

# Home news

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1937)**

Heft 797

PDF erstellt am: **26.06.2024**

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREERINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 15—No. 797

LONDON, FEBRUARY 20, 1937.

PRICE 3d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postech-Konto  
Basle V 5718.)



## HOME NEWS

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

### FEDERAL.

#### PROFESSOR CARL BURKHARDT APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER OF DANZIG.

Dr. Carl Burkhardt, Professor of History at the University of Geneva, has been appointed by the League of Nations Council to the post of High Commissioner of Danzig, in succession to the Irishman Mr. Sam Lester.

Professor Burkhardt was born in Basle in 1891 and studied philosophy at the University of Basle. In 1922 he was "Attaché" at the Swiss Legation in Vienna. In 1927 he was appointed Professor of History at the University of Zurich. Since 1932 he occupied the Chair of History at the University of Geneva. Professor Burkhardt is a member of the International Red Cross Committee.

#### CODEFROY DE BLONAY +.

M. Godefroy de Blonay from Grandson, Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee and President of the Historical Society of French Switzerland has died in Biskra (Algeria) at the age of 69.

#### SWISS CONSULATE IN POLAND.

The Federal Council has decided to open a Consulate at Lodz. M. Hermann Thommen from Bubendorf (Basle-Country) has been appointed honorary Consul.

#### SILK WORKERS WAGE INCREASE.

At a recent meeting of the Swiss Textile and Factory Workers' Union, at which 40 delegates from the silk industry were present, resolutions were passed demanding a wage increase of at least 10%, the introduction of minimum wages, and the granting of paid holidays. It was also decided to oppose the introduction of the fifty-two hour week on account of unemployment.

#### EXCLUSION OF COMMUNISTS FROM GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

It has been found that a number of Swiss officials have evaded the decree of 1932, excluding Communists from the Federal Administration and other services, by joining organizations indirectly affiliated to the Communist movement. The Federal Council has therefore issued a new decree announcing the names of all associations whose members are excluded from the Administration.

#### DEFENCE LOAN MEDAL.

The Federal Council has accepted the design of the Geneva artist Max Weber for the Swiss Defence Loan Medal.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

The unemployment figures at the end of January, just published, show that there are 110,754 unemployed registered, or 13,254 less than twelve months ago.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Max Furter from Forch (Zurich) has been nominated "privat-docent" for organic-chemistry at the Federal Technical University in Zurich.

M. Ernst Fehr, for 25 years a member of the Superior Court (Obergericht) of the canton of Zurich has retired from his post for reasons of health. Previous to his appointment, to the Superior Court, M. Fehr was, during fifteen years, a member of the District Court (Bezirksgericht).

The death is reported from Zurich of M. Primus Bon-Giger, senior of the well-known "Hotelier" family Bon, at the age of 78.

#### BERNE.

Mme. Verena Scheurer, mother of the late Federal Councillor Karl Scheurer, has celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary at Gampelen.

#### LUCERNE.

M. Wilhelm Schwyder, "Kanonikus" has been elected "Stiftspröbst von St. Leodegar." He was born in 1872 at Lucerne and studied theology at the Universities of Innsbruck, Munich and Fribourg. In 1907 he was appointed Director of the Teacher's seminary in Hitzkirch, which post he held for four years. In 1911 he succeeded Dr. v. Segesser as Professor of Church History at the theological faculty in Lucerne.

#### GLARUS.

Dr. Hans Trümpy has been elected a member of Parliament (National-Council) in succession to the late National-Councillor Tschudy. Dr. Trümpy has been until recently "Ratschreiber" of the canton of Glarus; he is taking over the Editorship of the "Glarner Nachrichten."

#### BASLE.

Professor. Dr. Carl Bernoulli, philosopher and writer has died in Arlesheim at the age of 69. Amongst his better known novels are: "Der Sonderbändler" (1904), "Zum Gesundheitsgarten" (1906) and "Der sterbende Rausch" (1917).

#### GRISONS.

M. J. M. Roffler-Guyan, for many years "Landamman" of Küblis and a member of the "Grand Council," has died at the age of 66.

#### AARGAU.

The ore mines at Herznach were inspected last week by Federal-Councillors Obrecht and Minger and Colonel Labhart, chief of the General Staff.

#### VALAIS.

An avalanche between Ausserberg and Ithoen, about 10 miles from Brigue, swept away a section of the permanent way and a small bridge on the Simplon route. There were no casualties.

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

Investigations undertaken by the Judicial authorities in La Chaux-de-Fonds, about the recent communists demonstrations in La Chaux-de-Fonds, in which Dr. Bourquin, a medical practitioner, and leader of the "Jeunesse Nationale," met with his death, have proved that Dr. Bourquin died of heart failure and not as a result of an assault. Six out of 30 people who were arrested at the time, will be charged for obstructing the police; it is reported that no foreign agitators took part in the riots.

#### VAUD.

M. Numaz Chabloz, director of the "Institut Chabloz," and a former head of the Education Service of the canton of Vaud, has died at Montreux.

The accounts of the "Zürcher Kantonal Bank" for the year to December 31st last, show a profit of 3,621,055 (1935: 3,555,398).

#### GENEVA.

A serious motor accident has occurred near Viège, between Gampel and Rarogue, when a motor-car belonging to the Geneva firm Schaefer, and driven by M. Joseph Zapf, aged 28, skidded and collided with a tree. The driver was thrown out of the car and received serious injuries, whilst the passenger, a Mr. Alexandre Hoffmann, aged 23, from Neuchâtel was killed when the car caught fire.

In Geneva, died at the age of 91, Dr. Charles Ed. Martin for 45 years a member of the editorial staff of the "Journal de Genève." The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Geneva.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

Please Reserve

SATURDAY, MARCH 13th, 1937,

for the

**Dinner and Dance**

at the

MAYFAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

The Geneva Socialist Party has elected National-Councillor Léon Nicole, a former head of the cantonal government, to its President, in succession to M. J. Dieker, who occupied this post for many years. M. Nicole has also been nominated as Editor (Political part) of the paper "Le Travail."

M. Jaques-Dalcroze, the well-known composer has been made a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Chicago.

## LA POLITIQUE.

### Vers l'assainissement des C. F. F.

Lundi s'est réunie, à Lugano, sous la présidence de M. Gaffner, agrarien bernois, la commission du Conseil national chargée d'examiner le projet de réorganisation des C. F. F. M. Pilet-Golaz, conseiller fédéral, chef du département des transports, assiste aux délibérations, qui dureront toute la semaine. D'ores et déjà, l'on peut dire qu'une grande bataille va s'engager. L'opinion aurait grand tort de se désintéresser de ces discussions, préliminaires aux débats qui s'ouvriront plus tard devant les Chambres, car le sort même de la réforme va dépendre de la position que prendront les partis et de la résistance que leurs représentants sauront ou ne sauront pas opposer à des tentatives démagogiques très apparentes. Il est donc bon que le public soit renseigné sur ce qui se prépare et puisse au besoin s'insurger contre un essai éventuel de sabotage.

En effet, les socialistes et leurs alliés feront une opposition systématique, non point tant contre telle ou telle disposition spéciale du projet (lequel, du reste, et de l'aven de ses auteurs, peut être amendé ici ou là, sans que l'œuvre même de la réorganisation soit compromise), mais bien contre l'idée de toucher au statut du personnel.

Que la commission, dans son ensemble, veuille inclure la révision dudit statut dans la réorganisation, c'est tout de même fort probable. Mais la proposition de "scinder" les deux objets sera certainement reprise, et l'on n'hésitera point à créer quelque agitation autour de cette question de procédure, à la vérité très importante. Sous prétexte de ne pas compromettre l'essentiel du projet, les tacticiens de l'extrême-gauche, toujours habiles, suggèrent et suggèrent de consulter le peuple séparément sur les deux points. Si, disent-ils, la révision du statut trouve grâce devant les citoyens, eh bien! tant mieux pour vous. Si, en revanche, elle est repoussée, il ne faudrait pas que cet échec entraînant celui de toute l'affaire. Mais le calcul secret de ceux qui tiennent ce raisonnement, c'est naturellement de rendre ainsi le statut intangible. Manifestement, le peuple veut de profonds changements aux C. F. F. Si on lui présente un seul et unique projet, comprenant entre autres la révision du statut du personnel, il y a des chances pour qu'il accepte le tout. Mais si l'on sépare ce qui concerne le statut, il pourrait fort bien voter le principe de l'assainissement et repousser la révision du statut.

Le Conseil fédéral, et en particulier le chef du département des chemins de fer, estime que ses propositions ne pourraient pas être efficaces au cas où la disjonction serait admise. Chacun sait que le réseau national doit être "commercialisé": ses organes doivent jouir d'une liberté d'action plus grande, mais de cette liberté elle ne pourra faire bon usage que si toutes les conditions pour qu'elle devienne et demeure saine sont remplies. Si l'on devait céder sur la question du statut — et pour obtenir cette concession, M. Bratschi mettra en jeu toutes les ressources de sa rhétorique et de sa stratégie — le but poursuivi ne saurait être atteint; en particulier, tout le plan d'amortissements serait compromis et les sacrifices déjà lourds demandés à la Confédération se trouveraient insuffisants.

Cela soit dit sans oublier les préceptes d'équité qui doivent guider les pouvoirs publics en matière de salaires, de retraites, etc., préceptes que nous avons toujours défendus. Mais il est évident que l'assainissement des C.F.F., qui coûtera cher au pays, suppose que chacun fasse preuve de bonne volonté, les fonctionnaires comme les autres.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève).