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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

FEDERAL MINT LAW.

With the passing of the new Federal Mint Law by the States Council in Berne the surviving relics of the Latin Monetary Union in Switzerland advanced one more stage towards extinction. There still remains the consideration of the Bill by the National Council, after which a period of three months is allowed by the Federal Constitution during which appeals for a national referendum can be registered.

Simultaneously with this amendment to the monetary constitution of Switzerland, the five-franc piece will be reduced in size from its existing diameter of 37 millimetres to 31 millimetres. This conforms to the recommendations made by the various committees of experts which have examined the position of the Swiss currency during the course of the last few years. The proposal for the issue of five-franc notes has met with little favour, while the suggestion that the use of nickel as metal for the subsidiary coinage of whatever denomination has failed to attract support, although fathered by the Federal Council itself.

Such an alteration would have been hardly feasible in any case, since it would have meant that as long as gold was not in general circulation the currency of Switzerland would consist of nothing but paper and nickel—a state of affairs which could not fail to have an unfavourable psychological effect, not only on the Swiss people themselves, but on the numerous foreign visitors who flock to the country.

In the terms of the new law, the Swiss currency will now be constituted as follows: The unit is the franc, one kilogram of fine gold corresponding to Frs. 3,444 4/9. The franc is divided into 100 centimes. The coinage consists of Frs. 20 and Frs. 10 in gold coins (900 gold, 100 copper), silver coins of Frs. 5, Frs. 2, Fr. 1 and Fr. 1/2 (835 silver, 165 copper), nickel coins of 20 centimes, 10 centimes and 5 centimes, copper coins 2 centimes and 1 centime (950 copper, 40 tin and 10 zinc).

NEW SWISS AIR PORT.

An aerodrome is to be built at Cloud, a small town situated between Lausanne and Geneva on the main Lausanne—Geneva air route.

THE ZONE DISPUTE.

The 19th session of the Permanent International Court at The Hague will commence on the 22nd of this month, when the Savoy Zones dispute which has been pending for six years will—it is to be hoped—be finally disposed of. Switzerland will be represented by M. de Pury, Minister at The Hague, and Professor Paul Logoz.

SWISS SCIENTIST HONOURED.

Dr. C. E. Guillaume, the Swiss scientist, who in 1920 received the Nobel Prize for Physics, was awarded the gold medal of the British Horological Institute for his services to horology.

THE BASSANESI AFFAIR.

The Public Prosecutor has now issued a statement of the charges levied against Bassanesi and his seven supposed accomplices. The case is expected to be tried at Lugano in the second half of November. Bassanesi has been hunger-striking for the last few weeks as a protest against the delay in bringing the proceedings; he will be defended by National Councillor Borella whilst the other accused will each have a separate counsel of repute. The friends of Bassanesi, who is a 25-year-old school teacher, are launching an appeal for funds in order to finance the defence.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The search which was commenced on Thursday last week for the missing solicitor, Dr. jur. John Schwendener, has, until now, proved fruitless, although the whole of the lake of Zurich, from Kunsnacht to Meilen, has been thoroughly searched. Dr. Schwandener was seen on that Thursday evening in his shirt-sleeves rowing his boat in the direction of Erlenbach. He was not a good oarsman and, therefore, the supposition has

taken root that he might have slipped and fallen into the water. Some people have come forward and stated that he suffered at times with attacks of giddiness and suggest that such an attack may have been the cause of his disappearance. The search is the more difficult because the lake was very stormy that night so that the boat might have been driven far out of its course after the accident happened. N.Z.Z.

(On going to press we hear that the body of Dr. Schwendener has been found in the lake.—Ed.)

LUCERNE.

A most extraordinary fatal accident happened in Wallismat, where for some considerable time a fox has made his appearance in the homestead of Walter Mast. Mast and his brother-in-law, Emil Zwahlen, decided to rid themselves of the unwelcome visitor. Mast therefore took up a position from which he thought he would be able to shoot the fox, without, however, informing his partner where he was. Some time later Zwahlen saw something moving in a hedge about 20 metres distant and fired, thinking he was shooting at the fox. The bullet, however, hit Mast in the head, killing him instantly. Mast, who was 31 years old, leaves a widow who is expecting to become a mother. V.

GLARUS.

On Sunday last the new Plamna Hut, 2,950 metres, which was built through the generous donation of Rob. Schwarzenbach, was opened. It is situated west of the Clariden Hut and opens up a beautiful climbing and skiing ground. The opening ceremony could not take place at the Plamna Hut itself, which is the highest in the eastern Swiss Alps, but had to be performed in the Clariden Hut owing to the change in the weather. The Plamna Hut belongs to the Section Toedi of the S.A.C. and has eighteen sleeping bunks. V.

SOLEURE.

The latest statistics of the Watch Industry show that during the period January to August of this year 2,730,000 less watch movements and watches have been exported, as compared with the same time last year. This is a retrogression of 20 per cent. The value of the exported products in the first eight months of 1929 was 162,370,000 Frs. whereas in the same period of 1930 only 128,418,000 Frs. worth found its way abroad. There is, therefore, a drop in watch exports of 33,960,000 Frs. St.G.T.

FRIBOURG.

On Monday morning the Sarine which was in high flood, carrying large rocks in its bed, tore away the pontoons together with the iron caisson which should have been imbedded for the middle pillar of the new bridge at Corbières. The whole of the wooden piles and structure were carried down stream. The damage is great. St.G.T.

The council of the Swiss Rifle Federation met in Geneva to decide the meeting place for the next Swiss Shooting Festival in 1934. No less than seven towns competed for the honour of entertaining the Swiss marksmen. Basle, Bienne, Fribourg, Lausanne, Lucerne, Stans and Zurich were equally anxious to be chosen. Of these places Zurich has had that honour four times already, Lucerne and Basle each three times, Fribourg and Lausanne each twice, and Stans once; Bienne alone has never had the opportunity of having the Federal Marksmen's Banner in its keeping. The selection was made by elimination. Four times the ballot had to be taken, which eventually proved in favour of Fribourg. St.G.T.

(Fribourg will, therefore, be the place where in 1934 the members of the Swiss Rifle Association of London will have to look to their laurels.—Ed.)

Owing to the fact that a number of teachers in the German-speaking part of the canton of Fribourg are unemployed, and that no new candidates have been forthcoming this autumn, the State council of Fribourg has decided to close the German division of the teacher's seminary at Altenryf (Hauterive), for 2 years. N.Z.Z.

AARAU.

Captain Wildi, chief of the Chancery of the District Instructor of the 4th Division in Aarau, celebrated his 40th service anniversary on October 4th. Many congratulations on this occasion have been offered to this proved well-known officer.

(Captain Wildi has, for the last twenty years, been called "the eternal captain.")—Ed.

NEUCHÂTEL.

The General Motors Continental has followed the example of the Agence Americaine by giving a large contract for motor car clocks to a Neuchâtel firm. The group of General Motors in the U.S.A. has for many years been a good customer of our watch industry. In 1929 the Buick and Cadillac factories have given their orders to our Neuchâtel firms in spite of the increased tariff. St.G.T.

LIESTAL.

At last a satisfactory solution has been arrived at for a new field-shooting ground necessary for the training of troops in Liestal. The old Sichert ground has been inadequate for the new tactics in use and a new place was selected south-west of Nuglar, which was ideal in every respect. But the owners of the properties put up such a determined opposition that the scheme had to be dropped. The wrecking of this plan would have meant a tremendous economic loss to the town.

For this reason new exertions were made to find a place which would answer the necessary requirements. Such a place has now been found between the villages of Seltisberg and Bubendorf. This particular piece of ground is 80 ha. and the cost for the required arrangements and the purchase price has been estimated at 710,000 Frs., which sum will be found by the Swiss Government and the town of Liestal. N.Z.

AROSA.

On Saturday the 4th of October the Ski Club Arosa started a new line of activity by opening a new Weisshorn Hut.

The new hut is built of wood in the usual style, with two large living rooms and a large veranda, and has room for 200 people. Owing to particular circumstances there are only ten sleeping bunks. A spacious kitchen, a wide cellar and living apartments for the caretaker complete the whole. There is no doubt that the hut will be well patronised this coming winter and will prove an increased attraction for Arosa. The Ski Club Arosa is to be congratulated on this great undertaking for which it has voted and spent 50,000 Frs. N.Z.

BUOCHS.

On the 7th of October a large building, consisting of three dwelling houses and called the "Palast," became the prey of flames. The cause of the fire has not yet been established. The strong west wind fanned the fire to tremendous flames and it took over two hours to conquer it as, owing to the repetition course, the number of helpers was greatly depleted by absentees on military service. The building was inhabited by thirteen families, numbering about forty to fifty people, some of whom were old and infirm. Only very little of the goods and chattels could be saved. Thanks to the new water installation in Buochs, which has fifteen hydrants, it was possible to concentrate on the fire and to prevent it from spreading over the whole of the village; the strong wind carried the sparks as far as Beckenried. The insurance is insufficient to cover the damage done. N.Z.

DIE LETZTE ROSE.

Der letzten Rose am Spalier
Will ich es heute bringen,
Des alten Strauches einz'ger Zier,
Wo jüngst noch viele hingen.
Schön Suschen soll heut' stecken dich
In's jugendliche Mieder,
Da sollst du prangen wonniglich,
Bis welk du sinkst danieder.
O Röslein rot, wie du mich mahnst,
Dass alles muss vergehen,
Dass, ach, vielleicht du's selber ahnst
Dein Duft auch wird verwehen!
Weih ihr den Wohlgeruch mit Lust,
Und gib dich hold zufrieden,
Dir ist ja an schön Suschens Brust
Ein schöner Tod beschieden.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th
for the
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL,
at the
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.