swiss Federal Railways, the Lötschberg Railway and the Rhaetian Railway carry automobiles respectively through the St. Gotthard, Simplon, Lötschberg and Albulal tunnels.

Loading takes place mostly at the railway stations of Göschenen, Airolo, Brig, Domodossola, Kandersteg, Bergün and Preda, and St. Moritz or Pontresina. According to snow conditions the loading and unloading may take place at stations of a lower altitude, the travellers being duly advised in advance.

Rates for transportation of automobiles through tunnels are as follow: for vehicles with eight seats, and weighing up to 2,000 kg., through the St. Gotthard-Göschenen-Airolo, 20 francs; through the Simplon (Brig-Iselle transit-Domodossola) Swiss and Italian territory, total about 54 Swiss francs, including duty; through the Lötschberg (Kandersteg-Brig), 35 francs; and through the Albulal (from Bergün or Preda to St. Moritz or Pontresina), 25 francs. Surplus weight pays an extra fee at the rate of 100 kg.

Cars for automobile transportation are held in readiness at the railway stations of Erstfeld, Göschenen, Airolo, Biasca, Kandersteg, Brig and Domodossola, where under ordinary conditions it suffices for motor vehicles to arrive half an hour before the departure of the train. For loading at other stations the necessary order has to be given three hours previous to the departure of a train. The owner is not permitted to remain in his car during its transportation through a tunnel.

LOCAL.

ZÜRICH.

National-Councillor, Dr. H. Widmer, town-President of Winterthur, has resigned his seat in the "Kantonsrat" owing to pressure of work.

After a short illness died in Zurich M. Hans Wiesmann, "Kantons-Baumeister" at the age of 40. The deceased, who studied architecture at the Federal Technical University at Zurich, enjoyed a great reputation both at home and abroad.

Dr. H. Weisflog, leader of the Liberal Party, and Dr. H. Widmer, a prominent member of the Democratic Party in the "Kantonsrat" have resigned their seats, the former for reasons of health.

ZUG.

The death is reported from Baar of M. Rudolf Strickler, Vice-President of the "Bürger-rat" and a former member of the Grand Council, at the age of 59.

FRIBOURG.

M. Eugène Grand, advocate and a member of Parliament (National-Council) from 1902-1935, has died at Romont at the age of 67. M. Grand was for many years President of the Catholic-Conservative Party of the canton of Fribourg.

BASLE.

M. Siegfried Lang, one of Switzerland's foremost writers of poetry has celebrated his 50th birthday anniversary.

APPENZELL A Rh.

Dr. August Tenner, from St. Gall, has been elected "Ratschreiber" of the canton of Appenzell A. Rh. in succession to Dr. Emil Schiess, who has recently resigned from his post.

APPENZELL J.-RH.

The Annual Accounts of the canton of Appenzell J. Rh. close with a deficit of six francs.

PROFESSOR SCHROETER HONOURED.

Dr. Karl Schröter, Professor at the University in Zurich, has been made a Honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy of Science.

ST. GALL.

In St. Margrethen died M. Rudolf Egli, proprietor of an Embroidery Establishment. The deceased was for 25 years "Gemeindeamann" of St. Margrethen and for 12 years a member of the Grand Council of St. Gall. He reached the age of 66.

GRISONS.

M. Andreas Steier-Dedual for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and District-President of Reams has died at the age of 62. The deceased has published a number of books in the romantch language.

AARGAU.

Mme. Elisabeth Siegrist-Müller, has celebrated her 103rd birthday anniversary at Aarau. Mme. Siegrist is the oldest inhabitant in Switzerland.

* * *

M. Albert Studler has been appointed "Landammann" for the year 1937/38. M. Josef Rüttimann will act as "Landesstatthalter."

VAUD.

"La Servante d'Evolène" (The Maid of Evolène), by René Morax, will be the new summer season offering in the open-air theatre at Mezières near Lausanne. The play is a Valaisan legend in four acts. Gustave Doret, the distinguished Swiss composer, has written the music for the performance and the well-known "Chanson valaisanne" choir has started with rehearsals of the choral parts.

* * *

M. and Mme. Reverchon, in Bretonnières, have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Mme. Reverchon is 90 years old, whilst her husband has just celebrated his 94th birthday; both enjoy good health.

GENEVA.

King Faruk I of Egypt has paid a visit to Geneva, he was received by the government authorities. Later on he was shown over the League of Nations quarters by M. J. Avenol, General Secretary of the League of Nations, M. Henri Martin, Swiss Minister at Angora, was also present.

FOOTBALL.

29th March, 1937.

SWISS CUP FINAL

Grasshoppers 10 Lausanne-Sport 0

And that happened before 18,000 spectators in Bern! Thus Grasshoppers won the Swiss Cup for the fifth time and remain the only club to win that bauble more than once. The score was the same as that by which Lausanne won the cup against Nordstern (Basel) two years ago.

Lausanne, without their well-known goalkeeper Séchéhaye, held their own up to halftime, conceding but two goals, one a penalty at that, in the period before the interval. After that they fell to pieces, scored twice — alas, for the Hoppers! — and retired in the end thoroughly routed. I hope I am not a bad sportsman; I always like the best team to win. Yet, one may have a soft spot for one's old club and when Lausanne beat good old St. Gall (stress on the "old") a week ago by the cruel score of 15:2, I almost wept! Now, I am feeling better again, until next Sunday, when Grasshoppers meet St. Gall on the Espenmoos. Are they going to win their by 15:0? Let's pray not!

M.G.

AUSTIN (AUGUSTIN) BERNHER,
EIN FREUND DER ENGLISCHEN
REFORMATOREN.

VON ARNOLD LÄTT.

(Continued).

Von da an hatte Bernher viele Jahre lang weder Rast noch Ruhe. Die gefangenen Bischöfe in Oxford wurden immer strenger bewacht. Auch als Diener wurde Bernher nicht mehr regelmässig vorgelassen. Unermülich reiste er von Ort zu Ort, wo Verfolgte seiner bedurften, von Gefängnis zu Gefängnis, von einem Bekenner des reformierten Glaubens zum andern, allen Trost, Hilfe und Briefe zu bringen, und immer bereit, seine Dienste anzubieten (Strype: "Ecclesiastical Monuments," III. I. 228). Er war der Tröster und Helfer der Gattinnen und Kinder der Gefangenen und der rettende Engel in vielen Fällen. Am meisten hat zur Erhaltung seines Andenkens die Freundschaft mit John Bradford und Robert Glover beigetragen. Grovers Briefe und Bradfords Leben, wie es in John Foxes "Acts and Monuments of the English Reformation" erzählt wird, waren Strypes Quellen. Dazu kommt nun noch ein Bericht, der jetzt schon hundert Jahre alt ist, aber den Herausgebern der wunderbaren Publikationen der Parker Society nicht bekannt war. Ich habe einmal etwas wie Fingerglück gehabt, als ich nach lokalen Geschichtsquellen der Kirchgemeinde Mancetter in Warwickshire suchte; nicht etwa wegen Bernher, sondern nach einem Sprössling des Hauses Grandson, der um 1300 dort einige kirchliche Lehen inne hatte. Da fiel mir ein Bändchen in die Hände, verfasst von dem Ortspfarrer B. Richings, betitelt: "A Narrative of the Sufferings of Robert Glover" (of Mancetter, burnt at Coventry 1555) and Mrs. Lewes of Mancetter (burnt at Lichfield 1557) with some account of their friend Austin Bernher, Rector of Southam, who had the courage to visit them in prison and to be present with them at the stake."

ERNEST LOUIS HOCH †.

We deeply regret to announce the death of M. Ernest Louis Hoch, which occurred on Wednesday, March 24th, at the age of 68.

M. Hoch, a citizen from Basle Town and Liestal, arrived in this country in 1911, and in 1918 he married Mile. Louise Nussbaum from Densbüren (Aargau), he leaves a widow and two daughters, Mary born in 1922 and Jeanne, born in 1924.

During the war he was in employment with an important firm of timber merchants, and afterwards he was for some time with a firm at Hull. On returning to London the deceased was for about eight years with the firm of Messrs. A. Gagnière & Co. Ltd., Woollen Merchants, which firm he left to take up an apparently very promising position with a Jewish firm.

Unfortunately the high expectations to which he was entitled to look forward to did not materialise, and after many disappointments he left the firm. During the last few years he concentrated his activity to a Boarding House which he kept together with his wife.

The late M. Hoch was known to the Colony in his capacity as a collector of the Church, a post which he took over from the late and faithful M. Alfred Müller. His cheerfulness and ready wit, as well as his deep understanding for the needs, both spiritual and material of his countrymen, made him a welcome visitor wherever he called.

He died of heart trouble, dropsy setting in, and he bore his illness with calm and true Christian fortitude. A good and faithful Swiss has thus departed from us, and many who knew him will keep him in good remembrance.

We express our deep sympathy to his family in their sad bereavement.

PERSONAL.

We are very pleased to hear that Miss Hélène Fankhauser, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Fankhauser, of 9, Rivermead Court, Putney, has just become engaged to Mr. John Harrison, A.R.I.B.A.

We extend to the young couple our heartiest congratulations.

Das Motto des Büchleins lautet: "Als sie den Herrn gefangen nahmen, da verliessen ihn alle seine Jünger und flohen" und dann beginnt der Text: "aber Augustin Bernher verliess seine Freunde nie. Er tröstete Robert Glover, als seine Seele matt und verzagt war, er lehrte ihn dennoch auf Gott vertrauen, dennoch ihn zu loben als seine Stärke und Hilfe, gemäss Vers 18 und 19 des 145. Psalms, und er versprach ihm, Gott selber werde ihm ein Zeichen geben von seiner Treue." "Verdient nicht ein solcher Mut des Glaubens und der Freundschaft unsere Bewunderung in einer Zeit der Verfolgungen und des Spottes über die Märtyrer," fragt Richings. In den wilden Zeiten mitten unter blindwütigen Verfolgern, habgierigen, neidischen Verleumdern, stand Bernher unerschrocken, immer darauf bedacht, zu helfen, wo man ihn rief oder wo die Not am grössten war: 1553 bei Latimer im Tower, 1554 bei den Bischöfen in Oxford, 1555 in Mancetter und Chester, 1556 wieder in London, 1557 in Lichtfield, usw. Es ist überhaupt ein Wunder, wie er nur verschont geblieben ist. Wenn Besucher zugelassen wurden, war Bernher dabei. Wenn ein Gefangener Hilfe an Geld oder Kleidern benötigte, fand Bernher Wege und Mittel, sie zu beschaffen. Selbst als es allen bei Todesstrafe verboten wurde, auch im Gefängnis mit John Bradford zu sprechen oder sich ihm zu nähern, fand Bernher Wege, ihm Trost und Hilfe zu senden. Denn ein Brief sagt: "Mein treuer, lieber Augustin! Der Herr der Gnade möge Dich ewig segnen. Ich habe gute Hoffnung, dass, wenn du heute nacht kommst, ich mit Dir werde sprechen können." Als Beweis, dass er dem Wächter trauen könne, möge Bernher die Schrift ansehen, welche der Bote überbringe: eine Abhandlung über die Taufe, die später, nach Bradfords Tode, von Bernher in Druck gegeben wurde. Welchen Gefahren muss sich der Mann ausgesetzt haben! Die Drohungen mit Todesstrafe im Falle Bradford, für solche, die es wagten, mit Gefangenen zu sprechen, waren keine leeren Worte. Im Prozess der Mrs. Lewis z. B.

The Twenty-first

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

will be held at

BASLE

APRIL 3rd — APRIL 13th, 1937.

for Information apply to:

THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF
THE SWISS LEGATION,
18, Montagu Place, Bryanston Square, W.1.

or to:

THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION,
99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, or at Basle.

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For your stay
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EDELWEISS.

Are you quite content to wave away — up there — so high? — snowy-white specimen — a prize to any eye.

Do you prefer the heavens — above — to the solid earth below? — pride of the rocks — a rarity — many years on you bestow.

Do you ever feel lonely — for your many sister flowers — or do you love the traveller — to strive for you for hours?

Noble flower of Switzerland — how you hide yourself away — from all the scurry and bustle — to greet the glad sun ray.

Mary E. Brandwood.

hat Riching festgestellt, dass eine Frau selber vor das Glaubensgericht gestellt wurde, weil sie bei der Verbrennung der Märtyrerin geweint hatte; und anderswo erzählt John Foxe, dass Leute, welche nur Zeichen des Mitleids gaben, öffentlich ausgepeitscht wurden. Im weitem gebe ich nur einige Briefstellen, um zu zeigen, was Bernher für seine Freunde tat und wie sie ihn schätzten.

Robert Glover in seinem letzten Brief an seine Frau: "Und wie der Heiland seine Mutter dem Jünger Johannes übergab, so übergabe ich Dich für diese Welt dem Engel Gottes, Augustin Bernher. Folge seinem Rat, und Dein Glaube wird nie wanken. Danke Augustin für alles, was er für mich getan hat, und bete, dass Gott ihn erhalte." Und noch am letzten Tage vor seinem Abtransport von London nach dem Norden schrieb er: "Lieber Augustin, verzehle meine Zudringlichkeit, komme früh am Morgen und spät bei Nacht und versuch auch bei Tage, ob du Zulass bekommst, und ich hoffe dich zu sehen am Wege aus dem Fleet Prison, wenn sie mich hinausführen. Bitte, tröste meine arme Frau."

In einem Briefe an diesen John Bradford schreibt Ridley, der Bischof von London, aus dem Gefängnis in Oxford: "Grüsse von mir alle meine Brüder im Herrn, deine Mitgefangenen. Ach, wäre doch Augustin hier, ich könnte euch bessern Trost senden. Gebe Gott, er sei gesund und wohl." In einem andern Brief Riddleys: "Vor weniger als drei Tagen habe ich dir geschrieben, aber da Augustin hier ist, kann ich nicht anders, als dir meine Grüsse senden: so glücklich bin ich über seine Rückkehr, wie ich in Sorgen war um ihn. Ich habe nur in Hast gelesen, was er von dir gebracht hat; denn andere wollten es auch lesen, bevor er wieder gehen muss. — Augustins Zuspruch und die Briefe, die er mir bringt, sind für mich mehr Hilfe als alle Beredsamkeit eines Tullius oder eines Demosthenes."

(To be continued).