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INCREASED CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

The customs receipts for the first 8 months of 1937 amounted to 170.5 million francs, as against 159.5 million last year. For the month of August there is a small decrease from 20 to 19.4 million francs to be registered.

COST OF LIVING INDEX.

At the end of August the cost of living index stood at 137.0 taking June 1914 at 100, an increase of 5.2% over August 1936. The cost of food at 130.3 shows a decrease of 0.2% as against July, but an increase of 8.4% against a year ago. The figures for clothing 120, rent 175, remain unchanged.

The wholesale trade index for food, industrial and agricultural raw materials reached 110.8 (July 1914 = 100) or 77.4 when taking the average of the years 1926/27 = 100 as basis. Compared with a year ago there is an increase of 18.6% (20.8 = at the end of July) to be noted.

COMPTOIR SUISSE, LAUSANNE.

The 18th Swiss Fair will take place at Lausanne from 11th to 26th September. The various branches of agriculture, trade and industry are housed in 9 halls, arranged in 16 groups. Sport and the touring industry are specially represented. The amusement park provides a novelty with a tower 42 metres in height whence parachute jumping will excite the venturesome. It's quite safe, of course. The official day is the 16th September, when President Motta will attend.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The engineering works Escher Wyss A.G. are increasing wages by 3½% for time and 4% for piece work.

A terrific cloudburst is reported from Zurich, where torrents of rain water caused considerable damage. The Bahnhofplatz was for a time flooded to the depth of one foot.

Alt-Betriebschef (3rd district, Federal Rwy.) Max Otto Wild died at the age of 74 at Zurich. Born at St. Gall, he first served the "Vereinigten Schweizerbahnen" and from 1909 to 1930 as Betriebschef of the Federal Railways in Zurich. He was a great authority in the complicated matter of time-tables. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel.

BERNE.

An aeroplane of the Bernese aviation company, "Alpar," crashed while flying from Bern to Basel. In dense fog the plane hit the top of a tree in the Jura mountains (Passwang) near Waldenburg, at a height of about 3,800 feet. The pilot, Capt. Eberschweiler, one of our best aviators with 14 years experience, and the two passengers, Mr. and Mrs. Streeter, of Oxford, England, lost their lives. The wireless operator, Huggler, lies severely injured in hospital at Liestal. He is expected to recover.

The Spar- and Leihkasse Steffisburg, a savings and loan bank, has terminated the two years' moratorium which was granted in July, 1936, by the Swiss Federal Council.

The bank's difficulties were due to heavy withdrawals caused by harmful rumours. While the moratorium has been in force, the bank has been able to again attain a sound basis.

A dividend of 4 per cent. has been declared in respect of the trading year 1936-37.

The bank's share capital amounts to Sw.Frs. 2,000,000.

LUCERNE.

The Association of Swiss Catholic Students held their annual festival at Lucerne. Bishop Dr. Franz von Streng addressed the meeting and received an enthusiastic welcome. At the Veterans-day, President Motta, himself a Veteran of the association, spoke, apologising for the unavoidable absence of Federal Councillor Etter, also an old member. He stressed the value of loyalty, to the faith, to the country and to their association. Thunderous applause was his reward.

BASEL.

During the three months, June to August, 25,585 motor-cars, including char-a-bancs, with a total of 176,000 passengers entered Switzerland at Basel alone. This number is almost identical with that published by the railways for visitors arriving at Basel by rail. "Swissair" also report a manifold increase of arrivals over last year. All in all a most welcome revival of one of our greatest industries and a great help in the balancing of our unfavourable trade balance.

An extension of the Basel hospital is under consideration. A first proposal providing for an increase in the number of beds from 776 to 1,350, at an estimated cost of 40 million francs, has been cut down to 1,050 beds at about half the outlay afore mentioned.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

In a by-election for the town council the liberal candidate, Fritz Moser, supported by all the bourgeois parties, defeated his socialist opponent H. Gamper, by 2,275 against 1,849 votes.

APPENZELL.

Bishop Aloysius Scheiwiler (St. Gall) consecrated Herisau's new catholic church. Ständerat Walter Ackermann, among others, addressed the congregation.

* * *

Joh. Baptist Dörig, the well-known host of the inn on the Säntis, lost his life by falling into the Schwendibach, having missed his footing in the dark. He was aged 69.

ST. GALL.

So as to equalise the conditions for granting citizenship to foreigners, the cantonal home-office has directed the communes that, as a rule, foreigners should not be admitted for naturalisation unless they have resided in Switzerland for a minimum of 10 years, Asiatics 15 years. Naturalisation must not become a business and sale of rights. Only persons who have adapted themselves to Swiss customs, conditions and way of thinking, and who do not constitute an obviously foreign element, are to be considered worthy applicants.

* * *

The new law and regulations for the conduct of inns, restaurants, etc., embodying a Schnapsverbot before 8 a.m. (?), new licensing rates and proposals aiming at a gradual reduction in the number of inns to 1 for every 300 inhabitants, and which had been passed by an overwhelming majority by the cantonal Grand-Council, was thrown out by the "vox populi" with 35,795 no, against 16,736 yes. Of all the communes, Weesen was the only one to show a majority for the measure and that majority was just ten votes. All the political parties had either declared for the measure, or gave a free vote. Only "mine host" was not having any and his influence has surprised many an old politician.

GRISONS.

A young Viennese, named Mandel, missed his way when climbing the Scesaplana and finally got into a position where he could neither climb on nor retreat. His cries for help were heard, but owing to darkness nothing could be done until next morning. He was then detected in an exposed position. A rope was lowered which he fixed round himself. On being pulled to safety he expired from sheer exhaustion.

NEUCHÂTEL.

Lieut. Max Baumann, in military service at Payerne, piloting a single seater fighter, crashed over the lake of Neuchâtel and was killed. Loss of flying speed appears to have caused the fatal accident.

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A group of Bankers, Swiss Bank Corporation, Banque Populaire and the Cantonal Banks of Bern and Neuchâtel have taken over a new 4% 5 million franc loan issue of Ebauches S.A. This is now being offered for conversion to the holders of the 5½% 8 million franc issue of 1930, to be repaid on April 30th next and is not available for cash subscriptions. Ebauches S.A. is the trust concern of the manufacturers of rough movements for the watch industry, with a paid-up capital of 12 million francs and a general reserve fund amounting to 582,000 francs. A dividend of 4% was paid for the year 1936.

GENEVA.

The 150th anniversary of the birth of General Dufour, renowned citizen of Geneva, will be duly celebrated on September 15th, when it is hoped representatives from every canton will participate.

FOOTBALL.

12th September, 1937.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Basel	4	Lausanne	0
Grasshoppers	1	Lugano	0
Grenchen	1	Bern	1
Luzern	4	Biel	1
Servette	2	Nordstern	0
Young Boys	4	Young Fellows	0

The Swiss football season 1937-38 is only three weeks old. It is therefore somewhat early to arrive at definite conclusions as to the playing strength of the various clubs. Yet there are unmistakable signs of a great improvement in F.C. Basel's eleven, where some of the young blood introduced is shaping well. Full marks from 3 games, 8 goals for and 1 against is, at any rate, a jolly good start, after escaping relegation at the end of last season by a mere hair's breadth. Grasshoppers, the champions, have also won their three games; 4 goals to 1 shows a certain lack of penetrative power. Next in order we find Servette who dropped one point at Lausanne, a good performance nevertheless. Young Boys and Luzern both won two and lost one match, (the Y.B. at Lugano and Luzern at home against the Y.B.) Having scored 10 goals against four, Y.B. are

well away. Lugano and Lausanne have 3 points each in the locker. Nordstern and Bern 2 each; the new-comer, Grenchen, got his first point against Bern who are not up to their usual standard. And at the bottom languish without a point to their credit F. C. Biel and F. C. Young Fellows, with adverse scores of 3 to 11 and 1 to 8 goals. And last season those two finished fifth and third respectively. But as I said before, these are early days and anything can happen by next June.

M.G.

"FESTA FAMILIARE."

As yet another splendid holiday season is inexorably drawing to a close the "UNIONE TICINESE" are this autumn setting the social ball rolling. Their Dance Evening, the "Festa Familiare," will be held at the Schweizerbund (Swiss Club), 74, Charlotte Street, W.I., on Thursday, September 30th next, at 8 p.m.

Rather than a strictly "ticinese" function the evening will have this year a wider appeal to the whole Colony as, for the music, newly founded Swiss Accordeon Club are lending their collaboration.

The proceeds will go to the Benevolent Fund of the "Unione Ticinese." Tickets at the moderate price of 2s. 6d. will not only mark a contribution to a deserving cause but also provide the purchasers with an enjoyable evening. They are obtaining from all Committee Members or direct from the Secretary, Mr. P. De Maria, 4, Luxembourg Gardens, W.6.

ACADEMY CINEMA.

Oxford Street.

The new production at The Academy Cinema is "Le Roman d'un Tricheur" by Sacha Guitry, and I strongly recommend everyone to go and see this film. Most people have seen and admired Sacha Guitry on the stage and will therefore be interested to see his work on the screen.

The same qualities of light comedy, wit and humour are present, but Guitry has introduced a technique of his own which is a success in his hands and makes a welcome change from the ordinary technique in general use. Guitry's work has been compared to that of René Clair but I think this is a mistake as there is none of the extravagance of the latter's films. Contrary to my usual custom, I am not going to spoil things by describing the technique employed or by telling the story. The film is too good and must be seen to be appreciated.

Guitry, Delubac and Moreno all take part in the film.

Recently during a visit to France I saw another of Guitry's films, "Les perles de la Couronne" and although a similar technique is employed, "Le Roman d'un Tricheur" makes perhaps the better story as it is shorter and less disconnected.

Guitry is a lover of the country side and in the course of the story there are numerous scenes in French villages and on the coast of the Mediterranean.

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DER FLUGZEUGFUNKER. DIE RECHTE HAND DES PILOTEN..

(Anfang in der letztwöchigen Ausgabe.)

Auch bei uns in der Schweiz wurde diesem Beispiele Folge geleistet. Einige erprobte Mechaniker, die schon öfters als Bordmonteure Kurs geflogen hatten, wurden während der langen Wintermonate zur Ausbildung an die Spezial-funkenschule nach Berlin geschickt. Vorher hatte man sich an der ausgezeichneten Arbeit, die Funker Christian Schaaf—auf dem Flugplatz kurz "Chrigel" genannt—leistete, überzeugen müssen, dass dieser Entwicklungsgang wirklich zum Nutzen der Gesellschaft war. Christian Schaaf, der erste Funker der Swissair hatte damals aus eigener privater Initiative während seiner Freizeit sich zum perfekten Telegraphisten ausgebildet und auch mit Erfolg die Prüfung der Obertelegraphendirektion bestanden. Heute ist "Chrigel" Chefunker der Swissair und neben ihm ist eine Stammgruppe von drei Funkern auf den grossen Linien der Swissair tätig, die alle zwischen 600-700'000 Flugkilometer hinter sich haben. Werner Wegmann, der Begleiter Walter Mittelholzer's auf seinem Kilimandjaro—und Tschadseeflug, und Jules Gloor gehören noch zur "alten Gilde," die als erste diesen Beruf ergriffen, während Paul Auberson eigentlich schon zu den jüngeren zu zählen ist, aber ebenfalls schon über eine grosse Erfahrung als Bordfunker verfügt.

Seit 2 Jahren sind nun durch die Obertelegraphen-Direktion auch in der Schweiz Kurse zur Ausbildung von Bordfunkern abgehalten worden und eine Reihe weiterer junger Leute, die im Flugbetrieb als Mechaniker tätig waren, hat diese Ausbildungsmöglichkeit benützt und mit Erfolg die bezüglichen strengen Examen bestanden.