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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### SAVOY FREE ZONES.

##### JUDGMENT IN FAVOUR OF SWITZERLAND.

The Permanent Court of International Justice, on June 7th, delivered judgment in favour of Switzerland in the case of the Free Zones of Upper Savoy and the district of Gex, which have been in dispute between France and Switzerland since 1919. Many people, among them the French and Swiss Ministers at The Hague, were present in the large hall of the Court.

The judgment was given by a majority of six votes against five, those in favour being Signor Amilotti, Dr. Loder, Dr. Oda, Dr. Huber, Mr. Kellogg, and M. Beichmann.

In its judgment the Court decides that the Free Zones — which, after being created in 1815 and 1816, had been abolished in 1923 by the single-handed action of France — are to be maintained in existence. Accordingly the Court rules that France must withdraw her Customs line, in conformity with the provisions of 1815-1816. The withdrawal has to be effected by January 1, 1934; the Court adds, however, that the withdrawal of the Customs line does not affect the right of the French Government to collect at the political frontier fiscal duties not possessing the character of Customs duties. Furthermore the Court declares that, as the Free Zones are maintained, some provision for the importation of goods, free of duty or at reduced rates, across the line of the Federal Customs must be contemplated: for the rest, it leaves the manner of regulating such imports to the Government concerned, confining itself to placing on record a declaration made on behalf of the Swiss Government to the effect that the Swiss Government would agree, should France so desire, to the terms of these exchanges of goods being settled by experts, failing an agreement between the parties.

Señor Altamira and Sir Cecil Hurst have submitted a dissenting opinion on certain points regarding the interpretation of the Special Agreement of October 30, 1924, in virtue of which the case was submitted to the Court; and M. Negulesco a dissenting opinion regarding the Court's jurisdiction. M. Yovanovitch confines himself to a statement of his dissent, and M. Eugène Dreyfus has appended to the judgment a dissenting opinion.

##### SWISS SATISFACTION.

Great satisfaction is felt in Switzerland at the decision of The Hague Court on the Savoy Free Zones. Now that the legal issue has been settled, negotiations are likely to be resumed for an understanding with France on the reciprocal trade facilities to be set up. If the two countries fail to reach an agreement, experts appointed by the Court will define the principles on which economic exchange should be based. The decision of The Hague Court is regarded in Geneva as more than a Swiss legal victory, but stress is laid on the fact that by its decision the Court has greatly enhanced the prestige of arbitration and international justice.

##### SWITZERLAND AND FINANCIAL HELP FOR AUSTRIA.

It is stated that Switzerland has refused to join the foreign powers in extending financial help to Austria, owing to the fact that the Swiss Government has to make heavy sacrifices in order to help the industries of its own country in their fight against the ever increasing export restrictions.

##### SWISS PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

On the 6th inst. the two Chambers met in Session.

### FRANCO-SWISS TARIFF WAR.

The Swiss and French Governments are about to conclude an agreement concerning the classes of goods which will be subject to Swiss import quotas.

In the meantime the tariff war is continuing. It is reported that the Swiss Government intends levying a Customs tax of 4 per cent, *ad valorem* on certain French goods, such as wines, and the yield on this tax will be distributed among the Swiss exporters who suffer most from the new French tariffs. This is a measure of retaliation against the special tax on the price of goods and profits which France is levying in spite of the existing trade treaties.

### SWITZERLAND'S PETROLEUM IMPORT TRADE.

According to official statistics the total imports of petroleum products into Switzerland during 1931 amounted to 2,543,907 barrels, which compared with 2,227,844 barrels imported during the preceding 12 months. The imports of motor spirit last year amounted to 1,546,099 barrels, as compared with 1,350,544 barrels imported during the preceding 12 months. Fuel oil imports in 1931 were 649,283 barrels; kerosene, 189,751 barrels; and lubricating oils, 146,650 barrels. A total of 3,648,293 lbs. of paraffin wax were imported into Switzerland last year.

### CENTENARY FESTIVAL OF THE FEDERAL GYMNASIAC SOCIETY.

On the occasion of the Federal Gymnastic Festival which is to take place from the 15th-18th of July at Aarau, the Federal Council will be represented by the following members:

M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation and Messieurs Schulthess, Pilet and Minger.

### RADIO DEVELOPMENT.

A new radio development in Switzerland is a radio-telephone system: whereby telephone subscribers can enjoy wireless programmes without owning a receiving set.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

Since last Saturday the offices of the Basler Handels Bank have been transferred to their new premises, at the "Alte Börse," obere Bahnhofstrasse.

Dr. Ella Wild, editor of the commercial section of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung has died in Zurich. Dr. Ella Wild was a member of the Editorial staff of this great periodical for nearly 25 years.

The executors of the will of Mrs. E. Streuli-Rüsch have informed the administrators of the Foundation "Für das Alter" that an amount of 1 million francs will be available for this institution.

#### BERNE.

The death is reported from Berne of M. Ludwig Mathys, a partner in the well-known firm Lutstorf and Mathys, Architects, at the age of 62. M. Mathys was a colonel in the Swiss Army.

The death is reported of Dr. Otto A. Oesterli, Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Dr. A. Wander, A.G. in Berne.

Representatives of the town Authorities, the Swiss Federal Railways and the Cantonal Government, met in Berne in order to discuss the transfer of the Railway Station at Berne. It is proposed to erect a new station near the Lorraine quarters.

The Delegates Meeting of the Swiss Bank Clerks Association took place at Interlaken under the Presidency of M. Steinmann. A resolution has been passed to fight any reduction in salaries proposed by the management of Swiss Banks.

An industrial of Berne, who wishes to be anonymous has sent an amount of 10,000f. to the commander of the 3rd division to be distributed amongst needy soldiers.

#### SCHWYZ.

M. Alois Städeli, who recently died in Schwyz, left an amount of 25,000f. for charitable purposes.

#### BASLE.

Last Saturday a terrible motor-car accident happened near the spot where the Neue Welt joins up with the Muttentzerstrasse.

A car with 4 passengers approached at a great speed the Birs Bridge, the driver was unable to control the vehicle which was hurled with great force against the parapet of the bridge, breaking same and both car and passengers fell into the River Birs. They were rescued in a pitiful condition and taken to a hospital near by. The car is a total wreck.

#### AARGAU.

M. Zurlinden, Senior of the Jura Cement Works Aarau-Wildegg, who died recently, has left legacies amounting to 200,000f. to various institutions; provisions for his workmen have also been made.

The 32 years old Adolf Vogel-Humm, Hotel proprietor in Schöffland was killed accidentally when out on a shooting expedition.

A fire broke out at the cider works Freiamt, destroying 4,000 litres of kirsch and a large stock of lemons. Considerable damage has also been done to plant and machinery. The estimated loss will exceed 100,000f.

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

The Cantonal Bank of Neuchâtel, and its various branches throughout the canton, has been compelled to reduce their staff; so far 60 clerks have received notice, amongst them some with 20 years service.

M. Jecker, a watch manufacturer, who was connected with the Watch Works Myelan, has been arrested at Zurich.

M. Flückiger, a well-known amateur aviator, who was missed for several days, after having undertaken a solo flight, has been found dead on the Fancille-Pass, and the machine was a total wreck. M. Flückiger seemed to have completely lost his bearings in a thick fog, and must have crashed against the mountain side.

#### ST. GALLEN.

M. Staub, Manager of the Bank in Gossau has died of heart failure at the early age of 56. M. Staub was a well-known personality in Banking circles, and attained the rank of Major in the Army.

#### GENEVA.

The Grand Council has voted a credit amounting to 340,000f. for work to be done to aid the unemployed.

A delegation consisting of Messrs. Martin, head of the Geneva State Council, Grosselein and two high officials, were received at the Federal Palais in Berne, by Federal Councillors Schulthess and Häberlin; the question of a Federal grant for the unemployed was discussed.

### FOOTBALL.

The "printer" has somehow jumbled up the results of 29th May and they should have read:—

Grasshoppers .....3 Urania .....1  
Lausanne Sports .....4 Concordia .....1

On the 5th of June the Finals proceeded one stage further:—

Zurich .....3 Urania .....2  
Lausanne Sports .....1 Grasshoppers .....1

a very smart achievement of the First League champions in Lausanne. We are sorry to note that Hitrec, the famous Jugo-Slavian international centre-forward, broke his leg in this game, which loss will no doubt seriously handicap Grasshoppers in their remaining Final match with Zurich.

#### FIRST LEAGUE.

Wohlen .....1 Luzern .....1

We shall have to wait till next week when the last outstanding match, Winterthur v Luzern will give us the third victim for relegation. Unless they draw and then we would have to wait longer still!

M.G.