

New members of the Swiss Benevolent Society

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The case Jacob, the German journalist kidnapped in Basel, has reached an early and unexpected, but very satisfactory settlement.— The prisoner having been sent back to Switzerland before the Arbitration Court, which was set up earlier, had to give a decision.

The Sulzer Co. in Winterthur is supplying two big diesel engines for the two new ships of the Blue Star Line which will be carrying produce between New Zealand and England. It is understood that owing to some new devices, the modern types of Sulzer Diesel engines realise a considerable economy in fuel cost.

After a drop to 91% during the recent financial crises on the Continent, the gold covering of the Swiss National Bank has increased to 106% as a result of considerable quantities of gold flowing back to Switzerland.

The Autumn fruit crop 1935 in Switzerland does not seem to come up to the record figures of last year; however, the amount will be by far in excess of the consumption in Switzerland and a considerable amount will have to be exported. The main consumers are Germany, France and Italy.

At the second commission of the League of Nations Assembly, Minister Stucki from Switzerland defended the Swiss monetary policy specially in regard to the maintaining of the gold standard. He stated that Switzerland was a small country absolutely dependent on other countries for her raw materials, and would suffer an immediate price increase if the currency were depreciated. It was absolutely untrue that the gold block countries ruin for themselves their export trade. On the base of publications by the League of Nations it was shown that countries without compensation and quota policy have suffered more in their external trade than the gold block countries. The unemployed per head of population is 2% in Switzerland compared with 4.6% in Great Britain and 9.1% in the U.S.A.

A reliable prisoner!! At the Supreme Court opening in Pfäffikon there was a very humorous incident. The accused was charged with a fraud of 2000 Frs. At the time of his trial he was in prison at Lausanne for another offence and had to be sent with a Constable to Pfäffikon for his new trial. During the hearing, a telephone message was sent to the court that the prisoner had escaped from the Constable, and the court was just deciding to postpone the trial when the prisoner entered the court without the policeman. As explanation, he said that the policeman was talking to a friend in Yverdon where he missed the train, so he came alone!

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