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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

The Swiss delegation to the International Disarmament Conference, which will take place early next year at Geneva will be headed by M. Motta, Federal Councillor and Professor Max Huber, a former President of the International Tribunal at the Hague. Further delegates are: Army Corps Commanders, Otto Bridler and de Loriol; National Councillors, H. Haeblerlin, R. König, E. Perrier and Vallotton; and Colonel A. Züblin.

SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The Winter Session of the two Chambers was opened on the 7th of this month. The National Council elected M. Roman Abt (Aargau) as President, and M. M. Sigrüst (Lucerne) was elected President of the State Council. (Ständerat)

WHEAT GROWERS BANK.

The National Council has ratified two conventions dealing with the establishment in Switzerland of a special bank to assist wheat producers in Central Europe.

INTERNATIONAL ICE HOCKEY MATCH.

The International Ice Hockey match between Belgium and Switzerland ended with a victory for the Swiss team 2-0.

"PERSONAL CALLS" TO SWITZERLAND.

The Postmaster General announces that personal calls are now admitted in the Anglo-Swiss telephone service. Facility, which is now available in all the Anglo-Continental telephone services, enables a caller, at small additional charge, to book his call to a specified person at the distant end.

SWISS TRAINS CUT.

The sudden drop in the number of tourists from Britain to Switzerland has caused a reduction in the international train services. It is announced that the Engadine express and the Oberland express, which usually ran daily, will in future only make their journeys three times a week.

During December the train from London to Lausanne, usually a daily service, will be restricted to twice a week, and in January to once a week.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The municipal elections which took place last Sunday have brought no change. Messrs. Lindt, Raaflaub, Baertschi and O. Steiger representing the bourgeois parties and Messrs. Grimm, Blaser and Schneberger, socialists, have been elected. M. H. Lindt has been confirmed as Town President.

The elections of the town Council took place at the same time, the socialist which held the majority since 1929 (41 out of 80 seats) have lost two seats and are therefore now in the minority. (39 against 41).

M. F. Langhans, "procureur général" of the canton of Berne has died at the age of 62.

SCHWYZ.

M. Meinrad Ziltener, member of the Government of the Canton of Schwyz has died at the age of 64.

M. Friedrich Fluehler, Manager of the Cantonal Bank has died at the age of 76.

BASLE.

The advisory Committee under the Young plan, summoned to study Germany's economic position, met at Basle last Monday. M. Bind-

SWISS REFERENDUM DECEMBER 5th and 6th, 1931.

Cantons.	Old Age Pension Act.		Duty on Tobacco	
	Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.
Zurich	77,309	57,173	85,000	49,582
Berne	61,214	83,894	71,480	72,359
Lucerne	11,095	28,268	14,766	24,704
Uri	986	3,880	1,461	3,419
Schwyz	2,640	9,831	4,000	8,338
Obwalden	535	3,717	972	3,308
Nidwalden	526	2,673	819	2,394
Glarus	3,262	4,226	3,730	3,861
Zug	1,817	5,054	2,665	4,206
Fribourg	3,040	30,067	15,586	17,458
Solothurn	15,343	15,514	16,795	14,182
Bâle Town	11,983	11,857	13,375	10,375
Bâle County	5,194	13,208	6,872	11,681
Schaffhausen	5,000	6,926	5,841	6,116
Appenzell A. Rh.	4,062	6,912	4,548	6,457
Appenzell J. Rh.	471	2,267	781	1,961
St. Gall	23,740	37,743	30,618	29,487
Grisons	8,962	15,780	10,863	13,713
Aargau	28,855	31,744	29,058	31,674
Thurgau	13,252	16,937	16,251	14,161
Ticino	9,390	13,803	11,906	10,045
Vaud	19,858	62,129	33,332	48,239
Valais	4,156	19,334	7,155	16,034
Neuchâtel	14,248	11,994	16,449	9,743
Genève	11,900	15,764	15,564	11,573
Total	338,838	510,695	419,887	430,070

The Swiss electorate decided by 510,695 votes to 338,838 against the Government proposal for the institution of State social insurance, financed by a tax on tobacco. According to the scheme, every man was to pay 18f., every woman 12f., and employers 15f. a year for every worker, so that a pension of about £10 a year might be paid to every poor citizen aged 66.

The scheme was backed by the Radical Party and by the Socialists. Its rejection was due to a general feeling that its financial basis was not sound and that it would mean a big increase in State expenditure, as the Cantons and Federal

Government were to pay the difference between the combined yield of the tobacco tax and insurance premiums and the sum needed for the scheme. The Swiss people are not opposed to the principle of social insurance, and another scheme has been submitted to the Government by popular initiative.

The Pensions Bill was carried in both chambers by overwhelming majorities, a few months ago, but a referendum was claimed for, with the result that the bill was rejected by a large majority.

schedler, the eminent Swiss Banker was elected member of the Committee.

The judgment delivered at Basel last week against six persons engaged in illicit traffic in heroin drives home once more, in a spectacular way, the solid value of a most important side of the League of Nation's activities. The successful discovery of the criminals—a story which eclipses any professional thriller—was largely due to the energy and resource of Russell Pasha and the Narcotics Bureau which he established at Cairo three years ago to deal with the vast imports of heroin from Europe.

The actual convictions could only be carried through by the closest co-operation between the police and drug departments of the several countries involved, a co-operation which the League has done a great deal to make possible. Till lately the disparities in the drug laws of different nations gave the trafficker many loopholes of escape. Thus, in Switzerland the definition of an illicit drug was so precise that the astute criminal, by adding something to his compound and thus changing its chemical formula, was able to keep technically on the right side of the law. In Austria, the maximum sentence for a drug case was only fifteen days; in France, too, punishment was absurdly inadequate. But in the last year or two so much strenuous and effective publicity has been given to the matter by the League, which has published a black list of persons in all countries—notably those mentioned above—have been forced by pressure of public opinion to come into line and tighten up their drug laws.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of the well-known painter M. Alfred Franzoni, at the age of 84.

VAUD.

M. Gandhi has arrived at Montreux where he was received by M. Romain Rolland, he will stay for a few days with M. Rolland at Villeneuve.

M. P. Perret, has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud, in succession of M. M. Paschoud who has become General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways in Berne.

FOOTBALL.

Belgium 2 Switzerland 1, in Brussels.

After the previous Sunday's debacle against Austria, our national eleven journeyed to Brussels to meet Belgium. As the result proves, the two sides were more evenly matched. Belgium scored in the first half and again soon after the restart. Séchéhaye (Servette) kept goal in place of Pasche. He had to be replaced by Schlegel (Blue Stars) early in the second half and soon afterwards Switzerland scored through Ehrismann (Old Boys) who played his first international game at Centreforward in place of Bütche (Nordstern). Play became very exciting and the final whistle went during a last attack by our "Reds." The match was again broadcast, from Brussels, very fair indeed.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Zurich beat Lugano 2-0 and thus marched forward on their all-conquering way. Basel drew with Bern 2-2 and unlucky Bern thus earned their first point out of seven games. My particular friends, St. Gallen, at last did something worth shouting about. They beat Nordstern 8-1 (sage und schreibe, acht zu eins!) I can forgive them their previous horrible defeat now! Chelsea's turn! In Geneva the two Etoiles, Carouge and Chaux-de-Fonds were matched and as expected Carouge won 5-2.

FIRST LEAGUE.

The two bottom teams in Groupe I met, Stade Lausanne v. Monthey, and drew 1-1, so that Stade secured their first point after eight games. Cheers!

In the second Groupe, Brühl met Concordia in Basel, result 2-2, Luzern beat Winterthur 5-1, Chiasso v. Black Stars 2-0, and Oerlikon v. Locarno 0-3. Competition in this Groupe is very keen. Brühl leads with 13 points from 9 games, followed by Concordia 12 points, but one game in hand, Locarno third 11 points, Oerlikon and Black Stars 7 points and Luzern, Winterthur, Wohlen and Chiasso 6 points each. The future champion will no doubt be one of the first three. Neither can afford to drop points and the result looks like being in the balance until the last match. M.G.