

Swiss condolences

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SWISS CONDOLENCES.

On Tuesday morning the President of the Swiss Confederation sent the following message to The King:

"Profondément peiné par la nouvelle du décès du Roi George V, Votre Auguste Père, je m'associe, au nom du Conseil Fédéral et du peuple Suisse, à la douleur de tous les peuples de l'Empire et je prie Votre Majesté, Sa Majesté la Reine Mary et la Famille Royale d'accepter mes condoléances émuës."

His Majesty's Minister in Switzerland having returned to Berne yesterday after a short leave in England, the President, accompanied by M. Motta, the Foreign Minister, called at the British Legation to offer their sympathy.

The Swiss Minister here has transmitted to His Majesty's Government the condolences of the Federal Council. He will deposit a wreath at the Royal Catafalque and will represent Switzerland at the Funeral on special mission.

Flags on Government buildings in Switzerland are lowered to half-mast; as a special homage to the memory of the Late King, the flags of the Houses of Parliament are also at half-mast, whereof there is no precedent.

DEATH OF KING GEORGE V. Swiss Press comments.

N.Z.Z. 21.1.36.

Der Hinscheid Georgs V. bedeutet für das britische Volk, das für seinen König Liebe und Verehrung in einem ungewöhnlichen Masse empfand, einen tiefen Schmerz. Von der Echtheit dieses Gefühls ist die ganze Welt immer wieder ergriffen, und sie wird auch teilnehmen an der Trauer Englands in dieser Stunde, in der sie sich bewusst ist, dass ein Wechsel auf dem Throne des Britischen Weltreiches trotz allen konstitutionellen Gegengewichten ein geschichtliches Ereignis ist, das schicksalhafte Bedeutung erlangen kann. Die Gewissheit, dass letzten Endes der schwere Schlag, der das britische Herrscherhaus getroffen hat, ohne Erschütterung für das Empire ertragen werden wird, beruhet vor allem auf der Tatsache, dass sich die Institution der Monarchie in Grossbritannien während der 25 jährigen Regierungszeit König Georgs V. gefestigt hat und jetzt, wo er in seinem 71. Altersjahr die Augen schliesst, in einer Welt voll politischer Unsicherheit wohl unerschütterlicher als je dasteht.

Nat. Ztg. 21.1.36.

Kein Todesfall wird über dem ganzen Erdball grösseren Widerhall erwecken als das Ableben des persönlich bescheidensten, aber offiziell mächtigsten Herrscher der Welt. Weit mehr als der vierte Teil der Kontinente und Meere, mit den darauf lebenden Menschen und segelnden Schiffen war ihm untertan. Mit ihm wird einer der volkstümlichsten Monarchen zu Grabe getragen.

UN CULTE SOLENNEL A LA MEMOIRE DE SA MAJESTE GEORGE V

sera célébré à l'EGLISE SUISSE DE LONDRES 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

DIMANCHE, 26 JANVIER à 11h.

en la présence de MONSIEUR C. R. PARAVICINI, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la Confédération Helvétique près de la cour de St. James.

La Colonie Suisse tout entière y est instamment conviée.



HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

NEW FEDERAL JUDGE.

The two Chambers of the Swiss Parliament have elected Dr. Wilhelm Stauffer to the post of Federal Judge in succession to the late Dr. Ursprung. Dr. Stauffer was born in 1892 in Berne, he studied law at the University of Berne, where he took his doctor's degree. In 1918 he was appointed secretary of the Superior court in Berne, and two years later, he advanced to be chief clerk of the same Court.

In 1929 he was made a Judge of the Superior Court (Ober Gericht) of the canton of Berne.

The newly appointed Federal Judge is the author of many publications on matters of law.

FAREWELL AUDIENCE OF SWISS DIPLOMAT.

Dr. Wagnières, the retiring Swiss Minister at Rome, had a farewell audience with Signor Mussolini.

The Duce warmly congratulated the departing Minister on his work to foster friendly relations between the two countries, during the tenure of his responsible office. The Italian Press unanimously pays a high tribute to the departing Minister.

SWISS RAILWAYS BIG LOSS.

The accounts of the Swiss Federal Railways for 1935 show a total revenue of Frs.314,368,000 (about £20,958,000 at current rates), or Frs. 19,219,000 (£1,281,000) less than in 1934. Expenditure decreased by £468,000 to £15,233,000, so that there is a surplus revenue of £5,724,000, or £813,000 less than a year ago.

The service of interest and depreciation require £10,000,000, so that the year closes with a loss of £4,266,000, as compared with £2,866,000 for 1934.

UNEMPLOYMENT RECORD IN SWITZERLAND.

Unemployment in Switzerland reached the highest level in the history of the country on December 31st, according to official figures now published. On that date 118,775 people were registered as seeking work, against 95,740 the month before. In 1934 the figures were 110,283 for December and 91,196 for November.

ARSENAL INSIDE ALPS.

Work has been begun on a giant underground arsenal for the Swiss Army at Darlingen, near the lake of Thun. The arsenal will be blasted from the side of the neighbouring Alps, and when it is completed it will be entirely invisible from the air and at such a distance below the ground as to be protected against the heaviest bombs.

MOTOR ROAD UNDER ALPS.

It will be possible to motor under the Alps between Switzerland and Italy through the famous Simplon tunnel if plans submitted to the Swiss Federal Railway authorities are carried out.

The plans are for the establishment of a motor road through one of the two railway tunnels.

The work of conversion is expected to cost some three million Swiss francs — about £200,000 at current rates.

It will be necessary to install a complicated ventilating system to dispel the fumes of the petrol used by the cars. "Sidings" will also have to be cut into the sides of the tunnel. The purpose of these is to enable cars which break down to be towed out of the way of the main traffic stream.

The Simplon Tunnel, which was built in 1906, links Switzerland and Italy. It is the longest of the tunnels under the Alps being twelve and a quarter miles in length.

SWISS NATIONAL COUNCIL AND NOBEL PRIZE.

A request that the 1936 Nobel Peace Prize be awarded to the German pacifist, Karl von Ossietzky, was made by 125 members of the Swiss Second Chamber.

FORGED SWISS DEFENCE PLANS.

In January, 1935, the Socialist newspapers *Le Travail* in Geneva and *Le Droit du Peuple* at Lausanne accused Colonel Fonjallaz, a former officer of the Swiss Army and now the chief of the Swiss Fascist Party, of having handed over to Italy certain plans and documents concerning Swiss national defence. Several documents were published by these newspapers, but the military inquiry, which was held at once, proved that all the documents, as well as the signature of Colonel Fonjallaz, were forged.

M. Jacquier, the man who forged the documents, and one of the editors of *Le Travail*, M. Choux, were sentenced on Saturday last by the Lausanne Court, the former to one year's imprisonment for having forged the documents, the latter to two months' imprisonment for having printed them, although he knew them to be forgeries. The two men have also been deprived of their rights of citizenship for five years and have to pay the costs.

DUCHESS HELPS TO WIN SKIING TROPHY.

The Duchess of Westminster was a member of the team which won the Sysonby Cup, presented by her brother, Lord Sysonby, to the Suvretta House Ski Club at St. Moritz. There were 30 entries in ten teams of three for the race, which was run as a relay from Corviglia station to Suvretta.

SWISS CINEMA SPURT.

A definite move has been taken towards the much-talked-of production plans in Switzerland.

The chief of the Federal Home Office has nominated a *commission fédérale d'étude* for the cinema. This commission consists of ten ordinary members and several consultative members recruited from the trade and from intellectual workers. The Presidency of the Commission has been entrusted to M. Albert Masnata, president of the Swiss Association of Film Producers and Director of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade, at Lausanne.

M. Max Frikart, of Zurich, of the Cinema Workers' Society, will act as permanent secretary.

The work of this Commission will be to elucidate in all its aspects the question of the Swiss industry. It has been asked to find a solution to all the interests which must be defended and to submit to the department a final proposition.

The question of the construction of studios and their importance in this country, both from the artistic and economic point of view, will also be studied by the Commission.

It is estimated that the report will be presented to the Federal Home Office within six months, and will be the prelude to the creation of a *Chambre fédérale du cinéma*.

YOUNG LOAN SWISS TEST CASE.

The Swedish holders of German Young Bonds are to contest the judgment given against them in the Basle Court of Appeal last week before the *Chambre fédérale du cinéma*.

The Court of Appeal held that the Bank for International Settlements could not be held responsible as trustees for Germany for paying interest on the nominal depreciated value, instead of on a gold standard basis.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. J. J. Schollenberger, Professor of Law at the University of Zurich from 1893-1917, has died in Zurich at the age of 85.

The death has occurred at Winterthur, of Professor, Dr. E. Looser, a noted surgeon and lecturer at the University of Zurich. Dr. Looser was for many years surgeon-in-chief of the Cantonal Hospital in Winterthur.

M. Carl Asal, Manager of the Forwarding Agent firm "Weltfurrer Internationale Transport A.G." in Zurich, has celebrated his 25th service Jubilee.

BERNE.

The oldest identifiable prehistoric remains ever found in Switzerland have been discovered in the Kaltbrunnental, near Berne.

Human skeletons, the bones of extinct animals, including the wild horse, giant stag and reindeer, and over 3,000 stone implements are among the discoveries. Some of the animals have been extinct for thousands of years in this region.

The discovery was made by Professor Kohler, a Swiss naturalist, when exploring a cave known as "the heathen's kitchen."

The Professor's attention was attracted by a curious hole some sixteen inches in diameter, in the roof. He enlarged the hole and was eventually able to squeeze through it. He then found himself in one of a series of caves, some of them 60 feet in length.

Chipping through the limestone and silt which had formed on the floor of the cave, M. Kohler discovered three different layers of rock. Each contained human remains and some bore traces of fire.

GENEVA.

The news of King George's death was received with the deepest emotion by the representatives of the many nations which are members of the League, and was reflected in the moving ceremony which took place in the Council chamber.

The regular business of the League was postponed and the Council meeting transformed into a brief memorial service in which each member of the Council in turn gave expression to the sympathy of his country in the loss that had befallen the Royal Family and the British people and its participation in their sorrow.

Mr. Bruce (Australia) presided over the gathering, which in outward form, and in all but the atmosphere of mourning, was that of a normal Council meeting. He expressed the sympathy of the Council for the Royal Family and the nation, and spoke with emotion of the personal qualities of the King, who had spent his life in the service of his people in a most difficult phase of the world's history, and had never wearied in his efforts for the cause of world peace and better understanding between the nations. The members of the Council, the Secretariat, the Press, and the public then rose and a moment's silence was observed.

M. Léger (representing France in the absence of M. Laval) referred to the mourning of a great people which, under the high moral authority of its revered sovereign, had always been actively associated with the defence and organization of peace.

"TALKIE" CLOCKS.

Geneva, Lausanne and Berne now have "talkie" clocks. The clock is based on the principle of the talking film, and any telephone subscriber in the towns mentioned may ring up day or night and hear a man's voice giving the hours, minutes and seconds. A musical note marks the precise moment announced. The hour is given to a tenth of a second, and announcements are made every ten seconds.