

News in brief

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considered, and plans are under way to develop it into a seat of open-air international festival plays.

SWISS NEWS.

Among the outstanding events of Swiss political and economical history of recent times are two votes, which were made necessary by the freely-used institution of the referendum. One took place on the 2nd June of this year; a so-called Krisen-initiative, or something like a new deal system, wished the state to have economical matters in hand and by large borrowing make capital available for a restoration of the depressed economy of the country. The vote was not accepted by the Swiss people. The reason of rejection may be explained by the fact that the borrowing of this large sum would have endangered the Swiss franc, and in this case the proposed measures for salvation would have been annulled. On the other hand, the majority of the Swiss people do still believe, that a too great state interference in economics is detrimental to trade and industries. A third fact is also very important and has been pointed out from the more conservative sides, that borrowing is typically un-Swiss, that is, goes against the tradition of our forefathers to leave a heavy burden of loans.

The second great vote on the 8th September concerned a complete revision of our constitution and was brought forward by the extreme parties of our political structure. The conservative spirit of the majority, and a great majority too, was not willing to go to such kind of experiments. The motion was rejected.

Times are hard, all over the world, the economic balance is swinging wildly round, and Switzerland is naturally affected just the same as any other country because Swiss economic features are very closely linked with World affairs through our export industries and the tourist traffic. In moments of hardships, there are always elements who think that they have the way for a great solution, if given the necessary power. However, unfortunately their systems do mostly not stand a serious test, and it is therefore pleasing to have an opportunity to consult the public opinion, an opportunity afforded by the referendum and vote.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The case Jacob, known as the Basle Kidnapping affair, will shortly be dealt with by an International Arbitration Court, the judges having been appointed by Switzerland and Germany.

On the 26th. of this year, the election of the National Council and Council of State will take place in Switzerland -- their term of four years coming to an end.

Our countryman, Sir Arnold Theiler, the greatest veterinary surgeon of to-day, has returned to South Africa to complete some of his scientific researches. Sir Arnold represented Switzerland at the Veterinary Congress in New York, and it will be remembered by most of the Swiss in New Zealand that he visited this country in November of last year. After a short stay in Australia, he returned to South Africa where the Swiss Colony gave him a great reception in honour of the Gold Medal received from the British Agricultural Society.

Admiral Emil Belart, the highest commander of the Brazilian Navy, and a native of Brugg, Switzerland, died recently at the age of 70 in Rio, Brazil.

The readers who are lucky enough to possess a short-wave wireless set, will be interested to know that on every first Monday of each month, official news from Switzerland will be broadcast from the League of Nations Station, Prangins, wave lengths H.B.L. 31.27 m, at midnight, Swiss time.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has charged the Police Department of the Kanton of Tessin to arrest the publishers and to close the office of the Adula Newspaper in Bellinzona; their

publication and doings being in contradiction to the welfare of the country and endangering the good understanding between German and Italian speaking Swiss. The publishers of this newspaper will most likely be tried for state tralatition.

In considering the World crisis, the Committee for the National Exhibition, which was intended to be organised for 1936 in Zürich, has decided to postpone it until 1938.

Our countryman, Prof. Courtesy, will commence touring New Zealand on the 23rd October, in Hastings. Prof. Courtesy, with his partner known as the St. Moritz Skaters, or Wonders on Wheels, is one of the leading skaters. He has given exhibitions before practically all Royalty.

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Outside a Bank an Italian is busily engaged roasting chestnuts. An acquaintance stops and starts the following conversation :

- A. How is business?
I. Splendid, couldn't be better.
A. Well, if that is so, what about lending me a quid?
I. I am very sorry but it can't be done. I have come to some agreement with the bank. They are not going to sell roasted chestnuts and I mustn't lend any money.

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NEW MEMBERS OF THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :-

ALTHERR, Konrad, 13 Fenton Street, Rotorua.
BACHMANN, Jost, P.O. Box, Opotiki.
GAFNER, Miss, 81 Vivian Street, New Plymouth.
KELLER, Mrs. B., Opotiki.
KERLER, George, 477, Karangahape Road, Auckland.
MERZ, Ern., Exclusive Textiles Ltd., Dilworth Bldgs., Auckland.
PEYER, A., 84 Moa Road, Pt. Chevalier, Auckland.
STEINER, John, East Port Road, Waihou.
SCHLAEFFER, John, Ostrich Farm, Pukekohe.
STEGER, A. E., Otara, Waiuku.
UNGEMUTH, Werner, Clarence Road, Northcote, Auckland.
STEYER, Frederick, 82, Walker Road, Pt. Chevalier, Auckland.
GUNTREN, Rudolphe, "Evergreen", Dairy Flat, Auckland.
BLAU, A. C., Swiss Consulate, Auckland.
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