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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

Thirty-six members of the National Council, out of 187, have intimated the wish not to stand again at the next Parliamentary elections. They belong to the following parties: Radical-Democratic Party (16); Peasant Party (7); Socialist Party (6); Catholic-Conservative Party (5); Independent (2), and they affect the various cantons as follows: Zurich 8: Bertschinger., Frank, Furrer, Gasser, Häberlin, Hardmeier, Heller, Kern; Berne 7: Balmer, GrosPierre, Jenny, Reichen, Schüpbach, Siegenthaler, Tschumi; Lucerne 2: Weibel, Zimmerli; Schwyz 1: Abyberg; Glarus 1: Jenny; Fribourg 3: Boschung, Cailler, Delatena; Basle 1: Zgraggen; Appenzell A. Rh. 1: Dähler; Appenzell A. Rh. 1: Altherr; St. Gall 1: Schmidheiny; Grisons 1: Meuli; Thurgau 4: Pfister, von Streng, Ullmann, Zingg; Vaud 3: Beguin, Bujard, Fazan; Neuchâtel 1: Eymann; Geneva 1: Steinmetz.

PROFESSOR DR. PAUL SPEISER †.

The death has occurred in Basle of Professor Paul Speiser at the age of 89. Dr. Speiser was a great authority on income tax and revenue laws. The deceased was a member of the cantonal government from 1875-1878 and again from 1884-1914. He was also a member of the National Council for many years, over which he presided in 1901. Dr. Speiser was Professor of Commercial law at the University of Basle.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to official figures, there were 69,123 unemployed in Switzerland or 17,736 more than at the same period in 1934.

FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION 1939.

The next Federal Shooting Competition in 1939 will be held in Lucerne. The following towns: Berne, Chur, Lucerne, Schwyz, Stans, St. Gallen and Zurich competed for the choice of selections.

FINANCIAL RESULT OF THE FEDERAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN FRIBOURG.

The net profit of the Federal Shooting Competition, which took place last year at Fribourg amounts to 33,701.30 frs., out of this sum 20,000 frs. will be distributed for charitable purposes.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

The Customs receipts in the third quarter of 1935 amount to 67,372,888 frs. against 63,999,033 frs. at the same period in 1934; or an increase of 3,373,855 frs. The Customs receipts for the first three quarters in 1935 amount to 182,844,401 frs., or 15,450,718 frs. less than at the same period of the previous year.

NEW ITALIAN MINISTER IN BERNE.

The newly appointed Italian Minister, Monsieur Attilio Tamaro has presented his credentials to M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation. M. Tamaro was formerly Italian Minister in Finland.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAY BONDS.

Bonds numbering 8,000 of 1,000f. each of the Swiss Federal Railways Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1899-1902, series A-K, have been drawn in Switzerland for repayment at par on December 31 next.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION.

The international study of nutrition, which the League Assembly decided in September was both important and urgent, has already begun. For some days the League Health Committee has been planning methods of approach from the medical and health point of view.

The Committee examined its draft report to the Council. The report states that an expert group is to be set up to consider the Assembly's discussions and to select such questions of prac-

tical importance as might usefully be studied internationally and to classify them by order of priority. The expert committee is to submit a first report to the Coordination Committee to be created in accordance with the League Assembly resolution of September 25th.

The Health Committee has also discussed housing and has appointed a committee to study the hygiene of the dwelling and of city planning, housing standards and regulations, and housing inspection.

GENEVA LOAN IN LONDON.

The Geneva City Council has just approved a loan of £800,000, which has been arranged with the Anglo-European Properties, Ltd., London, representing British insurance companies.

It will take the form of 4½ per cent. thirty-year bonds, repayable in thirty equal instalments, the issue price being 93 per cent., with 0.75 per cent. commission and 1 per cent. stamp duty at the charge of the borrower. There will be no public subscription, the entire loan taking the form of 30 bonds.

Coupons would be payable in London in sterling and in Geneva at sight rate on London. In the absence of any fixed rate of exchange the City Council is providing a fund against emergencies to be fed by an annual contribution of 110,000 Swiss francs from the municipal budget.

LOCAL.

ZÜRICH.

Professor, Dr. Hans Schneider, the eminent historian and pedagogue has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Professor Schneider, who has, some time ago retired, after 36 years from the teaching staff of the "Kantonsschule" is the author of the "Geschichte des schweizerischen Bundesstaates 1848-1918."

* * *

M. Edwin Wolfensberger, a member of the Kantonsrat, and a prospective candidate for the Parliamentary election has died at Hinwil at the age of 52. M. Wolfensberger was a well-known personality in Swiss Gymnastic circles.

VAUD.

The death is reported from Villarzel of M. Jules Mayor at the age of 51. M. Mayor had been a member of the National Council since 1928 and of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, since 1921.

BASLE.

M. Keller-Früh, for nearly 40 years a teacher at the "Mädchenprimarschule" in Basle has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

AARGAU.

M. Hans, Martin Bruggiser, son and nephew of the proprietors of the firm M. Bruggiser and Co. A. G., in Wohlen, was killed when a Finnish Aeroplane crashed. He was on his return journey from a business trip through Norway, Sweden and Finland.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

Nearly 14,000 frs. in notes were stolen at the General Post Office at Schaffhausen.

CONWAY HALL, October 25th.

The annual concert of the Swiss Orchestral Society, combined with an illustrated lecture arranged by the London Group of the N.S.H. and given by the "Soldatenmutter" of Switzerland:—

"Erinnerungen aus der Grenzbesetzungszeit"

Sharp at 8.30 at Conway Hall,

Red Lion Square,

Admission 2/- to all parts of the hall.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd

for the

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at the

Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

Admission by ticket only, obtainable from

Members of the Committee.

THURGAU.

The damage caused by the heavy storm which occurred on the 20th of July last, amounts to 320,000 frs. A voluntary collection has brought in 53,030 frs. and it is expected that the Grand Council will vote a contribution, so that a compensation of 30 per cent. can be paid out.

TICINO.

M. Arnold Bolla, President of the Liberal-Democratic party in the canton of Ticino has been nominated States Councillor; he is succeeding M. Brenno Bertoni who recently resigned his seat.

SWITZERLAND AND SANCTIONS.

The movement of events at Geneva has brought the League to the point where membership is going to be put to a real test.

M. Motta, head of the Swiss delegation, explained that our country must limit action in the matter of "sanctions" to financial and economic measures; any resort to force would be a breach of Switzerland's neutrality. These are the exact words he used:

"I note that nobody refers to the question of sanctions of force. There was only reference to sanctions economic and financial.

"I take note of this fact because sanctions of economic and financial character are not hostile acts. They will tend to exercise moral and material influence to bring about the earliest possible settlement of the dispute.

"The Swiss Government will not fail in its solidarity with the other members of the League. Neutrality is however, the fundamental principle of Switzerland, and we do not consider ourselves bound to apply sanctions whose nature and effect would endanger our neutrality.

"I want to say with what keen interest and hope we follow efforts of conciliation. The League will not have done its highest duty unless firmness and moderation has been united in bringing to a close that bloody conflict."

It is furthermore reported that our spokesman later on at one of the meetings of the sanctions committee said, that Switzerland could not approve of a total boycott against Italy, he pointed out that Switzerland with an Italian-speaking population of 160,000 of which 35,000 were of Italian nationality, was in a difficult position.

We do not underrate the very serious position which Switzerland is confronted with, especially being a neighbour of Italy; we are also aware that Switzerland could under no circumstances be forced to join in military sanctions, as this would be in contradiction with her perpetual neutrality. This was in fact one of the conditions on which our country entered the League of Nations.

If, however, the Swiss Government through its spokesman is using our Ticinese as an excuse for treating Italy "kindly," we cannot agree. We have not the slightest doubt as to the fidelity of our Brethren beyond the Gotthard towards the Confederation, we need only refer here to the attitude they took up in the "Adula Affair." As to the 35,000 Italians enjoying our hospitality the authorities will no doubt know how to deal with them, should they try to stir up trouble.

Switzerland cannot expect to reap only the benefits which a membership of the League entails, she has also obligations to fulfil, even if they, as in the present case, demand sacrifices.

For it is to their membership of the League that countries of Switzerland's size owe what they have in International affairs; in pre-League days they had practically no say at all and very little position or rank in the International world — things were more or less "arranged" by the Great Powers. And also because of the League many small countries enjoy a far more confident security; they can appeal to it for protection against the aggression of big and greedy neighbours, which makes their big neighbours think twice about trying any tricks on them.

Switzerland, like the rest, is now being asked to pay the price for these benefits of membership that they have been enjoying, in short, to fulfil a duty of membership in return for its privileges, and we trust that our country will behave according to her age-long traditions, namely to act without fear nor favour for the right of small nations to have a place in the sun.

ST.