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# The Swiss Observer

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## IMMATRICULATION OF SWISS CITIZENS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

In accordance with the Consular regulations passed by the Federal Council, all Swiss citizens residing in foreign countries, regardless of age, sex or status, are required to register at the Legation or Consulate in whose district they reside. This registration is the first condition to which is attached their right to diplomatic and consular protection.

Application for registration at the Legation or Consulate must be made not later than one month after arrival in the consular district. Furthermore every change of address as well as all changes in the civil or family status must be reported to the competent Swiss representation. When reporting such changes, the respective legal documents must be sent in together with the matriculation card.

A family is registered as a unit. The head is responsible for the registration of all members of his family. He is also compelled to report any changes in the family status.

The matriculation card is valid for a period of three years; it is to be renewed every three years. After nine years from date of issuance a new card must be obtained.

On December 31st, 1929, the validity of all matriculation cards expired, unless issued or prolonged in the second half of 1929.



## HOME NEWS

### FEDERAL.

#### INTERNATIONAL MOTOR CAR AND CYCLE EXHIBITION.

The Seventh International Motor Car and Cycle Exhibition took place at Geneva from March 21st to 30th. All the first American and continental makes of cars were shown and many well-known Swiss carriage works exhibited specimens of their excellent workmanship.

#### SWISS CATTLE FOR RUSSIA.

It is reported that the Export Committee of the Swiss Federation of Cattle Breeders has succeeded in making an important agreement with a commercial delegation of Soviets. The discussions concerned an order for 35 heads of large cattle, chiefly of the Simmenthal breed, and prices obtained are satisfactory. Last year 9 heads of choice cattle were sold to Russia.

#### GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY.

On account of the ever increasing depression in the Embroidery Industry the Federal Government is considering a further grant. Some years ago the sum of 1,000,000 francs was voted as a subvention and of this 250,000 francs have so far been employed. It is, however, feared that an even larger credit is needed to ameliorate the present conditions.

#### "RUFST DU MEIN VATERLAND."

One hundred years ago, on March 21st 1830, died Johann Rudolf Wyss, the Bernese poet and author of our National Anthem.

Wyss was born in Berne in 1781 as the son of the vicar at Munster. As a young student he saw the invasion of the French army in 1798 and at once enrolled as a soldier. Later he studied theology at Tübingen and Heidelberg and was called to Berne as professor of philosophy. He was the author of several books and poems, but in spite of this his name has almost been forgotten.

#### THE SPYING AFFAIR.

By a decree dated March 26th the Federal Council has expelled from Swiss territory eight Italians charged with spying on behalf of Fascist organisations; most of them were residing in different parts of the canton Ticino.

Two more Italians and a German, all of them living in St. Gall, were officially warned that

similar steps would be taken unless they discontinued their present illicit activities.

It would further appear that the position of the Italian Consuls at Lausanne and St. Gall is somewhat compromised.

#### THE RED SUNDAY.

With reference to a demonstration which the Communists planned for Sunday March 30th the Federal Council gave instructions to the local frontier authorities to prevent the entry of any foreigners supposed to be communist supporters.

Several members of the "Rote Frontkämpfer" were duly taken charge of on their arrival at the "Badischer Bahnhof" and escorted to the "Lohnhof" prison. At Zurich an open air meeting was arranged with about 2,000 participants. An effigy of Mr. Motta was hanged and several speakers made abusive speeches. Eight demonstrators were arrested as they were about to create disorder, but two Germans whose references to Switzerland were particularly objectionable, managed to escape.

#### THE FREE ZONES.

There seems to be little prospects of an understanding between France and our country and the International Court at The Hague will therefore resume the deliberations in this protracted dispute.

#### SWISS GUARD COMMANDANT RESIGNS.

Col. Hirschbühl, the commandant of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican, has tendered his resignation to the Pope.

According to later news our gallant compatriot has been prevailed upon to withdraw his resignation.

#### IMMIGRATION INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

According to a communication by the Swiss Hotel Society more stringent regulations are enforced by the English Government in issuing permits to students visiting this country. It is stated that during the last few months the number of such students has increased very considerably. In future all students are required to sign a declaration that they will neither seek nor accept employment in this country.

#### INCREASE IN SAVINGS.

At the end of 1929 the total of deposits in Savings Bank was estimated at 4,329 million francs and bank bonds reached the sum of 5,875 millions. About 20 years ago the increase in savings amounted to 35 million francs per year, whilst the figures for 1929 are 261 millions more than in 1928.

#### FEWER BIRTHS.

The Federal Statistical Office reports 69,008 births during 1929, the lowest figure since 1871 when these enquiries were first made. During the same period the population has risen from just over two and a half million to about four million and the number of marriages from 19,514 to 31,240.

#### OVERSEAS EMIGRATION.

During the month of February 220 Swiss have emigrated to overseas countries, or 33 less than in February 1929. The decrease of emigrants during the first two months of this year is marked, 78 less than during the corresponding period in 1929, which is no doubt due in many instances to the difficulties in obtaining the necessary permits to settle down elsewhere.

#### INTERNATIONAL REPARATIONS BANK.

Following the agreement of the establishment of the International Reparations Bank, Switzerland has to take over shares for about 7 million francs of which one quarter is payable in cash. The only authority for such a transaction on behalf of Switzerland is the Swiss National Bank. It now appears that according to law the National Bank is not allowed to acquire shares. An alteration of the law will probably be necessary. At the same time an enquiry has been instituted with the object of studying the question and the alternative of coming to a different arrangement whereby the statutes of the National Bank need not be changed.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

The Schützengesellschaft of the town of Zurich has decided to offer to take on the arrangements for the next Federal Shooting Competition, which is to take place in 1934.

Transport workers have gone on strike on March 26th, although the last tariff agreement is still in force. Both employers and workers agreed to submit their differences to the Cantonal Board of Arbitration; yet the workers have started striking in the meantime, evidently in the

hope that the removal term (March 31st) will add power to their argument for higher wages.

Conrad Keller, Professor of Natural History in Zurich, has died in a mysterious manner. He was seen early in the morning apparently in the best of health and spirits. One hour afterwards his body was found in the lake near the Utoquai. Academic circles in Zurich have lost in him an untiring and immensely popular teacher and an ever cheerful companion.

Mr. Masterman-Smith is shortly opening an English Institute in Zurich for evening classes.

#### URI.

The Gotthard express from Basle had a mishap in the Gotthard tunnel, where the train was held up for three hours. Apparently a rod on the dining car got entangled in the electric wires and tore them down for a distance of about 2,000 metres. Apart from material damage this accident caused no injury.

#### SOLEURE.

The three political parties at Balsthal, after hearing an address by Federal Councillor Schulthess on the Alcohol Bill, decided almost unanimously to support the measure.

#### BASLE.

Dr. Robert Witzinger-Schwabe, chairman of the National Zeitung and Managing Director of the Publicitas, Ltd., has died in a sanatorium in the Tessin aged only 48 years. Starting with a slight infection, which appeared unimportant, he developed symptoms of acute blood-poisoning. He died in spite of the unceasing attention given him by his wife and doctors.

#### SCHAFFHOUSE.

The 41st annual report of the Aluminium Industrie A.-G. states that the undertaking was fully occupied in 1929 and that the whole production was sold. The proposed dividends are: 5 per cent. on Preference Shares, 6 per cent. on Founders Shares with an additional 9 per cent. super-dividend on the latter.

#### ST. GALL.

There are still a good number of communities in the Canton with separate schools for catholics and protestants. It is a pleasure to note that Kappel has voluntarily decided to do away with this separation and to establish one school for both. The citizens have accepted this plan by a great majority. The new organisation will start work in May, and the catholic and the protestant school councils have allied themselves under an impartial chairmanship to bring this about.

#### AARGAU.

President Musy addressed a meeting of over 1,500 people in the Wohlen church regarding the Alcohol Bill. His exposé was received with acclamation accompanied by a resolution to support the measure.

#### LUCERNE.

The Military Tribunal of the 6th Division has liberated a corporal who failed to appear at the repetition course because he had at the same time to serve a sentence of imprisonment, but have inflicted disciplinary punishment for having neglected to keep in order his military papers. He was further deprived of his rank.

There were two other convictions, one for wilful damage and one for abusing military privileges by travelling in uniform without authority.

#### GENEVA.

After many years of work and deliberations the "Fédération Montagnarde Genevoise" are building this summer their first alpine hut in the 'Val-de-Bagnes.' It is hoped that the hut will be finished before the end of the summer. It will be situated on the 'Plan des Lyres' and bear the name of Marcel Brunet in memory of his services rendered to the society.

#### VAUD.

Returning from the Motor Car Exhibition at Geneva, a car in which were States Councillor M. Bujard, National Councillor P. Rosset, a former and the present mayor of Lausanne, was thrown across the road by a car from Zurich which was speeding towards Geneva. Several of the occupants were injured and M. Bujard had to be taken to hospital.

#### TICINO.

Recently two Ticinesi have been caught in the act of smuggling 1,800 grammes of cocaine into Italy. They were promptly arrested, but later released, and in their stead the manufacturer of the drug, Soldini, has been placed in the hands of the police.