

Home news

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

RESIGNATION OF COLONEL BARDET.

Colonel Bardet, chief of the Swiss Aviation Corps, has resigned from his post for reasons of health. —

Colonel Bardet was born at Villars-le-Grand (Vaud) and is 64 years of age; he was by profession a soldier, having entered the Federal Instruction Corps at an early age.

In 1930 he was appointed chief of the military air post in Dübendorf and three years later, he was put in command of the Swiss Flying Corps. During the frontier occupation he was at the head of the 2nd Infantry regiment and on his promotion to the rank of colonel, after the war, he was in command of the 1st Infantry Brigade. In the year 1904 he was, together with the late Colonel Audéoud at the Russian front during the Russian-Japanese war. From 1902-1903 Colonel Bardet was sent to the German Army where he was stationed at Hildesheim. He has rendered during his long career, as an officer, valuable services to our force, and his retirement from the active list is much regretted. —

The Federal Council has chosen as his successor Colonel H. Bandi, at present a member of the Swiss General Staff.

Colonel Bandi was born in 1882 in Oberwil near Büren, he entered the Federal Instruction Corps in 1908 (Artillery). On reaching the rank of captain, he was appointed to the command of the 20th Field Battery, and soon after was transferred to the General Staff, in which capacity he acted as a member of the Hauenstein fortress staff. In 1924 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, taking over the command of the 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment. Six years later, on reaching the rank of Colonel he commanded for two years the 4th Artillery Brigade. In 1930 he acted as chief of staff of the 3rd manoeuvre Division. During the war he was sent to the Italian-Austrian front and in 1920 he spent some time with the German "Reichswehr." Colonel Bandi will occupy himself chiefly with the reorganisation of the Swiss Flying Corps.

NEW CHIEF OF ARMS OF THE CAVALRY.

The Federal Council has appointed Colonel Jordi, at present a member of the General Staff, to the post of chief of arms (Waffenchef) of the Cavalry, in succession to Colonel Labhart, who has recently been made chief of the General Staff; he was born in 1887 at Kóniz (Berne).

Colonel Jordi entered the Federal Instruction Corps in 1913. In 1930 he was transferred to the General Staff of which he was a member up to the date of his present appointment.

During recent years he has held the commands of the 12th Field Artillery, Section 12 (3rd Division), Field Artillery Regiment 6 (3rd Division). In 1930 he acted as chief of staff of the 3rd Army Corps. He saw services both in the German and French Armies.

SWISS FRONTIST ARRESTED.

M. Friedrich Eisenegger, one of the leaders of the Swiss Frontist movement was arrested by the Swiss authorities on his return from Germany.

It is alleged that Eisenegger had written to Dr. Goebbels, the German Propaganda Minister, asking for money to "Germanise" Switzerland. He was also stated to be in possession of a letter from a Nazi source asking him to act as a Nazi spy at the World Jewish Congress in Geneva.

SWISS BAN ON ARMS FOR SPAIN.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has decided to forbid the export to Spain of arms, ammunition, and aeroplanes to either of the belligerents in the civil war.

In addition, Swiss citizens will not be permitted to volunteer for service in either of the two armies, nor will anybody be allowed to send from Switzerland money for the use of either side.

SWISS BANKING REVIVAL.

All the half-yearly statements of Switzerland's "Big Seven" banks have now been published. They reveal that for the first year since 1930 the shrinkage in turnover has ceased. In fact, a revival has set in, and this, already noticeable during the first quarter of this year, became marked during the second quarter.

The "Big Seven" are, of course, Leu and Co., Banque Commerciale de Bâle, Banque Fédérale, Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corporation, Crédit Suisse, and Banque Populaire Suisse. Although during the last quarter of 1935 their combined balance-sheet totals declined by as much as 95,000,000fr., an increase of 38,000,000fr. and 86,000,000fr. occurred during the first and second quarter of this year respectively.

CANADA'S TRADE WITH SWITZERLAND.

Much interest has been aroused by a meeting in Berne between Mr. N. D. Euler, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Dr. J. Hotz, director of the Section of Commerce, a department of the Swiss Ministry of Economy.

A communiqué issued after the meeting states that questions concerning trade relations between Canada and Switzerland were discussed.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORY OF ART.

The Fourteenth International Congress of the History of Art will be held under the distinguished patronage of the President of the Swiss Confederation from the 31st August to 9th September this year. As in previous years, committees have been formed in most countries, and an extensive programme of lectures and excursions has been arranged. The Congress will be peripatetic; that is to say, it will be inaugurated in Basle, proceed to Zurich on September 1st, to Berne on the 3rd, to Lausanne on the 7th, and to Geneva on the 8th. The sittings are plenary and sectional, the plenary being devoted to "Problems of Swiss Art," and "How to enhance the appreciation of Works of Art." The sectional sittings comprise a large number of subjects divided as follows:

1. Swiss art and its external relations.
2. Classical and Oriental in relation to European art.
3. Romanesque art.
4. Gothic art.
5. Art of the Renaissance and Baroque art.
6. Eighteenth-century art.
7. Art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
8. Sciences auxiliary to the history of art.
9. The theory and criticism of art.

The excursions already organized include visits to the chief historical monuments in Switzerland (Königsfelden, Wettingen, Schaffhausen, Einsiedeln, Fribourg, etc.) and to many famous private collections (Reinhart, Hahnloser, etc.). Still further excursions have been organized to take place at the conclusion of the Congress, to include outlying places.

The exhibitions arranged in connection with the Congress are numerous and important. Particular interest will be taken in the Exhibition of Swiss Classicism and Romanticism at Zurich and the Exhibition of Swiss Painting from the sixteenth to the beginning of the eighteenth century, at Berne.

Various railway and hotel concessions are available to members of the Congress. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretariat, Elisabethenstrasse 27, Basle; or from the Secretary to the British Committee, Mr. Leigh Ashton, Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

SWISS FILMGOERS.

According to the latest statistics the number of cinemas in Switzerland is 352, containing a total of 131,000 seats. The number of spectators averages daily 100,000.

THREE ALLEGED GERMAN SPIES ARRESTED.

Three men accused of being German spies have been arrested by the counter-espionage department of the Swiss Federal police. Two are Germans, the third is Swiss.

They are stated to have been members of a chain of German agents in Switzerland who maintained contact between German spies working in France and the head-quarters of the German intelligence service. The duty of this chain was to pass requests for information from Berlin to France and to relay information from France back to Berlin.

Every possible precaution was taken to ensure that no single member of the organisation, apart from the chief, who is one of the arrested men, had any knowledge of any save two of his immediate colleagues.

Among the papers seized by the police have been found instructions to obtain information on the roads behind the French frontier, the mechanisation of the French Army and its new tanks and the potentialities of the section of engineers.

BIG STORMS IN SWITZERLAND.

Torrential rains accompanied by heavy hail storms have caused considerable damage in the cantons of Berne, Vaud and Glarus, on Sunday last.

The village of Mülenen in the "Kander" valley suffered heavily, one of the bridges having been swept away; both railway and motor traffic had to be stopped; not for the last 35 years has Mülenen witnessed such a storm.

A hail and thunder storm caused severe damage to the crops in the district of Fécly-Aubonne; the electric railway Allman-Aubonne-Gimel had to discontinue its service. The vineyards in the district of "La Côte" have suffered severely.

At Glarus the fire brigade was called out to battle with large floods, and at Ennenda the storm damaged both crops and roads.

BOMBPROOF CELLARS FOR EVERY SWISS HOME.

Legislation aiming at providing bombproof, gasproof cellars for every house in Switzerland is expected to be introduced into the Swiss Parliament shortly by the Federal Government.

Schemes for erecting public air-raid shelters in the most densely populated quarters of Switzerland's largest cities will also be laid before the Parliament.

SWISS PEACE DELEGATES.

The Swiss National Committee of the International Peace Campaign announce that the Peace Pledge Union will be represented at the World Peace Congress at Brussels from September 3rd to 6th by a large delegation.

INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE.

The Twelfth International Conference on Chemistry opened at Lucerne under the presidency of Professor Parravano, of Rome. The delegates were welcomed by Federal Counsellor, M. Etter, on behalf of the Swiss Government.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

During a storm on the lake of Thoune, a sailing yacht was overturned. M. Furter, from Thoune, was drowned, whilst the other occupant of the boat, a young lady from Hilterfingen was saved in the nick of time.

* * * * *
Two people were killed, and one seriously injured, when a motor-car collided with a train at a level-crossing between Biberist and Solothurn. M. Edgar Wahl, the driver of the car was killed instantaneously, whilst his wife received a fracture of the skull. Mrs. Dreyfus-Weil, the other passenger died later at the hospital in Solothurn.

ZURICH.

Flight-lieutenant Ernst Staub from Zurich, received serious injuries when his machine crashed at Schaan (Lichtensteig), his passenger, a young lady from Zurich was also badly hurt.

* * * * *
The death is reported from Zurich of Dr. Wilhelm Odermatt, a well-known surgeon, at the age of 83.

BASLE.

The death has occurred in Basle of M. Adolf Hottinger-Bélat, for many years a partner of the banking firm Lüscher and Cie., at the age of 71.

* * *

The members of the Swiss Olympic team, on their return from Berlin, received a hearty welcome on their arrival in Basle.

Dr. Zweifel, President of the cantonal government addressed the members of the team, and later on a dinner was offered to them at the "Safran" guild.

* * *

Professor Gerlach, of the University of Basle, a German citizen, has been removed from his post by a decision of the Basle cantonal government. It is stated that he has been working in favour of the National Socialist movement in a way which is incompatible with his duties at the University.

ST. GALLEN.

The Commercial Court of the Canton of St. Gall has prolonged the moratorium on the liabilities of the Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank by three months — that is, until 20th November.

The original moratorium was granted to the bank on 20th February of this year for a period of six months.

There will be a hearing at St. Gall on 8th September, when a plan for putting the bank on a sound basis will be discussed.

* * *

The Protestant church at Heiden was completely destroyed by fire, the damage caused is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 150,000 frs. A collection of great historical value was burnt. The same church was already burnt down nearly a hundred years ago (1838).

GENEVA.

Geneva staged, last Monday, another of its "consumers' strikes." From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. nearly all the shops and cafés in the town were closed, and a procession of about 6,000 people paraded the streets as a protest against the high level of the rents charged to commercial undertakings and to small artisans by the house agents of Geneva.

The utmost good humour prevailed throughout, and there were no incidents of any kind. The demonstrators were cheered on their way by bands at the head and tail of the procession. One or two of the lakeside cafés were allowed to remain open for the convenience of tourists.

Some three weeks ago a motorists' strike was organised against the high price of petrol, due to the recent Federal petrol tax.

TICINO.

Mlle. Minara, from Bellinzona, was killed when descending from the Lucomagno, her companion, a young lady from the same town, was injured.

AARGAU.

A fire destroyed the buildings of the "Kartofabrik" Knoblauch at Muhlen, causing damage of over 150,000 frs.

URI.

A landslide, by far the largest in recent years in Switzerland, took place in the Canton of Uri, when over 500,000 cubic yards of rock came crashing down into the valley from the Alps.

The landslide stopped within a short distance of the village of Silenen, and surprisingly no lives were lost. The authorities, however, have ordered the evacuation of the farms and chalets in the path of the landslide, for a further movement of the rock is expected.

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grollenberg, 1936.

LEYSIN, THE SWISS SUN RESORT.

Situated some 5,000 feet above sea-level, in the Swiss Alps there is a mountain village devoted entirely to the cure of illness by sun-bathing. The name of this village is Leysin and it is surely one of the most amazing places in the world. Some 35 years ago this village was almost unknown; it had a small population of hard working peasants housed in the wooden chalets, seen everywhere in this mountain hamlet; a population which gained a bare livelihood by scratching the shallow soil and working on the alpine pasturages close at hand. To-day this village has a floating population of some 7,000 souls, people of every conceivable nationality who have come from all corners of the globe in search of health from the mountain sunshine.

It was in 1903 that Dr. Rollier, a Swiss doctor, settled at Leysin and applied, after developing it to absolute perfection, a method of treatment which had previously only been tentatively utilised; it consisted in the application of helio-therapy in cases of so-called Surgical Tuberculosis. Firmly convinced of the importance of the curative properties contained in the

light and air of high altitudes, he applied helio-therapeutic methods, not merely to the part of the organism affected by the disease, but also to the entire body. In direct contradiction to the then generally accepted theory that surgical tuberculosis was a purely local disease, he proved, that the constitution of the patient and his power of resistance played a role of primary importance and that in treating a generalised disease general therapeutic treatment was indicated. His first experiments were made with children at a small chalet nursing-home; this little clinic thus became the cradle of helio-therapy. Is it necessary to recall the result? Twenty-eight years have proved the excellence of the treatment and the superiority of the climate of Leysin while always increasing the reputation of Dr. Rollier. Leysin still remains his favourite station and around his two principal clinics numerous smaller clinics have been constructed which provide accommodation for 1,200 patients. In 1915 Dr. Rollier opened near Leysin what is known as "the School in the Sun." This was the starting point of the great movement for the employment of preventive helio-therapy which is to-day in general use in every part of the globe. Side by side with the larger sanatoria, nursing-homes and clinics for the accommodation of those possessed of adequate financial resources, other institutions destined for the treatment of those less favoured by fortune were founded. The first was known as the "Leysin Refuge." The same year also saw the foundation of a children's sanatorium which was intimately connected with the adult organisation. Modest in its beginnings, it rapidly developed and soon ranked amongst the most important institutions of the station. As a result of special efforts the clinic "Belmont" was soon opened and the so-called "work-colony" permitted convalescent patients who were capable of working to continue their stay at Leysin occupying themselves in remunerative activity.

Such was the aspect which Leysin presented in the first half of 1914 and if war had not intervened, no one can say to what extent it would have developed. Switzerland was increasingly shut off from the rest of the world by the extension of the conflict, nevertheless the allied governments selected Leysin for the treatment of prisoners who had become tubercular during their captivity in Germany. In 1919, when the armistice restored these soldier-patients to their homes, the station was three parts empty, but its fame was wide-spread and patients soon flocked to the town, so that in proportion as the general equilibrium was re-established Leysin regained its former animation. At the same time as the sanatoria regained their prosperity, the public sanatoria also received an influx of patients.

In 1920 the canton of Neuchâtel acquired the spacious and handsome edifice known as the "Beausite-Sanatorium." It then became the Neuchâtel public sanatorium with 110 beds. Later on an establishment for the accommodation of ladies and young girls was opened by a body of French nuns. Another institution for young girls of protestant persuasion was created by the generosity of a French philanthropist. And so one huge building after the other has grown up; Leysin is, as before mentioned, able to give accommodation to 1,200 patients to-day.

Owing to the rigorous control exercised by the Public Health Authorities the sanitary services function irreproachably. The obligatory disinfection of premises used for human habitation is held to be of such importance, that a special department of the municipality has been created for this purpose. The bye-laws dealing with questions of public health are enforced most strictly. Cases of contagious disease, although rare, have naturally been provided for. As a result of the activity of the Public Health Committee, an Isolation Hospital has been constructed.

These details show that the Authorities are fully aware of the responsibility by the presence of vast sanatoria and a large population of foreign patients. Finally it is not possible to pass over in silence one of the most marvellous beauties of Leysin, namely its panorama. The little town, with its Sanatoria and clinics, is situated on a gentle slope amidst meadows, which are carpeted with flowers in Summer and become fields of dazzling white in Winter. It is backed by the "Tours d'Al" and "Mayen" with their lower spurs from which it is separated by forests of firs; the whole forming an impenetrable barrier to the northerly and Easterly winds. The massiveness of the Dent du Midi is to be seen through an opening in which one sees the summit of Mont-Blanc and finally the mountains which border the French bank of the Lake of Geneva. In an hour the pedestrian can reach several famous view points from which one looks down on the lake of Geneva and over the canton of Vaud to the distant Jura-mountains; the silver riband of the Rhone, with vines at one's feet from St. Maurice in the Valais to its point of entry into the Lake of Geneva.

G.K.

SENSATIONNELLE LISTE D'ENGAGES AU GRAND PRIX DE SUISSE.

Les déssont jetés. Déjà avant la clôture des engagements, on pouvait prévoir que le 3ème Grand Prix de Suisse, le 23 août prochain nous apporterait un combat acharné pour la suprématie en Europe. Aujourd'hui, cette clôture vient changer l'attente en certitude. On peut constater même que les trois grandes équipes qui tiennent la tête du lot ont encore complété leurs rangs pour aller à la lutte avec leurs meilleures armes et si des abandons se produisaient, posséder suffisamment de réserves en course. De fait, Mercedes, Auto-Union et l'écurie Ferrari ont inscrit chacune 4 voitures. A ces équipes d'usines vient se joindre définitivement désormais Jean-Pierre Wimille, vainqueur dimanche du Grand Prix du Comminges, comme poulain de la maison de Molsheim. Il pilotera donc la nouvelle Bugatti 1936 que tant de mystère entoure encore. Et voici de plus l'écurie florentine Maremmana, formée récemment par le Suisse De Rham, établi en Italie, et à la tête de laquelle se trouve le remarquable Biondetti (nouveau recordman des Rangiers) sur Siata-Maserati ainsi que notre compatriote le Bernois bien connu Hans Stuber sur Alfa Romeo monoplace. Quant à l'écurie Ferrari elle se réserve toujours encore la désignation de ses coureurs. Toutefois, on peut considérer comme certain le départ des trois pilotes ci-dessous désignés. Comme 4ème, nous aurons ou le marquis Antonio Brivio Sforza, ou Tadini, ou encore Pintaucuda. A ces 15 coureurs engagés par les fabriques se joignent 5 indépendants, ce qui assurera au Grand Prix de Suisse le 23 août prochain un lot de 20 coureurs d'élite.

En voici la liste :

A. Equipes.

- Auto-Union A. G., Zwickau :**
Ernest von Delius, Zwickau, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.
Bernard Rosemeyer, Berlin, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.
Hans Stuck, Kempfenhausen, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.
Achille Varzi, Milan, sur Auto-Union 1936, 16 cyl., compr.
 - Daimler-Benz A. G., Stuttgart :**
Manfred von Brauchitsch, Berlin, sur Mercedes-Benz, 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.
Rudolf Caracciola, Lugano, sur Mercedes-Benz 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.
Luigi Fagioli, Gubbio, sur Mercedes-Benz 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.
Herrmann Lang, Stuttgart, sur Mercedes-Benz 1934/36, 8 cyl., compresseur.
Pilote de réserve : Louis Chiron, Nice.
 - Ettore Bugatti, Molsheim :**
Jean-Pierre Wimille, Paris, sur Bugatti 1936, compresseur.
 - S. A. Ecurie Ferrari, Modène.**
René Dreyfus, Paris, sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.
Dr. Giuseppe Farina, sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.
Tazio Nuvolari, sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.
X sur Alfa Romeo 1936, 12 cyl., compresseur.
 - Ecurie Maremmana, Florence :**
Cesare Biondetti, Bologne, sur Siata-Maserati 1936, compr.
Hans Stuber, Berne, sur Alfa Romeo 1635, compresseur.
- B. Coureurs individuels :**
Philippe Etancelin, Rouen, sur Maserati, compresseur.
Raymond Sommer, Paris, sur Alfa Romeo, Earl Howe, Londres, sur Bugatti, compresseur.
C. F. C. Martin, Byfleet, sur Alfa Romeo, compresseur.
Hans Ruesch, Zürich, sur Maserati, compresseur.

Au total donc 5 nations représentées : Allemagne, Italie, France, Angleterre et Suisse. Notre public sera particulièrement heureux de voir deux Suisses en course : Hans Ruesch, un habitué désormais des grandes compétitions internationales et Hans Stuber qui fut longtemps un des spécialistes de la côte les plus réputés en Europe et qui a fait aussi ses preuves en circuit, à commencer par le Grand Prix de Monaco.

Bref, une liste de start de tout premier choix. La course dont le départ sera donné dimanche 23 août à 13h.30 se déroulera, comme on sait, sur 70 tours du circuit du Bremgarten de 2,280 km. dont le virage des tribunes comme celui de la carrière ont été sensiblement relevés pour permettre des vitesses plus élevées encore.

PERSONAL.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. E. Ulmann, of 5/6, Carey Lane, E.C.2, will sympathise with them in their loss, Mr. Ulmann's father having died in Zurich, after a long illness.