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HOME NEWS

The Swiss Minister, M. G. Carlin, took up his residence in Berlin on Wednesday last. The Berlin press unanimously welcome M. Carlin as one of Switzerland's most able diplomats, and express the hope that he, too, may succeed in maintaining and furthering the friendly relations existing between the two countries, while assuring him of every encouragement from the German side.

* * *

The Agricultural Mission sent by the Belgian Government to Switzerland has reached Berne. The members of the Mission are the guests of the Berner Bauern-Vereinigung, who have given a banquet in their honour, which was attended by Federal Councillor Schulthess, National Councillor König and Professor Dr. Laur, the leader of the Swiss Agrarian Party.

* * *

Colonel Bopp, the president of an association of over one hundred Swiss firms who in pre-war days carried on an extensive trade with Russia, is shortly leaving for that country, accompanied by a number of Russlandschweizer, for the purpose of surveying and studying ways and means for resuming business relations.

* * *

The Schweizerische Schillerstiftung has honoured the following Swiss authors with prizes and gifts:—

Jacob Bosshardt, Clavadel ...	5,000 francs
C. F. Ramuz, Lausanne ...	2,000 "
C. A. Bernoulli, Arlesheim ...	1,000 "
Heinrich Federer, Zurich ...	1,000 "

A further 10,000 francs will be distributed among a number of other Swiss authors and writers.

* * *

The Federal Emigration Office states that no passengers of Swiss nationality were on the ill-fated P. & O. liner "Egypt," which recently sank in the Channel, after a collision during a dense fog.

The second cook, a member of the crew, named Wintsch, who is a Swiss, had the good fortune to be rescued.

* * *

The following have been appointed judges at the forthcoming Eidgenössische Sängerkunst in Lucerne:—

1st category: MM. Ryffel, Wettingen (president); Chappuis, Porrentruy; Beines, Munich; Zwickli, Thalwil (Zurich).

2nd category: MM. E. A. Hoffmann, Aarau (president); K. Pembaur jun., Dresden; Otto Menet, Basle; Juillerat, Porrentruy; P. Fehrmann, St. Gall.

3rd category: MM. Scheel, St. Gall (president); C. Meister, Soleure; Benner, Neuchâtel; Haeni, Sion; Kehl-dorfer, Vienna.

4th and 5th categories: MM. Gelpke, Munich-Gladbach (president); C. Vogler, Zurich; Rudel, Berlin; Dénéreaz, Lausanne; Paul Müller, St. Gall.

* * *

An avalanche has completely destroyed and carried away the Swiss Alpine Club hut on the Fergengegel (2,200 metres), Engadine.

The hut was only opened in June last year and was erected under great difficulties, involving considerable expenditure.

All that remains on the spot where the massive stone building once stood are remnants of the foundation walls and a few planks, which were found standing upright some distance away in the snow.

* * *

The first ascent this year of the Matterhorn has been accomplished by Mlle. Elvire Perren, who, accompanied by the guides Oscar Julien and Hermann Perren, jun., reached the summit at 1 p.m. on Saturday last.

* * *

One of three military aeroplanes coming from Thun last Sunday side-slipped near Bière (Vaud) and dropped on to some trees, the aeroplane engine becoming detached and burying itself deeply in the ground.

Pilot Lang from Brugg was badly, though not fatally, injured, while the observer, Lieutenant Kraft from Gloyveller, had both his legs fractured and sustained other injuries which endanger his life.

* * *

A serious explosion of a munition depot occurred on the military exercise grounds of Lerchenfeld, near Thun, on Saturday last.

The dead bodies of two young boys were found 250 metres away from the scene of the explosion, and it has not yet been possible to establish where they actually were when the depot was blown up. Many people inhabiting houses in the vicinity luckily escaped with minor injuries only, but the property suffered considerable damage. The terrific concussion of the air smashed thousands of windows from Thun right up to Hilterfingen, Spiez, and Wimmis, some eight miles away.

* * *

A regrettable accident occurred on the steamer "Stadt Zürich." While she was lying at the landing stage, orders were suddenly given to alter her position. At the moment two machinists were actually in one of the paddle boxes examining the gear. When the paddles started revolving, the men were caught unawares and seriously injured, one of them, the father of six children, being crushed so badly that he succumbed before reaching hospital.