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The Swiss Observer

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Message from the Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation

Monsieur PILET-GOLAZ.

Au moment où le "Swiss Observer" fête le vingtième anniversaire de sa fondation, je me fais un devoir de lui exprimer de vifs remerciements au nom du Conseil fédéral. En publiant d'intéressants articles sur la vie en Suisse ainsi que des études sur les relations économiques, intellectuelles, artistiques, morales, de la Grande-Bretagne et de notre pays, en faisant connaître les jugements qui sont portés en Angleterre sur nos institutions et en renseignant ses lecteurs sur les manifestations patriotiques organisées dans les colonies suisses et dans notre pays, ce journal rend les plus grands services à nos compatriotes établis outre-Manche et à nous-mêmes. Je le félicite de son activité bienfaisante et lui souhaite une longue prospérité.

Je saisis aussi cette occasion pour adresser un cordial salut à la colonie suisse de Grande-Bretagne, qui garde à notre patrie un amour fidèle et qui, par son opiniâtre labeur, contribue fortement à entretenir l'amitié et la considération dont la nation britannique honore notre pays.

PILET-GOLAZ,

vice-président du Conseil fédéral suisse.

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HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND THIRD IN THE INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN LUCERNE.

The official total results published in the three positions, (standing, kneeling, laying down) places Switzerland third in the International Shooting Match in Lucerne; the results are as follows:—

	Standing		Kneeling		Laying		Points
	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	
1. Estonia	1,666	1,880	1,887	=	5,433		
2. Finland	1,717	1,844	1,864	=	5,425		
3. Switzerland	1,734	1,800	1,881	=	5,415		
4. Sweden	1,699	1,778	1,854	=	5,311		
5. Norway	1,657	1,701	1,897	=	5,255		
6. Germany	1,632	1,706	1,859	=	5,197		
7. Denmark	1,561	1,686	1,871	=	5,118		
8. France	1,525	1,748	1,841	=	5,114		
9. Latvia	1,523	1,373	1,848	=	4,744		

SWITZERLAND WORLD CHAMPION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARMY RIFLE AND PISTOL SHOOTING COMPETITION.

Switzerland has been declared World Champion both in the International Army Rifle and Pistol Shooting competition at Lucerne. The team consisting of: Lienhard, Zimmermann, Horber, Tellenbach and Hartmann have shot 2,607 points (Army Rifle competition) and have thus established a new world record. The "Mannerheim" Cup thus once again remains in Switzerland.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

On Sunday last, July 9th, four million visitors had entered the turnstiles since the opening of the Exhibition.

SWISS MILITARY MACHINE CRASHES.

A Swiss Military machine, type C35, crashed near Seggräben. Lieutenant Georges André Rolaz, born in 1917, from Geneva, was killed.

SHORT WAVE RADIO STATION DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The newly erected short wave Radio Station in Schwarzenburg (Berne) was completely destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to exceed one million francs. The station was principally intended for broadcast to Swiss in North and South America, Africa and Asia.

HENRI NAVILLE †.

The death has occurred in Kilchberg of M. Henri Naville-von Muralt, at the age of 64.

The deceased was one of the most important industrialists in our country. For many years he was on the engineering staff of the A. G. Brown, Boverie & Cie in Baden. In 1934 he was appointed President of the Board of this great concern in succession to Dr. F. Funk. He retired from his post in 1938 for reasons of health, his early death is greatly deplored amongst Swiss industrialists.

SEVENTY-FIVE MILLION FRANCS TO BE DISTRIBUTED FROM THE "WAERHUNGSPONDS."

The Federal Council has sanctioned the following payments, totalling 75 million francs, to be made by the National Bank to the various cantons out of the profits of the currency devaluation: Zurich: 11,392,866frs.; Berne: 12,703,632frs.; Lucerne: 3,493,096frs.; Uri: 423,618frs.; Schwyz: 1,149,733frs.; Obwalden: 357,829frs.; Nidwalden: 277,672frs.; Glarus: 657,578frs.; Zug: 643,376frs.; Fribourg: 2,641,710frs.; Solothurn: 2,659,564frs.; Basle-Town: 2,859,347frs.; Basle-Country: 1,706,811frs.; Schaffhausen: 944,084frs.; Appenzel a.Rh.: 903,324frs.; Appenzel J.Rh.: 275,922frs.; St. Gall: 5,281,613frs.; Grisons: 2,330,194frs.; Aargau: 4,788,836frs.; Thurgau: 2,509,523frs.; Ticino: 2,936,682frs.; Vaud: 6,120,641frs.; Valais: 2,515,628frs.; Neuchâtel: 2,293,011frs.; Geneva: 3,160,646frs.; total 75,000,000frs.

STRONG SWISS PROTEST IN ROME ABOUT TYROL BAN.

The Swiss Chargé d'Affaires in the absence of the Swiss Minister, who has been called to Berne to report, called at the Italian Foreign Office in Rome to protest against the expulsion of Swiss nationals from the Tyrolean province of Bolzano. He pointed out that the expulsion was "a flagrant violation" of the Swiss-Italian Treaty. The Swiss Consul in Venice has left for Bolzano. The measures taken by the Italian government has caused great indignation throughout Switzerland.

PROFESSOR E. BUGNION †.

The death is reported from Aix-en-Provence of Professor Edouard Bugnion, of Lausanne, who was 94 years of age. After lecturing for many years in anatomy and histology at Berne University, he was appointed Professor of Anatomy at Lausanne University, where he lectured for 34 years. He made numerous scientific journeys, including four in Ceylon, where he made a full study of the termites. A well-known Alpinist, he was the last surviving person concerned with the creation of the Alpine Club, which took place in 1863.

NEUTRALITY OF SWITZERLAND.

During the course of the Anglo-Russian negotiations there has been much discussion in the Swiss press, particularly with regard to the proposed guarantee of Switzerland's integrity. At a meeting of the Federal Council in Berne, M. Motta, the Swiss Foreign Minister, reported on the international situation and on the recent negotiations in which "Swiss neutrality is being alluded to."

At the end of the meeting a communiqué was issued to the effect that the Federal Council shares in all respects the opinion and attitude of the Swiss Political Department, which has emphasised for at least two years the necessity for maintaining Swiss neutrality in all eventualities. Further, Swiss neutrality, which is absolute and cannot be attenuated, is above discussion.

Commenting on this declaration, the "Tribune de Genève" states that it shows concisely that Switzerland asks no one for special guarantees and refuses to join one group of Powers against another. Switzerland will accept nothing which will limit its neutrality, already solemnly recognised.

Going even farther, a leading article in "La Suisse," which, like the "Tribune," is one of Geneva's most Right-wing papers, expresses the

fear that pressure will be brought on the Swiss Government by the French and British Governments for the purpose of forcing Switzerland into recognising Russia in exchange for a guarantee not solicited by the Swiss. The paper adds:

It would be inadmissible if, in order to further the game of the Anglo-French entente, diplomatic pressure were exercised on our country to renew diplomatic relations with Russia, even though a guarantee which we did not solicit would be accorded us. Like Holland and the Baltic States, Switzerland is neutral, not because of its egoism, but simply because there is no reason to enter into quarrels where its interests are not at stake.

The question of Russian recognition, however, has already been raised on the initiative of the Left and will come before the National Council (the Lower House of Parliament) in September.

SWITZERLAND AND HER INDUSTRIES.

A third edition of Switzerland and Her Industries has been published by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade. The two previous editions, published in 1928 and 1931, are out of print.

The booklet is illustrated with thirty-eight photographs and contains two maps. It aims at giving to foreigners interested in Swiss commercial affairs an accurate idea of the production, trade and institutions of the country. Various chapters deal with finance and banking, economic relations with foreign countries, manufacturing industries, and agriculture.

I.F.T.U. AND SOVIET UNIONS.

The triennial meeting of the Congress of the International Federation of Trade Unions ended at Zürich. The British proposal that the Russian trade unions should be invited to affiliate with the Federation on the basis of its existing constitution was rejected by 46 votes to 36.

A proposal by the United States delegation, which meant in effect keeping to the decisions taken by the General Council at Oslo in 1938, was carried by 60 votes to five. In 1938 the Council voted, after two days' debate, that the far-reaching Russian terms for affiliation should be rejected, and that having regard to the internal conditions in Russia negotiations should not be resumed.

GERMAN-SWISS ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS.

It is reported from Berne that the German-Swiss economic negotiations which began last winter and were twice interrupted, have ended. The existing commercial agreement has been extended for another period of one year, and meanwhile certain details concerning tariffs and German-Swiss transfers will be reconsidered.

SWISS DRAMA PRIZE.

In the competition for the Scheller Foundation Prize, which is awarded every three years to the Swiss author of the best play written during the previous three years, eighty-nine manuscripts were submitted from sixty-nine authors: sixty in German, twenty-seven in French, one in Italian, and one in Romansch. "Sixth Floor," by the Lausanne author, Alfred Gehri, was awarded the prize of 3,000 francs.

1st AUGUST

For several years past the S.M.S. College has had its own 1st of August Celebration when students and masters were addressed by a member of the Swiss Legation or other prominent members of the Swiss Colony. This year there will be no separate function but the whole.

S.M.S. COLLEGE

has been invited to join in the Celebrations at St. Pancras Town Hall. There you will be able to meet many young compatriots and have a chat about things in Switzerland and abroad. And, by the way, whenever you want any information about the S.M.S. College get into touch with the Secretary.

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