

# Home news

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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

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## FEDERAL.

### SWISS BAN ON MEETINGS AND COLLECTIONS.

Since the issue of the Swiss Government's decree prohibiting the export of arms and munitions to Spain and forbidding Swiss citizens to take part in the civil war or to uphold, in Switzerland, either of the contending parties, meetings have been organized in favour of the Madrid Government. In an assembly at Geneva the head of the local Government, the Socialist leader M. Nicole, invited disobedience of the decree.

The Federal Council has therefore been compelled to take more drastic measures with the view of maintaining complete neutrality. A decree was issued yesterday forbidding, in addition, collection of funds, publication and distribution of pamphlets, organization of public meetings, and incitement to disobey the decrees. Heavy fines and imprisonment may be imposed, while funds collected may be seized and pamphlets confiscated.

### GERMANY'S DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE.

The post of German Minister to the Swiss Confederation has become vacant through the transfer of Freiherr v. Weizsäcker, who has recently been sent to the Foreign Office in Berlin.

Prince Otto v. Bismarck, at present Counsellor of the German Embassy in London, has been mentioned as a likely successor, but so far no official announcement to that effect has been forthcoming.

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF JOURNALISTS.

The 4th congress of the "Fédération internationale des Journalistes" will take place at Berne from the 7th-11th September.

### SWISS KILLED IN SPAIN.

M. Emanuel Rudolf Vischer, a citizen from Basle has been killed near Casalla.

### RESIGNATION OF SPANISH DIPLOMAT.

Senor Lopez Oliván, the Spanish Ambassador in London has tendered his resignation. Senor Oliván, previous to his London appointment, represented his country in Berne, where he enjoyed great popularity.

### SWISS WEAVERS TO TRAIN DORSET SILK WORKERS.

Swiss silk weavers, men and women, are being brought to Sherborne, Dorset, to train local workers following the purchase of Westbury silk mills by a Swiss, Mr. Harry Spitz. They will be allowed to remain in England for three months. The change in ownership is expected to result in work for 120 local silk hands.

### TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FEET BY LIFT.

Skiers at St. Moritz will, it is expected, be able to reach a height of 8,680 feet by lift next winter.

The Suvretta ski lift proved such a success last winter, that it is to be made more than twice as long. Starting at 6,290 feet — the Engadine Valley is nearly 6,000 feet above sea level — the lift went up to 7,120 feet. Now it is to be prolonged to the foot of the Black Mountain.

### ASSEMBLY OF ALPINISTS.

The third annual assembly of the International Union of Alpine Associations concluded at Geneva on Monday last. It was attended by 40 delegates representing 14 countries and 21 Alpine associations, whose total membership is 270,000.

A proposal to give medals for extraordinary mountaineering achievements was unanimously rejected. M. Edmond D'Arcis, of the Swiss Alpine Club, was unanimously re-elected president of the union, the seat of which remains in Geneva for another three years.

## THREE CLIMBERS KILLED.

The bodies of the three Swiss Alpinists were discovered buried under a huge mass of ice below the Guggi plateau. The men, who had been missing since Sunday, were trying to climb the Jungfrau by the Guggi glacier. The names of the victims are: Hans Roth, Matten; Dieterer Därligen; Brunner, Thun.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

M. A. W. Glogg, since 1920 a member of the editorial staff of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" has left the paper in order to take up his position as General Manager of the Swiss Broadcasting station.

M. Glogg has been a well-known personality in Swiss Journalistic circles; from 1927/28 he was President of the "Zürcher Pressverein" and since 1933 he was a member of the central committee of the Swiss Press Association.

Dr. Eugen Tschudi, surgeon-in-chief of the "Theodosianum" has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Dr. Tschudi has been connected for nearly 40 years with this institution, which enjoys a great reputation principally due to the great services which Dr. Tschudi has rendered.

Colonel Alfred Kindler, General Agent of the "Basler Lebens & Unfall Vers. Ges." in Zurich, has celebrated his golden wedding anniversary.

### BERNE.

The death has occurred at Berne of Dr. Georg Surbeck, late Federal Inspector of Fisheries. Dr. Surbeck resigned his position at the beginning of June owing to ill-health.

### BASLE.

M. Heh. Ritter-Müller, one of the pioneers of Swiss Gymnastics, has died at the age of 84. The deceased was for many years Central President of the Federal Gymnastic Association.

M. Theodor Bärugin-Bitterlin, proprietor of the "Zum Leuen," has died after a short illness.

### GRISONS.

The famous ruin Reams at Oberhalbstein, which is closely related with the history of the Canton of Grisons, having been at one time the seat of the champion of liberty, Benedikt Fontana is going to be restored, and will be for all times kept as a national monument.

### SOLOTHURN.

M. Rudolf von Arx, a late member of the cantonal government has celebrated his 85th birthday anniversary. M. von Arx held the post of Sub-Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Solothurn from 1908-1923.

### FRIBOURG.

The cantonal government has issued a decree prohibiting the shooting of eagles during 1936.

### AARGAU.

The death is reported from Aarau of M. Fritz Zurlinden, who was from 1898-1935 Manager of the "Aargauische Kantonal Bank."

### TICINO.

M. Silvio Molo, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, over which he presided at one time, has died. M. Molo was a well-known personality in his native canton.

Two people were killed near Malvaglia when a lorry fell into the Orino rivulet, a third passenger received serious injuries.

### VAUD.

The budget for the year 1936 of the canton of Vaud is showing an estimated loss of 7,918,448 frs.

## VALAIS.

Dr. Rudolf Metry, National Councillor has died suddenly through heart failure.

The deceased was a citizen of Albigen and Leuk town; he studied law at the Universities of Munich, Freiburg and Berne, after which he established himself as an advocate in Leuk. In 1921 he entered the Grand Council of the canton of Valais and in 1932 he was made a member of Parliament (National Council).

## GENEVA.

An accident occurred on Sunday on the north wall of the Grandes Jorasses, near Chamonix, in the Mont Blanc range, in which four Geneva climbers were involved, and which cost the life of M. H. Duchoux, of Geneva. One of the climbers slipped while the party was descending an ice slope at midnight. The others were dragged away, and after a fall of 120 ft., three of them were thrown into a crevasse 140ft. deep, while the fourth remained on the glacier practically unhurt. He went to get help, and 14 hours later the two survivors were rescued.

## LA POLITIQUE.

### De la défense nationale aux C. F. F.

Le mois de septembre sera un mois très important pour notre vie publique. A peine terminée la période des vacances s'ouvrira la souscription à l'emprunt de défense nationale. Ce sera là une épreuve décisive, qui montrera de la façon la plus claire si notre population demeure capable de prouver la vigueur et l'efficacité de son patriotisme autrement que par des paroles. Une nation libre ne peut pas attester sa volonté de rester telle, mieux qu'en fournissant à l'Etat les moyens matériels de pourvoir à sa défense.

Nous avons une entière confiance en le succès de l'emprunt. La Confédération demande, pour cette première tranche, 80 millions. Il ne serait pas du tout surprenant qu'elle en reçoit beaucoup davantage. Et c'est fort à souhaiter; car la réussite n'a pas simplement une importance matérielle, elle revêtira aussi une signification morale.

Si la Suisse, dans un grand mouvement d'enthousiasme collectif, affirme solennellement, par les souscriptions accumulées de ses citoyens, son ferme dessein de pourvoir à la défense des frontières, quoi qu'il puisse arriver, l'étranger en sera profondément impressionné. Inutile, n'est-ce pas, de souligner l'utilité d'une pareille démonstration, dans une époque particulièrement critique, telle que celle que nous traversons?

Quant à ceux qui, au mépris des vrais intérêts du pays, conseillent à leurs troupes de s'abstenir, et de ne pas contribuer à l'œuvre commune, et cela dans le temps même où ils recommandent des collectes en faveur de l'Espagne rouge, des assassins de femmes et d'enfants et des profanateurs de sépultures, ce sont des traitres à leur patrie. Notre peuple jugera comme elle le mérite une attitude pareille, qui équivaut à la négation la plus cynique des devoirs élémentaires que tout homme a envers son pays. Pas d'argent pour la Suisse, mais de l'argent pour les bolchévistes d'au delà des Pyrénées! Voilà un raisonnement dont le bon sens helvétique fera justice, nous l'espérons. Une sottise aussi monstrueuse que celle que nous dénonçons puisse peut-être quelque excuse dans le déséquilibre mental de ceux qui la profèrent. Mais la véronie explique parfois, sans justifier.

En septembre aussi, les Chambres fédérales se réuniront en session d'automne. Plusieurs objets importants sont d'ores et déjà prévus à l'ordre du jour. Nous soulignons vivement — très vivement! — pour notre part, que l'assainissement des C. F. F. soit mené à bonne fin sans plus de retard.

De nombreux faits établissent que la patience de l'opinion publique est épuisée, à l'égard du ruineux réseau national. Le déficit va croissant. Les résultats d'exploitation pour le mois de juillet sont encore plus mauvais qu'on ne pouvait le craindre: recul du trafic de 12.7%, pour les voyageurs, par rapport à juillet 1935; de 10.8%, pour les marchandises.

Nous connaissons tous les arguments que l'on peut, à bon droit, faire valoir pour expliquer les difficultés financières et commerciales des C. F. F. Mais nous pensons aussi que nécessité fait loi et que l'on ne saurait, sans grand péril, différer, même de quelques semaines, une réforme dont l'urgence saute aux yeux.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th

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