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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The Federal Council has made the following appointments in connection with the Management and Administration of the Swiss National Bank: as members of the "Bankrat": M. Fischer, head of the Financial Dept. of the canton of Vaud, in succession to M. Henri Bersier; M. Johann Heuberger, "Direktor der Revisions Abteilung des Verbandes Schweiz. Darlehenskassen in St. Gallen," in succession to the late States-Councillor Messmer. As Vice-President of the "Bankrat," M. Dagnet, President of the Cantonal Bank of Fribourg, in succession to M. Henri Bersier; as member and Vice-President of the "Präsidium" of the National Bank, M. Paul Rossy, at present Vice-President of the Federal Banking Commission, in succession to General Manager Schnyder von Wartensee, who recently resigned from his post. Professor G. Bachmann and M. E. Weber, the other two members of the management have been re-elected President and General Manager respectively.

The latest return of the Swiss National Bank for the week to 23rd June shows an increase in the foreign exchange holdings by Frs.16,000,000 (£743,300) to Frs.36,400,000 (£18,000,000). This is a consequence of an increased demand for Swiss francs.

The gold reserve remains unchanged at Frs.2,624,400,000. Bank notes and other sight obligations were covered by gold to the extent of 97.54 per cent.

DR. PAUL ROSSY.

Dr. Paul Rossy, who has been appointed a member of the "Direktorium" of the National Bank, was born in Cossonay in 1896. He received his education at Cossonay and later on at the Commercial School in Lausanne. He finished his studies at the University of Lausanne, where he took the degree as a "Licencié en sciences commerciales et politiques." In 1919 he entered the Banking firm of Sarasin & Co., in Basle, two years later he joined the statistical Bureau of the National Bank where he remained until 1928, occupying the post as substitute of the General Secretary.

Dr. Rossy then held several appointments at the Zurich and Basle offices of the Swiss National Bank until 1930, when he was appointed Manager of the National Bank in Basle.

When the Federal Banking Law was in preparation, M. Rossy was transferred to the Federal Finance Dept., where he acted as an expert to the appointed commission, owing to his eminent services which he rendered on this occasion he was appointed Vice-President of the Federal Banking Commission.

In appointing Dr. Rossy as a member of the General Direction, our National Finance Institution has gained a collaborator, whose brilliant banking career will, no doubt, prove a great asset to the Management.

PRESENT TO THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL.

The Crown-Prince of Iran has, in remembrance of his prolonged *sejour* in Switzerland, presented the Swiss Government with a magnificent Persian carpet, which will adorn the conference chamber of the Federal Council.

SWISS DELEGATION FOR THE 18th LEAGUE OF NATIONS MEETING.

The Federal Council has appointed the following to be members of the Swiss Delegation to the 18th League of Nations Meeting to be held in Geneva: M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, as head of the Delegation. Members: Professor Rappard (Geneva) and Minister

Stucki (Berne) as Delegates. As substitutes: States-Councillor Klöti (Zurich), National-Councillor Dr. Meili (Basle) and Councillor of Legation, M. C. Gorgé (Berne).

GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE.

The official results of the Gordon-Bennett Balloon Race, which was held at Brussels on June 20th, are as follows:

First, "Belgica" (Demuyter, Belgium), 1380 km., second, "Polonia II" (Janusz, Poland), 1370 km., third, "Zurich III" (Tilgenkamp Switzerland), 880 km., fourth, "L.O.P.P." (Poland), 870 km., fifth, "Maurice Mallet" (France), 820 km., sixth, "Warsaw" (Poland), 820 km., seventh, "Bruxelles" (Belgium), 795 km., eighth, "Sachsen" (Germany), 750 km., ninth, "Chemnitz" (Germany), 700 km., tenth, "Alfred Hildebrandt" (Germany); eleventh "France II"; twelfth, "S. II" (Belgium).

PROFESSOR A. FRANCESCHETTY.

The Federal Council has appointed Doctor A. Franceschetti, Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Geneva, to be a delegate at the International Congress of Ophthalmology, which is taking place at Cairo in December next.

FEDERAL SUBSIDIES.

The Federal Council has agreed to grant subsidies amounting to 2,350,000 Frs. towards the costs of enlarging the ports at Kleinhüningen and Au in Birsfelden.

SWISS TO INCREASE FRONTIER DEFENCE.

The Swiss Government decided that it is essential to raid its special defence loan reserve of approximately £5,000,000. The defence loan floated last year amounted to £12,000,000, but was over-subscribed by about £5,000,000, and this additional sum was regarded as a reserve to be called upon if necessity arose.

As a result of the deliberations the Federal Council proposes to expend immediately £2,927,500 on frontier defence, general armaments and equipment, and strategic roadways and arsenals.

"SWISS CURRENCY IN ORDER."

"Our credit and our currency are in order" was the assurance recently given to Parliament by Dr. Meyer, Swiss Minister of Finance.

Such a statement, he continued, could be made at a time when a neighbouring country (meaning France) was experiencing difficulties. Troubles in neighbouring countries were always bound to cast their shadows over Switzerland to a certain extent, but at present the Swiss franc did not share these difficulties.

Dr. Meyer concluded by saying that the position of the Swiss currency at the moment was absolutely satisfactory.

A Three and a Half per Cent. Loan of S.Frs.14,000,000 (£666,600) is being raised for the partial conversion of the Five per Cent. Loan of the City of Berne of 1925, amounting to Frs.35,000,000 (£1,666,600), and falling due on 15th November next.

The bonds of Frs.1,000 each will be issued at 98.90 per cent., plus 0.60 per cent. tax, running for 15 years. Annual repayments of Frs.500,000 are to be made from 1941 onwards and the remainder of the loan will be repaid in full in 1925.

City of Berne reserves the right to repay the amount outstanding in or after 1949 or to increase the annual repayments.

SWITZERLAND CALM.

No repercussion in Switzerland is expected in the event of a French devaluation. The Finance Minister, Dr. Meyer, stated a week ago that the Swiss franc was intact despite France's difficulties. In October last the Minister clearly asserted that any new French devaluation did not mean another Swiss devaluation.

There was no excitement on the Swiss Bourses and shares lost only a few points, while Federal Loans were unchanged.

SWITZERLAND VIA HARWICH.

Access to the Alps from England by way of Holland and Germany, or Belgium and Eastern France, is becoming increasingly popular. Although the night services by way of Harwich actually require a journey of about 24 hr. between London and the heart of Switzerland, departure from Liverpool Street is not until the late evening, and a full night's rest is obtained comfortably on the boats, after which the traveller has the choice of such luxury expresses as the Rheingold, if travelling *via* the Hook of Holland

to Basle, with the glories of the Rhine as a scenic attraction for most of the distance from Cologne, or the Edelweiss Pullman, if travelling *via* Antwerp, which takes him through much of the beauty of the Ardennes on his way to the Alps. Furthermore, with the recent reductions, the fares for these journeys, even by the trains mentioned, are no greater than those of the more direct routes. There is also the service *via* Flushing, with day travel over the North Sea and night travel beyond; to such an extent is this growing in favour that on Saturdays during July and August an additional service is being run this year, leaving Liverpool Street at 3 p.m. On the Dutch side this will connect with a new Zealand Express, leaving Flushing at 11.35 p.m., with sleeping and restaurant cars, for Cologne, Coblenz, Basle, and Switzerland, reaching Basle by midday Sunday.

IRISH FREE STATE PRESENTS NEW PRIZE.

Last year at the Lucerne International Horse Show the Free State Army equestrian team won outright the "Prix de la Cavalerie Suisse." The Free State Minister for Defence has decided to replace it by a new trophy, the "Prix de l'Armée Irlandaise," which was handed over at Army Headquarters to Mr. J. J. Irwin, private secretary to the Minister, by Mr. James Golden, of the Metropolitan School of Art, Dublin.

The new trophy, which takes the form of a casket, bears the following inscription:

*Concours Hippique International de Lucerne.
Prix de l'Armée Irlandaise.
Offerté par le Ministre de la Defense
De l'Etat Libre d'Irlande,
1937.*

It was designed by Mr. James Golden, and executed by Messrs. John Smyth and Sons, Wicklow Street, Dublin.

Irish Design.

The trophy, while conforming to its international character and its Swiss associations, is also of typically Irish design and craftsmanship. The design, particularly in its ornamental details, in gold, silver and enamel, testifies to the brilliance and decorative value of ancient Irish motifs and styles and their fitness for modern decorative purposes. The figure of Pegasus symbolises the poetry of motion. One of the lateral patterns is chased with a skilful depiction of the monastery founded by Saint Gall, the Irish patron of Switzerland. The general architectural framework reproduces a Renaissance concept toned down to forms more typically Irish, as a comparison with the shrine of St. Cúanán of Faghan in Donegal might suggest. On the summit of the domed cover of the casket is a circular ornament of Celtic character in repoussé with opaque enamels. The tapering sides of the casket recall the characteristics of Irish shrines, high crosses, doors, windows and towers. The whole is mounted on an ebony base bearing silver plaques, on which will be engraved the names of the winning teams.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

On the occasion of the 400th celebration of the Foundation of the "Rätischen Evangelischen Synode," the theological Faculty of the University of Zurich, has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Professor Benedikt Hartmann of Chur.

Dr. J. Früh, a former Professor of Geography at the Technical University in Zurich, has celebrated his 85th birthday anniversary.

Professor Früh enjoys a great reputation in Switzerland as the author of the book "Geographie der Schweiz."

BERNE.

The third International Medical Congress to be held in Switzerland will take place at Interlaken from August 29th to September 4th. One day will also be spent at Berne under the auspices of the medical faculty of the University.

M. Hugh R. Wilson, the American Minister is shortly leaving the Swiss Capital for Washington, where he has been appointed Assistant-Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs.

The death is reported from Berne of M. Karl Lüthi, a well-known painter and expert for restoring pictures of old masters.

* * *
Professor, Dr. de Quervain, in Berne, has been elected a corresponding member of the Medical Academy in Paris.

LUCERNE.
Dr. Heinrich Walther, since 1894, a member of the cantonal government, has tendered his resignation, for reasons of health, he was born in 1862.

* * *
At the age of 65, died in Lucerne, M. Jean Renggli a well-known painter.

BASLE.
The death is reported from Basle, of M. Emil Gerster-Rikenbach, the well-known painter of glass, at the age of 61. The deceased studied in Munich and Innsbruck, his works adorn a great number of churches throughout Switzerland.

* * *
Dr. Hans Hinderling has been elected, President of the Civil Court in Basle, M. Jost and Dr. Trott have been elected members of the cantonal Tribunal.

FRIBOURG.
M. Alexandre Pasquier, a farmer at Maules has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary.

ST. GALL.
The death has occurred at Gretschin of Pastor Ulrich Heller, at the age of 74; Pastor Heller was from 1907-1925 head of the "Institut Heller" in Rorschach.

VALAIS.
In Martigny, died at the age of 70, the "Valaisan" writer Kanonikus Jules Gross. The deceased was the author of a number of novels and plays, his best-known play was called "Théoduline."

NEUCHÂTEL.
National-Councillor Ernest Béguin has been appointed Vice-President of the Administration of the Swiss Federal Railways by the Federal Council.

FOOTBALL.

Championship 1936-1937.
CUP-WINNERS: Grasshoppers Club, Zurich.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
CHAMPIONS: Grasshoppers Club, Zurich.
RUNNERS-UP: Young Boys, Bern.
Relegated: F.C. St. Gall and Chaux-de-Fonds.

F.C. Basel and Chaux-de-Fonds having tied for the fatal 12th place, goal average not counting in Switzerland, had to play for National League or relegation. The first match remained drawn after extra time, 1:1; in the second game Basel won by 1 goal to nil, both matches taking place at Bern. And so French-Switzerland loses another representative, Servette and Lausanne alone gracing the upper circle. At the same time Eastern-Switzerland also say good-bye to Nat. League football, which will now be reduced to 2 clubs in Zurich, 2 in Basel, 3 in Bern (including Biel), and 1 each in Solothurn, Vaud, Geneva, Luzern and Ticino.

	Goals					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F. A. Pts.	
Grasshoppers	24	15	6	3	68	32 36
Young Boys	24	12	5	7	61	36 29
Young Fellows	24	12	4	8	57	53 28
Luzern	24	11	6	7	44	45 28
Biel	24	11	5	8	45	37 27
Lugano	24	11	4	9	57	54 26
Servette	24	11	3	10	55	47 25
Lausanne	24	10	3	11	56	40 23
Bern	24	8	6	10	42	44 22
Nordstern (Basel)	24	7	7	10	42	50 21
Basel	24	8	4	12	30	42 20
Chaux-de-Fonds	24	9	2	13	54	61 20
St. Gallen	24	2	3	19	32	102 7

FIRST LEAGUE.
CHAMPIONS: F.C. Grenchen, promoted to National League.
RUNNERS-UP: F.C. Zurich, having lost to Grenchen 1:2 at home and 0:6 away.
Relegated: "West"—F.C. Fribourg, F.C. Olten; "East"—F.C. Oerlikon, F.C. Kreuzlingen.
Promoted: "West"—F.C. Forward Morges, F.C. Derendingen;
"East"—F.C. Kickers-Luzern.

WESTERN GROUP.

	Goals					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F. A. Pts.	
Grenchen	23*	17	3	3	73	27 37
Vevay	23*	16	3	4	56	33 35
Cantonal	22	12	5	5	63	42 29
Aarau	22	12	2	8	65	32 26
Concordia (Iverdon)	22	9	5	8	38	38 23
Urania (Genève)	22	9	5	8	36	45 23
Montreux	22	8	6	8	49	48 22
Monthey	22	8	3	11	45	41 19
Solothurn	22	7	5	10	47	51 19
Pruntrut	22	7	5	10	31	57 19
Olten	22	4	3	15	22	61 11
Fribourg	22	1	1	20	29	79 3

* F.C. Grenchen and Vevay finished level with 35 points from 22 games; in Switzerland the deciding match by 2 goals to 1.

EASTERN GROUP.

	Goals					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F. A. Pts.	
Zurich	22	14	3	5	49	27 31
Brühl (St. Gall)	22	14	1	7	60	31 29
Blue Stars (Zurich)	22	12	4	6	48	33 28
Juventus (Zurich)	22	10	5	7	42	36 25
Bellinzona	22	10	5	7	43	38 25
Locarno	22	10	3	9	38	32 23
Winterthur	22	7	6	9	42	51 20
Chiasso	22	9	2	11	38	48 20
Concordia (Basel)	22	8	3	11	40	46 19
Schaffhausen	22	7	5	10	29	38 19
Kreuzlingen	22	6	6	10	23	36 18
Oerlikon	22	2	3	17	26	62 7

Yet, the last ball has not been kicked. Grasshoppers and Young Fellows are competing in the *Mitropa-Cup*, the latter because Young Boys preferred to give it a miss. Grasshoppers were drawn against Prossnitz-Czechoslovakia, whom they beat at Zurich 4:3, drawing away 2:2; they will have as opponents in the second round either Lazio-Rome or Hungaria-Budapest. Young Fellows lost narrowly to First Vienna by 1:2 away in a shocking game, from all accounts, fairs galore and stand-up fights. It appears that the Austrians did not expect much trouble and when they looked like losing they applied those cunning methods of ankle tapping and so on at which some of them are said to be experts. But the Youngsters from Zurich paid it all back with interest, perhaps not in quite such artistic manner, but, I dare say, just as effectively. The referee was far too lenient and the game must have been a disgrace. Now for the replay in Zurich.

M.G.

GRAND PRIX OF SWITZERLAND: START 21st/22nd AUGUST, 1937.

The preliminary preparations for the organization of the *Fourth Grand Prix of Switzerland for Motorcars* on the Bremgarten Circular Motor Track, in Berne, have been going on for some months past. The regulations are being printed and will soon be sent out. There are important changes. First of all, the *Grand Prix of Switzerland* will no longer, as previously, concern 500 km., but only 50 laps, of 364 km. Only such racing cars are admitted as are constructed according to the Grand Prix formula at present valid. It is certain that this year again first-class competitors may be expected.

The "*Prix de Berne*" for racing cars of the 1.5 liter class will be of special interest. These cars are scarcely behind the Grand Prix types as regards speed, and it was proved last year that the racing was equal in excitement to the Grand Prix races. In consideration of the very numerous engagements of first-class international drivers, this race will be carried out in two heats of 14 laps each equal to 101,920 km., and a final over 21 laps = 152,880 km. The public will, therefore, have the opportunity of witnessing no fewer than 4 starts on August 22nd.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

29th June, 1937.

The Editor,
"Swiss Observer,"
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

RE "FÊTE SUISSE."

Following your interesting report in your last issue, it may be of interest to your readers to know that the attendance was 1,276, being a record, and I am pleased to say that the Swiss Benevolent Society has benefited by the sum of £40.

May I take this opportunity of expressing the Committee's appreciation for the support you always give to this annual gathering.

Yours faithfully,
Le Comité de la Fête Suisse.

Ch. Chapuis,
Hon. Treasurer.

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