

# Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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### FEDERAL.

#### NEW BRITISH MINISTER AT BERNE.

The King has approved the following appointment in the Diplomatic Service:

Mr. George Redston Warner, a Counsellor in the Foreign Office, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Berne.

Mr. Warner, who is a son of the late Sir Joseph Warner, entered the Foreign Office in 1903, and has served in the legations at Tangier and Oslo. He is 55, and was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford. He received the C.M.G. in 1927.

#### OFFICIAL DAY AT THE COMPTOIR SUISSE.

The official day at the Comptoir Suisse in Lausanne took place on the 13th of this month. Amongst the many guests were M. Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation and delegations from the Federal Chambers. At a Banquet held, the President of the Swiss Confederation congratulated the Management of the Fair on their enterprise, he voiced his regrets at the erecting of tariff walls by many foreign countries, which unfortunately compelled our country to accept similar measures, he expressed the hope that the future might bring a change, and that the harmful restrictions which are hampering world trade would be modified for the benefit of all countries.

#### LEAGUE BUDGET.

The League Budget for 1935, amounting to 14,876,024 Swiss francs, was adopted. It was decided that the Secretary-General should be given full liberty in the matters of recruiting staffs and rationalizing salaries.

A special committee was formed under the auspices of the Nansen Refugee Commission for the purpose of drafting precise proposals for the relief of the Russian refugee women in China. It was stated that there are some 2,000 in Shanghai alone and 3,000 in other parts of China.

#### COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR THE SWISS FLYING CORPS.

On the occasion of the Federal Thanksgiving day, a commemoration service was held in Berne, to celebrate the 20th anniversary since the foundation of the Swiss Military Aviation Corps. Amongst the participants at this service, were Federal Councillor Minger, head of the Federal Military Dept., Army-Corps Commander Roost, chief of the General Staff, Army-Corps Commander Guisan, Division Commanders Hilfer, Bridel, Tissot, de Diesbach and de Muralt, Colonels Fierz and Isler.

The sermon was held by Army Chaplain, Captain Epprecht. Major Meier-Müller, President of the "Avia" welcomed the distinguished visitors, and pointed out the importance which the Flying Corps has attained during the last twenty years.

Colonel Bardet, the commander of the Swiss Flying Corps, gave a vivid picture of the work done and the progress made. He said that in 1914 the Swiss Army possessed only eleven machines and 10 pilots, to-day 250 machines are in use with a personnel of 240 pilots. At the end of the war the Flying Corps had 70 machines and eighty pilots. In 1929 there were 200 officers, 500 non commissioned officers and 2,250 privates enlisted in the Flying Corps. During the 20 years 50 pilots lost their lives in the service of their country. Federal Councillor Minger expressed the thanks of the Government for the splendid services rendered by the Swiss Military aviators.

### GERMANY APOLOGISES TO SWITZERLAND.

The German Government has apologised to Switzerland following the Swiss Government's protest in connection with a recent case of attempted bomb smuggling from Germany to Austria through Swiss territory.

A motor boat, carrying 30 explosive charges with detonators, was seized near the outlet of the Rhine, from Lake Constance, in July, and three members of the Nazi-Austrian Legion were arrested.

In a note to the Swiss Government, which is published, the German Foreign Minister says his Government deeply regrets the incident and has taken the necessary measures to ensure that the persons implicated, "as far as they are to be found on German soil," shall answer for their acts.

Steps had also been taken to prevent a repetition of the incident. The German note adds that an inquiry was instituted on first news of the attempt.

The Swiss Federal Council now considers the incident closed.

### UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures issued, there were 52,147 unemployed at the end of August, or nearly 3,000 more than at the end of July.

### SINGER BARRED FROM SWITZERLAND.

The well-known Alsatian singer, Marianne Oswald, has been prohibited by Federal decree from entering Swiss territory. In July last she appeared at the Comédie Theatre in Geneva and her songs were such as to call forth protests from non-Communist members of the audience.

The Socialist head of the Geneva Government, M. Léon Nicole, who is also chief of the Department of Justice and Police, took it upon himself personally to order the arrest of certain demonstrators, including M. Eugène Fabre, the editor of "La Suisse," one of the chief morning papers in Geneva.

The Swiss Federal Government has taken the course of avoiding difficulty in the future by prohibiting Mlle. Oswald's entry into Switzerland.

### LOCAL.

#### ZÜRICH.

An electric locomotive was derailed at the station of Birmensdorf (Zurich) having struck a large empty barrel which was placed on the track. An investigation has been opened as to how the barrel found its way on to the line.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Socialist Party at a meeting at Zurich on Tuesday last rejected the proposal made by the Communist Party to form a common front.

\* \* \*

A large fire partly destroyed the buildings of an important Dairy at Staefa, the damage caused is estimated to exceed 75,000 frs.

M. Specker, head of the banking firm of the same name, who was under arrest for fraudulent bankrupt was found dead in his cell. He died through heart failure.

#### BERNE.

Dr. Mathilde Theyssin celebrated, last Sunday, her 96th birthday anniversary in Berne. Dr. Theyssin was the first lady doctor who practised in Europe. She studied medicine at the Paris Sorbonne, and later on took over a practice at Strassburg. In the 'seventies she went to Japan and China.

\* \* \*

The Hotel Regina, at the Beatenberg, was burned down last week; fortunately few guests were left at the Hotel owing to the season being over. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained. The damage is considered to be heavy.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from Members of the Committee.

From Berne comes the news of the death of M. Gottlieb Gafner, formerly Manager of the Swiss National Bank in Berne, at the age of 70. M. Gafner was brought up at Thun, where he was apprenticed to the Banking profession. Until 1907 he was with the "Kantonal Bank" at Thun, in the same year he was appointed Manager of the National Bank in Berne. In the army M. Gafner reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. (Infantry), and for many years he was President of the "Handels und Industrieverein," of the canton of Berne.

#### SCHWYZ.

The Palace Hotel at Engelberg, was completely destroyed by fire on Tuesday last, but the few occupants escaped unhurt.

#### GLARUS.

M. Joseph Jakob-Spieler has died at Glarus at the age of 79; he was the founder of the ski manufacturing industry in the canton of Glarus, and his firm enjoyed a great reputation throughout Switzerland.

#### BASLE.

The Basle painter, Rudolf Hübscher, has died at the age of 36, he was an artist of great repute, and his early death is greatly deplored by his many friends and admirers.

#### AARGAU.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simmen-Bircher has died at Aarau at the age of 41. M. Simmen entered the General Staff with the rank of captain and was later on promoted to major. In 1930/32 he commanded the Battalion 60 and on his advancement to lieutenant-colonel he was at the head of the 24th regiment.

#### ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Fritz Heizmann, Sub-Manager of the Banque Populaire in St. Gall, has been appointed Manager of the "Solothurnischen Leihkasse" in Solothurn.

#### VALAIS.

M. Casili, a former President of the community of Challais near Sierre, drank by mistake out of a bottle containing a solution of nicotine destined for spraying vines, and died of poisoning.

#### VAUD.

Two non commissioned officers travelling from Montreux to Lausanne, came into contact with one of the electric masts and were killed outright. Their names are Henchoz and Rouillier. An investigation into the accident has been ordered by the authorities.

## NOTES and GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

The following gleaning from the British Press strikes me as very interesting.

**My Swiss Journey to the Microphone:  
A Day that passed like a Film:**

"Leeds Mercury" 4/9/34.

Thinking it over, I find the day I went to Lausanne, to give a broadcast from the great Sottens transmitter, has become already a little unreal... You know how it is when you come to a day crowded with new scenes and novel events. It unrolls like a film. Moments of astonishment and beauty flicker past, replaced at once by something still more striking. When it is over you wish you could go through it again, more slowly.

Yes, that was a wonderful day, a cinematic day. I owe some of the best of it to Commander Studd, D.S.O., managing director of the Polytechnic Touring Association, whose chalets at Lucerne were the "Mercury" party's holiday home. He insisted on motor-ing me from Lucerne to Lausanne, by an indirect route planned to take in the most magnificent scenery.

For almost eight hours, and for some 150 miles, we travelled through constantly changing loveliness. We had long spells of brilliant sunshine that transformed the snow peaks, far off, into what seemed to be a delicate mirage in the blue sky.

Sometimes we climbed under the wildest of storm light that made the mountains a hundredfold more savage than Wuthering Heights at their gloomiest.