

Home news

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS BUDGET FOR 1935.

The Budget of the Swiss Confederation for 1935, with a revenue of 436,300,000 Swiss francs and expenditure of 477,900,000 frs. shows a deficit of 41,600,000 frs. Customs duties, which have always formed an important part of the Swiss Budget, have been valued at 198,000,000 frs. This figure compares with 213,000,000 frs. in the Budget of a year ago.

For military purposes 94,400,000 frs. have been reserved, 3,300,000 frs. more than last year. For the Swiss Federal Railways, which are not a paying proposition 8,000,000 frs. had to be put aside. In addition the State will pay 1,500,000 frs. towards the reduction of railway fares in Switzerland for foreign visitors.

GENEVA VOTE AGAINST HIGHER TAXES.

The electorate of the Canton of Geneva last Sunday rejected by 22,700 to 13,300 a proposal of the Socialist Government to increase the existing cantonal taxes and institute several new ones. The vote is a severe indictment of the Socialist administration. Since it took office a year ago the Socialist Party has lost one-third of its supporters.

In Switzerland a defeated Government — federal or cantonal — is not compelled to resign, and it is likely that the Geneva Socialist Government will remain in office, but its position will be even more difficult now, as it has not a majority of the local Parliament and it has been condemned by the electorate.

The Socialists were elected on a programme providing for the restoration of State finances by means of a reduction in expenditure and a simplification of the administration. Important public works were to be started with a view to combating unemployment, and the salaries of State officials and workers were not to be touched. The Socialists found it impossible to carry out this programme.

The Geneva Socialist leaders are nearly all extremists and are often in conflict with the Swiss Socialist Party. Their statements on the coming nationalization of the banks and a levy on capital resulted in withdrawals of funds from the Geneva banks and in an exodus of wealthy foreign families. Last spring the Government were compelled to ask the Federal Government for financial help, and the canton obtained 20,000,000 frs. (£1,307,188) on condition that no new expense would be incurred without the consent of the Federal Council, and that by the end of the year the advance should be repaid and the Budget balanced. The crisis has now reached its climax. The deficit for 1934 will exceed 8,000,000 frs. (£522,875), and a deficit of 6,000,000 frs. (£392,157) is estimated for 1935. The yearly receipts reach only 36,000,000 frs. (£2,352,941). The Government are not in a position to repay the sum advanced last spring, and even lack the necessary funds for meeting current expenditure.

This situation led to the proposals for increased taxation which were submitted to the electorate last Sunday. Among the proposals was an increase in the income-tax and a tax on houses and land, which would be levied in 1935, for the years 1924 to 1934. The estimated yield from these proposals was 5,500,000 frs. (£360,000).

NEW SWISS CONSULATE TO THE FREE STATE.

Dr. Benziger, the first Swiss Consul-General to the Irish Free State, has arrived in Dublin. He will present his credentials to President de Valera next week at Government Buildings. Dr. Benziger, who is accompanied by his secretary, only returned to Switzerland last month from Danzig. There he acted for the past three years

on behalf of the Swiss Government as President of the Port Council in connection with the League of Nations. Seen in Dublin, the Swiss Consul-General, who is a tall, scholarly-looking man, said that he found Dublin more or less about the same size and of equal population with Danzig. Although he does not speak English very fluently, he is well acquainted with Irish history. Before he went to Danzig he was Director of the Consular Service at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne.

Dr. Benziger's wife and family, who have been in Berne since their return from Danzig, will join him in Dublin later. His circle consists of Madame Benziger, two daughters and a son. His family will be very popular in Ireland; for his two girls are now accomplished horsewomen, although they are still engaged with their studies. In Danzig they rode a great deal, the Consul-General said, because there were a great many horses there.

It was only last winter that the Swiss Government decided to send a Consul-General to Dublin.

M. PILET-GOLAZ AT ZURICH.

M. Pilet-Golaz, President of the Swiss Confederation, has made a speech on Thursday last at the Stock Exchange in Zurich about the new reorganisation of the Swiss Federal Railways.

NEW FEDERAL JUDGE CANDIDATURE.

The members of the Radical party of the canton of Vaud, sitting in the National Council, have unanimously decided to propose for the vacancy, caused by the retirement of M. Thélin, M. Robert Petitmermet, President of the "Cour civile vaudaise" as Federal Judge. M. Petitmermet was born at La Sagne in 1886.

LESSER INDEMNIFICATION FOR SWISS M.P.'S.

The Finance Commission of the National Council has decided to propose to Parliament a reduction for travelling expenses for members of Parliament.

STATE LOTTERIES.

The Swiss Federal authorities have refused to consider the suggestion for a national lottery to relieve the situation with regard to State finances.

TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPORTS.

Textile machinery exports from Switzerland during September 1934, show a gain of some 300,000 francs as compared with September, 1933 (looms 240,000 francs, spinning and twisting machinery 50,000 francs). The average price per 100 kilograms, has declined, however, in the case of looms from 182 to 143 francs and of spinning and twisting machines from 201 to 194 francs. A drop of 42,000 francs took place in exports of "other weaving machines," although the average price was maintained. This was balanced, however, by a rise of 44,000 francs in exports of knitting machines, for which the average price was less at 65.9 francs (75.4 francs).

"PROTOCOLS OF ZION" TRIAL.

Lieut.-Colonel Fleischhauer, of Erfurt, who was nominated by the defence as their expert in the "Protocols of Zion" trial, in Berne, has notified the President of the Court that he is willing to act in this capacity. His offer has been accepted. He has been given till December 15th to submit to the Court his expert opinion on the questions submitted. The application by the defendants to have Major Henning, of Berlin, to act as a second expert on their side to deal with the question of the Freemasons and their alleged connection with the Jews has been rejected by the President.

The defendants have also asked for a number of additional witnesses to be called on their behalf from France, Rumania, Denmark and other places. The Judge has decided to give them time to draw up a list of questions which are to be submitted to the witnesses, and he will then decide on the basis of these questions whether the witnesses are to be admitted.

Although the Court would like the trial to be concluded before the end of the year, it does not seem likely that this will be the case.

It is curious to learn from the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, that Pastor Münchmeyer, of Borkum, who was first named by the defendants as their expert, and who, the German Post Office declared could not be found, has just held his 6,000th meeting at Eberswalde."

ANOTHER SWISS ELECTRIC LINE.

Electric traction has just been extended to the St. Margrethen-Buchs section of the Rorschach-Sargans line on the eastern frontier of Switzerland. This division is 24 miles long and a yearly saving of 267,000 Sw. fr. in the operating cost is expected.

MINISTER STUCKI AT BERLIN.

Minister, Dr. Stucki has arrived in Berlin, together with Directors Jöhr and Schnorf to discuss matters regarding the commercial relations between the two countries.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Noisy scenes were witnessed during a performance of Erika Mann's "Die Pfeffermühle" at the Kursaal in Zurich. Tear gas bombs were thrown and cat-calls were heard from all corners of the Hall. The play had to be abandoned, and the police, which was called in effected various arrests, all members of the Frontist movement. The demonstration had a decisive anti-semitic character.

The cantonal government has voted a credit amounting to half a million francs to assist the unemployed during the winter 1934/35.

BERNE.

M. Carrière, Director of the Federal "Gesundheitsamt" has been made a doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Berne.

BASLE.

The unemployed figures of the town of Basle at the end of last month amounted to 3,643 and is slightly higher than the previous month.

The death is reported from Basle of Dr. Karl Stehlin, the eminent historian, at the age of 75. Dr. Stehlin was for many years a member of the Grand Council.

Dr. Stefan Bauer, Professor of National Economy at the University of Basle has died at the age of 69.

SOLOTHURN.

A motor-car travelling over the Hauenstein left the road at one of the turnings, and fell down 200 m. A Mr. Siegrist, designer in Olten was killed outright, another passenger, M. Zimmerli also from Olten received serious injuries, whilst the third passenger was not hurt. The car was totally wrecked.

GENEVA.

M. Charles Bratschi, has been appointed Manager of the Aerodrome at Cointrin—Geneva.

AARGAU.

Colonel Bircher, who recently has been promoted a commander of division, has tendered his resignation as head of the cantonal hospital. The government of the canton of Aargau has accepted his resignation, thanking him for the services he has rendered to the institution.

THURGAU.

Dr. W. Stähelin, in Amriswil, has been elected President of the catholic popular party of the canton of Thurgau, in succession to National Councillor Dr. von Streng.

VALAIS.

On Sunday last, serious disorders broke out at the village of Bodyre, near Sion, after a political meeting; a battle was fought amongst the two camps at which two young people, Edouard Rey and Alphonse Chabrey were killed, two others received serious injuries.

A building belonging to a former President of Salins, was destroyed by fire at Salins.

VAUD.

The new hospital at Le Sentier was inaugurated last week, the costs of which amounted to 550,000 frs.

On Thursday last, the new public library of the town of Lausanne was inaugurated.

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