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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.



(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.

VAUD.

Dr. Albert Naef-Delapierre, since 1914 Professor of archaeology at the University of Lausanne, has been shot at, and killed by his wife. Mme. Naef is at present under supervision at the Asylum of Cery.

Professor Naef was born in 1862 in Lausanne. He studied archaeology at the University in Stuttgart and at the "Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts" in Paris. In 1897 he was appointed archaeologist of the castle of Chillon, and two years later, the cantonal government entrusted him with archaeological studies in the canton of Vaud. Dr. Naef was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Zurich and Geneva.

Dr. Alfred Renaud, a well-known authority on cancer diseases, and a surgeon at the cantonal hospital in Lausanne, has died at the age of 64.

GLARUS.

Through the death of M. Philipp Mercier, States Councillor, which occurred in Berne on the 16th inst., at the age of 64, the canton of Glarus loses one of its most distinguished sons.

M. Mercier was born in 1872 in Glarus. From 1896-1908 he was a member and later on President of the Communal Council of Glarus.

The deceased was for 30 years President of the Superior Court of the canton of Glarus. He started his political career in 1896 as a member of the "Landrat" over which he presided in 1905. In 1907 he was elected a member of Parliament (States-Council), and ten years later he presided over the 2nd Chamber.

For two years (1918-1920) he held the post of Swiss Minister in Berlin. In the army he reached the rank of a Brigade-commander, during the Frontier-occupation he was chief of staff of the 2nd, and later on of the first Army-Corps.

GRISONS.

The Cresta Run at St. Moritz, has been closed out of respect for King George.

FRIBOURG.

Two members of the cantonal government, namely M. Victor Buchs, chief of the Public Works Dept., and M. Marcel Vonderweid, head of the Cantonal Military Dept., have intimated that they wish to relinquish their posts at an early date, for reasons of health.

ST. GALLEN.

M. Edwin Ruckstuhl, a member of the cantonal government, has resigned from his office for reasons of health, he is 69 years of age. M. Ruckstuhl served his canton for over 40 years, first as a judge and since 1906 as a member of its government.

PERSONAL.

We extend our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme of the Eglise Suisse, who is laid up with an acute attack of neuritis.

**NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE
London Group.**

The Council of the N.S.H. begs to refer all Members to the announcements in this issue of the MEMORIAL SERVICE which will be held at the Eglise Suisse in Endell Street on Sunday, 26th January, at 11 o'clock a.m., and hopes that every Member will attend.



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**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON
GROUP OF THE NOUVELLE SOCIETE
HELVETIQUE.**

January 17th, 1936.

It is again my privilege to address to you from the chair a short survey of the activities of our London Group during the past year. Without immodesty I may say that we have every right to take a legitimate pride in the work achieved. Our activities have increased all round; more meetings, the innovation of the supper-discussions at the Foyer, special meetings to honour our visitors Dr. Lätt and Miss Briod, three film-shows instead of two, and a number of other functions have allowed us to extend our usefulness in a good many directions.

In chronological order, these functions were:—

- January 16th. Annual General Meeting at Swiss House.
- February 15th. Dinner in honour of Mlle. Briod at the Foyer.
- February 17th. Film-show at King George's Hall, with an address by Mlle. Briod.
- March 20th. Monthly meeting at Swiss House, the Rev. Hoffmann-de Visme on "A journey to Naples."
- April 26th. Souper at the Foyer, Mr. de Jenner speaking on the "Kriseninitiative."
- May 17th. Monthly meeting at Swiss House, Mr. J. Belaeff on the "Karakorum Expedition 1934."
- June 21st. Souper at the Foyer, Mr. Cérésole speaking on "Swiss Traffic Problems."
- June 23rd. Dinner at the Foyer, in honour of Dr. Lätt, with the Swiss Minister in the chair.
- September 18th. Monthly meeting at Swiss House. Report on the Journée des Suisses à l'Etranger at Baden by Mr. Suter.
- October 18th. Souper at the Foyer, Dr. Egli speaking on "Swiss Democracy in the European Crisis."
- November 20th. Monthly meeting at Swiss House, Mr. Christian Kunzle speaking on his work at Davos.
- November 30th. Film-show at King George's Hall with addresses by Messrs. Mittelholzer and Tschiffeli.

Our Group also took an active part in a Mittelholzer Film-show in March which was jointly undertaken by the Swiss Mercantile Society, the City Swiss Club and ourselves; similarly, together with the Swiss Orchestral Society, in a Concert-Lecture at Conway Hall in November, when we heard Mme. Zublin-Spiller, die "Soldatenmutter." On the occasion of the King's Jubilee the Group organised an address of congratulations on behalf of the Swiss Colony in London which was handed to the Secretary of State for presentation to His Majesty the King.

Our activities on the secretarial side have consequently also grown heavier, of which a much larger correspondence and more frequent visits to Switzerland are the proof. I have again had the pleasure of representing the Group at the annual meeting of the Swiss Abroad held at Baden in August, on which occasion I have met again some of the outstanding workers in our movement. These contacts are of the greatest possible value to us and supply fresh inspiration; there is no doubt that this function which this year for the first time has been arranged independently has proved to be a very wise and effective piece of propaganda for our cause.

We have sold this year over 420 Calendars, and up to date about 125 copies of the new Nouvelle Société Helvétique book "Mon Pays," "Unsere Schweizer Heimat." The good work is going on and we finally hope to supply every Swiss family in England with a copy. While speaking of the secretarial work, I would not omit to pay a very sincere tribute to Mme. Clara Muller for her thoughtful, obliging and untiring assistance in all these matters. I would further express here the thanks of the Group to Mr. Stauffer and the "Swiss Observer" for the useful and able preparation and publication of our reports and advertisements. We are also indebted to a number of associations and institutions, both here and on the Continent, for their publications and printed matter sent to us in the course of the year.

I am proud to report to you that our relations with the Minister and the Legation remain the happiest possible; our sincere thanks are due to them both, and we express them here with deep satisfaction. The Minister is always ready to collaborate in our activities and to assist us whenever we ask for his guidance. We may be assured, therefore, that he is in sympathy with our aims and that our efforts merit his appreciation. The Group has been participating in the obligations and festivities of the Colony and your President has been invited to a number of annual banquets of our sister societies.

There is one particularly bright indication that our labours are not in vain, I am speaking of the accretion of eight new members in the course of the year. With the inclusion of two new Legation members, four losses through death, repatriation and naturalisation, this brings the total membership of 125 at the beginning of 1935 to 131 at this date. It is a tremendous satisfaction to me that we are again able to attract new blood which will, in time, guarantee the continuance of the movement in London. As you know, I have always held the conviction that, if a few of us could hold together the nucleus of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in England during the years of reaction, the movement would grow again by its own impetus in times to come. If, therefore, these new members are a proof that the lean years have passed, we may look into the future confidently.

I think I may say with justification that, in the year just passed, we have again done our best according to our ability and condition. If this "best" has been insufficient and clumsy, we must make up our minds to gain by the experience again, but we must beware of external influences warping our purpose and guiding our feet into a narrow groove. We are elated to-day by the first definite signs of recovery and we believe that the coming year will accentuate this tendency still further. We are still true to our old principles:— *Service* in the cause of *True Patriotism*, the *Welfare of the Swiss Abroad* and the *Welfare of Switzerland*. In this belief we shall carry on and look to the future of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique with calm assurance.

THE SWISS OLYMPIA.

By PAUL DE VALLIÈRE.

In the 14th and 15th centuries the Swiss Confederacy — or "Corps helvétique," as the Confederation of Cantons was called in France — was surrounded by enemies. Training in the art of war was a necessity of life. The military institutions of the Confederacy formed its foundation and its scaffolding; the physical education of the people was under the constant attention of the authorities. The spirit of Olympia, which had lapsed into oblivion for 2,000 years, and which in the Middle Ages was only practised by the knights and nobles, came to life again in the whole of Switzerland. Thus it came to pass that the small democratic communities in town and country reached back across the centuries to ancient Greece and revived the cult of physical strength, self-sacrifice and the scorn of death in the service of the common weal.

How is it possible that the Swiss never mention this splendid athletic tradition of theirs? Thirty years ago, when the Olympic Games were re-introduced, the official speakers jumped straight from Greece and Rome to the German gymnasts of the 19th century, never alluding, even by a single word, to the nation that had really revived the spirit of Olympia. The Swiss themselves, too, remained silent and forebore to mention the part their ancestors had played in the history of athletics. Seldom has there been such ingratitude, and it must be atoned for to-day.

On what lines did the old Confederates carry out their scheme of national physical culture? — Boys of from eight to sixteen years of age were compelled to practise gymnastic exercises under the control of the district councils, the bailiwicks, governors and guilds; they had to go in for sprinting and long-distance running, putting the weight, shooting with the cross-bow, swimming, fencing, riding and other trials of skill. The magistrate and other leading men of the community personally supervised the training, which was carried out under the charge of veterans. At the age of sixteen those found fit for the task were allowed to go to war with the army as baggage-boys. Alien children who had regularly attended the exercises were given citizenship. Between the ages of sixteen and eighteen the cadets learned to wield the eighteen-foot spear, the halberd and the sword, and were subjected to the regular discipline of the troops. "Hornussen" (hornets) and other ball-games were introduced to add variety to the drill. Sprinting was endowed with special importance. The foot-soldiers had to practise keeping pace with galloping horses. In the Battle of Murten the "children of lost lives" seized the reins of mounted enemies and pulled the passing riders from their saddles. Practice with the cross-bow and gun made the eye keen, the body agile and the will strong. Even in those times the Swiss were excellent and enthusiastic marksmen, just as they are to-day.

At the age of eighteen, when he had been trained in the use of arms, the young man was enrolled in the army, received a helmet and coat of armour, and had a white cross sewn on to his doublet. His boyhood's dream was realised. But his training still continued until he was twenty-four. A master-at-arms taught him how to use the sabre, the Swiss sword and the dagger. Re-