

Home news

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HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

SWISS DEFENCE LOAN.

The Federal Council has decided to accept not only the first instalment of the National Defence Loan of Frs. 80,000,000 (about £3,800,000) but the whole sum of Frs. 332,000,000 (£16,000,000) subscribed by the Swiss people.

Approximately a sum of Frs. 100,000,000 (£4,800,000) will be paid into a special fund to meet further needs in connection with national defence.

The following particulars regarding the subscriptions to this loan have been published.

Amounts subscribed

Cantons.	Number of subscribers	in Mill. Frs.
Zürich	41,436	104,490,300
Bern	29,167	37,545,800
Luzern	7,738	9,340,800
Uri	724	623,000
Schwyz	1,689	1,714,000
Nidwalden	341	371,000
Obwalden	640	551,000
Glarus	2,502	5,071,000
Zug	1,715	2,124,100
Fribourg	2,762	2,567,300
Solothurn	6,809	8,480,000
Baselstadt	11,354	42,782,700
Baselland	3,125	4,254,700
Schaffhausen	3,601	5,876,700
Appenzell I.-Rh.	193	241,700
Appenzell A.-Rh.	1,302	2,395,100
St. Gallen	13,846	18,119,200
Graubünden	3,346	4,218,600
Aargau	10,842	14,846,600
Thurgau	6,252	8,746,900
Tessin	6,660	6,017,800
Vaud	19,541	18,112,200
Valais	2,988	1,974,600
Neuchâtel	4,302	5,522,200
Genève	7,460	13,387,000
Various subscribers	41	13,679,800
Total	190,366	332,055,100

GROWING DEFICIT OF SWISS RAILWAYS.

Estimates of the Swiss Federal Railways just issued reveal that there will be a deficit of Frs. 79,000,000 (£3,709,000) for the current trading year, despite the fact that expenses have been reduced as far as possible. The loss last year was Frs. 64,000,000. Since revenue has decreased during the present year, it may be anticipated that the loss will have increased by the end of December.

An elaborate scheme was put before the electorate last year whereby it was hoped to stop competition between rail and road, but the proposal was not carried. A new scheme is under consideration which aims at reorganising the whole of Switzerland's traffic.

It is felt that drastic legislation must be introduced in order to wipe out the Federal Railways' deficits, which now exceed Frs. 3,000,000,000 (£140,800,000).

LEON VON MEYENBURG.

Léon von Meyenburg, who was principally known as a writer of poetry has died at the early age of 50. He was born in Schaffhausen in 1886 and studied at the Universities of Zurich and Florence. He was for many years Editor of the "Schweizerland." Some of his novels, "Gilles der Weichherzige" (1923) and "Der Hagestolz" went into several editions. M. v. Meyenburg also made a name for himself by translating the war book "Le Feu" by Barbusse.

EXPULSION OF FOREIGN COMMUNISTS.

The Federal Council has decided to expel altogether ten foreign communists, who were residing in Switzerland with faked passports.

STREET ACCIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

According to statistics just published 4,900 people have been injured in street accidents during the last six months (January-June) of which 263 were fatal.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

Dr. Ernst Blumenstein, Professor at the University in Berne has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

M. Joseph Studer, senior-partner of the firm Studer A. G., Wine Merchants in Interlaken, has died at the age of 64. The deceased was formerly President of the Tribunal in Escholzmatt.

The death is reported from Berne of M. Paul Adrian, formerly Director of the Federal Mint, at the age of 78.

LUCERNE.

M. Rogger, Director of the "Seminar" in Lucerne, celebrated his 25th service Jubilee on the 27th of this month.

URI.

An explosion occurred at the Munition Works in Altdorf, two workmen were seriously injured and one killed.

THURGAU.

As a result of an operation in a nursing home in Vienna, the death has occurred of M. Hippolyt Saurer, a director of Messrs. Saurer A. G. in Arbon. M. Saurer was one of the leading personalities in Swiss industrial circles.

SOLOTHURN.

The "Kantonal Bank" Solothurn has celebrated on the 24th of this month its 50th Anniversary since its foundation.

APPENZELL A.-RH.

M. J. J. Tobler, a former "Landammann" of the canton of Appenzell a. Rh., and from 1910-1918 a member of the cantonal government has died in Herisau at the age of 83. The deceased was for many years a leading personality in political circles of his native canton.

BASLE.

From Basle comes the news of the death of Pastor Hermann Schachenmann, who was a preacher at St. Leonhard and St. Paulus for 27 years. The deceased who reached the age of 69, enjoyed a great reputation as a preacher and a sincere churchman.

On the occasion of the "Erasmusfeier" of the University of Basle, which took place last week, the following were honoured with degrees of *Doctor honoris causa*: Mrs. Helen, Mary Allen, Oxford, Ernest Staehelin, Professor of Theology at the University in Basle, Professor H. Wölfli, Zurich, Professor E. His, Basle, Pastor D. K. Gauss, Liestal, Professor Blondel, Geneva.

ST. GALLEN.

During practice shooting with Maxim guns at Wallenstadt a marksman was killed.

Three houses were burnt down in Ittenried, the damage caused is estimated at 70,000 frs.

GRISONS.

All employees in the service of the cantonal administration will be pensioned off at the age of 65, according to an act passed by the "Kleiner Rat."

Dr. R. Domenig, editor of the "Freundeblatt für Graubünden" has been appointed editor-in-chief of the "Freie Rätler," in succession to M. Andreas Laely, late States Councillor.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th
for the
ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL
at the
Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.
Admission by ticket only, obtainable from
Members of the Committee.

VAUD.

During a trial flight, with a Czechoslovakian machine at the aerodrome Blécherette, captain Dr. E. Lorétan, was killed. It is reported that the accident was due to some acrobatic stunt flying to which the machine was not suitable. Captain Lorétan, who was married, was an assistant of Professor Michaud at the Nestlé Hospital in Lausanne.

VALAIS.

In Sitten died M. Raoul de Riedmatten, Banker, and for many years an eminent personality in the political sphere of the canton of Valais.

M. de Riedmatten was a member of the Grand Council for 32 years, (1880-1912) and a well-known alpinist. He was at one time commander of the Battalion 88.

TICINO.

In Bellinzona died, at the age of 64, M. Florino Tamo, a member of the Grand Council of the canton Ticino, and the Municipal Council of Bellinzona.

LA POLITIQUE.

Le succès de l'emprunt.

Le succès de l'emprunt pour la défense nationale a dépassé toutes les prévisions, même les plus optimistes. On peut dire que c'est un triomphe du patriotisme helvétique. Jamais consultation populaire relative à l'armée n'a donné un résultat aussi magnifique; car, en l'occurrence, il ne s'agissait pas de déposer simplement un bulletin de vote dans l'urne; il fallait ouvrir son porte-monnaie. Le plébiscite — c'en était un, véritablement — prouve que le peuple suisse, dans son immense majorité, reste fidèle à son armée, lui maintient sa confiance, place en elle ses espoirs pour le jour où il faudrait couvrir la frontière — hypothèse qui n'a hélas rien d'inraisonnable par le temps qui court. Logique avec lui-même, le peuple a compris que, l'efficacité de l'action de nos milices étant subordonnée au perfectionnement des moyens techniques dont elles disposent, un sacrifice s'imposait. En agissant ainsi, il a manifesté une fois de plus son noble civisme et sa maturité politique. Toutefois, on ne pouvait s'attendre à un pareil concours. Il y a là une reconfortante surprise, qui stimulera l'énergie de nos chefs et les incitera à mener grand train l'œuvre si nécessaire dont la base matérielle se trouve désormais assurée.

Personne, ou presque, ne doutait de la bonne volonté des citoyens, et dès le début de la campagne de propagande, en dépit des difficultés économiques, on escomptait la couverture de la première tranche de 80 millions. D'aucuns, il est vrai, soit qu'ils suivissent une tendance naturelle au pessimisme, soit qu'ils eussent le secret et mauvais désir d'un échec, semaient des rumeurs décourageantes. Ils en furent pour leurs frais. Bientôt, on apprenait que les souscriptions affluaient et que, contrairement aux assertions des prophètes de malheur, elles émanaient de tous les milieux. La grande industrie, la banque, s'inscrivaient pour de fortes sommes; les sociétés les plus diverses assuraient leur contribution; les particuliers s'empressaient aux guichets afin de donner leur signature. Et loin de se ralentir, le mouvement allait croissant en intensité à mesure que le dernier délai approchait. La dévaluation, le premier moment de stupeur passé, fut si peu une entrave que le plus grand nombre de souscriptions fut recueilli en ce mois d'octobre. L'emprunt, on le sait, a été couvert tout entier et dépassé de 95 millions. La première tranche de 80 millions est couverte plus de quatre fois. La réponse est si claire et si nette qu'elle peut se passer de commentaires.

La question se pose maintenant de savoir si le Conseil fédéral acceptera le total de la somme fournie, ou seulement les 235 millions prévus au budget. A cet égard, nous partageons l'avis exprimé par le comité d'action, lequel estime qu'il ne faut procéder à aucune réduction des souscriptions, quitte à constituer un fonds spécial avec le surplus. Cet argent est prêt à la Confédération pour la défense nationale; il doit être utilisé pour celle-ci; et un jour viendra où l'on sera content de recourir à cette réserve.

Puisque nous parlons du comité d'action, disons qu'il a fort bien travaillé, en multipliant le moins possible la paperasserie et en éveillant l'intérêt de la population d'une manière intelligente et pratique. Toutefois, c'eût été vain, si la cause n'avait été une bonne cause, celle peut-être pour laquelle on est toujours le plus prêt à vibrer dans nos cantons.