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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

THE FIRST OF AUGUST.

Several cantonal authorities have issued orders to the effect that demonstrations which do not form part of the official celebrations will be prohibited on the 1st of August. Likewise the wearing of uniforms (so called "shirts") and the carrying of any kind of arms are interdicted.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

The official figures of the Federal Accounts for the six months to end of June exhibit an excess of expenditure of 1.8 million francs; for the same period last year a surplus of 19.6 million francs was secured.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

Traffic returns for the first six months of the current year are still unsatisfactory though the figures for the months of April and June compare favourably with the corresponding period last year. The traffic surplus amounts to about 30 million francs (2½ million less than for the first six months in 1932) which is nearly 35 million francs short of the amount required to cover interest, depreciation and amortisation.

ARMY SENTENCES.

During the sitting of the fourth divisional court at Lucerne two legionaries were dealt with. It is not generally known that in 1928 service in a foreign army without the consent of the Federal Council was enacted an offence. One of our compatriots happened to be "down and out" in Paris and as a last resort joined the French Foreign Legion. He was given an excellent character but the Court sentenced him to 60 days imprisonment for having "weakened the defences" of our country. Another one had joined the Legion as far back as 1923; previously to that he had not been altogether a "good boy"; he had even been dismissed from the Swiss Army. He chose to start life afresh in the African desert service. Ten years isolation and hard work in the African sand and sun had not killed the love for his old country which on his return promptly recompenses him with 60 days imprisonment.

LESS SWISS ABROAD.

The number of Swiss who emigrated into overseas countries during the six months to the end of June is 470 or 65 less than in the corresponding period last year.

DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF ...

A Swiss customs official (and a first lieutenant in the Army) at the frontier station of Erzingen happened to make a disparaging remark about the German regime in the hearing of his German colleagues. He was subsequently lured across the frontier, arrested and sentenced to four weeks imprisonment.

SWISS PILOT KILLED.

Werner Stäcklin from Zug who had flown a new machine from Geneva to Lyon in order to deliver it to a local surgeon, subsequently made a fatal crash whilst displaying it to its intended new owner. Both were killed on the spot.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The improvement in the labour market which has been evident since the end of January still proceeds. The number of unemployed registered at the end of June amounts to 53,860 as against 57,163 at end of May. With the exception of the watch industry, all trades have had a share in this improvement, particularly so the textile industry.

LOCAL.

ZÜRICH.

The death is reported of Prof. Robert Seidel after a protracted illness at the age of 83. He was a popular lecturer on social subjects both at the Polytechnicum and the University. He had immigrated in 1870 from Saxony being by trade a weaver, started later on in business, was appointed school-teacher and took a keen interest in municipal affairs. He was a member of the National Council.

BERNE.

The municipality of Bienne has managed to close its financial year with a smaller deficit than was originally anticipated. The deficiency is now only 1.2 million francs (!) instead of 1.4 million francs.

BASLE.

The "Basler Vorwärts," a communist daily will have to find another editor: Robert Krebs, who hails from Oppligen (Canton Berne) has been expelled from the canton by order of the police department; he has given notice of appeal to the States Council.

SOLOTHURN.

Remarkably keen interest was shown in the election of the "Stadtammann" of Olten no less than 93% of the town fathers recording their votes. Dr. Hugo Meyer (liberal) found favour by a small majority over his opponent National Councillor Dr. Kamber (socialist).

A bill is being submitted to the Cantonal Council according to which all civil servants will be automatically pensioned off on reaching the age of 65.

ST. GALL.

The Tamina Gorge between Vättis and Pfäfers was the scene of a serious accident. A large car with six passengers missed the road border and dropped 150 metres. With great difficulty the party was extricated alive and transported to a local hospital. The condition of the chauffeur and Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Bodenmann from Zurich is stated to be grave.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

Dr. Heinrich Bolli (liberal) has, for reasons of health, retired from the Federal States Council of which he has been a member since 1906.

VAUD.

A largely attended meeting of traders and retailers convened by the cantonal Chamber of Commerce protested vigorously against the proposed registration of the "Migros S. A.," apparently a wholesale company transacting a large business with consumers in other parts of Switzerland.

FOOTBALL.

DELEGATES MEETING IN VEVEY.

On July 15/16th important decisions were arrived at, with unprecedented and quite unexpected ease, in an atmosphere of almost perfect harmony.

The National League will consist of 16 Clubs next season, 15 clubs in 1934/35 and 14 clubs in 1935/36. These will play in one group, season to commence on 27th August 1933 and end on 8th July 1934. The final leader of the National League will ipso facto be holder of the Swiss Championship. Those ridiculous "Finals" thus become a thing of the past. As the S.F.A.V. reckoned their loss of revenue caused thereby at no less than frs. 38,000.—, an extra international match is to be played annually by way of compensation. Any remaining deficiency the National League Clubs will have to make good.

The First League continues to play in two groups, East and West, of 9 clubs each, to be increased to 10 and 11 each in the following two seasons.

Some opposition to the President of the Football-Committee, O. Eicher, had made itself felt for some time and whilst Young Boys Bern proposed re-election, F.C. Bern nominated W. Müller, Bern's popular captain of Police, with the result of: O. Eicher 218 Votes (re-elected): W. Müller 185 Votes.

Next years delegates meeting is to take place in Lugano.

And finally we would like to express our great regret at the decision of our old friend Henry Tschudy, to make way for younger blood. His is a great record of 31 years continuous service in the S.F.A.V. where he held at one time or other every important office with distinction. In Eastern Switzerland and particularly in St. Gall his name is a household word, synonymous with "a great sportsman." Let us hope that his vast store of experience and good advice may still be at the disposal of his old Club, F. C. St. Gallen. It is difficult to decide whether to commend or condemn laying down one's charges at the early age of 51. No doubt it has been done with the best intentions and if there are young men to take up the work with equal or greater energy, tact and vision, the S.F.A.V. is indeed to be congratulated. M.G.

1st AUGUST

1291 — 1933.

By KYBURG.

When the tumult of the day has died down, when the hurrying footsteps of those returning from work are not heard anymore, when the little children are safely put away in their cots, when father turns to the newspaper, lights his pipe or cigar or cigarette and settles himself down in his chair to read of happenings outside his immediate circle, when, mother takes up her darning needle and when, through the wide-open windows the preciously cool air of the summer evening streams into the room and all is peace and quietude, when, in the words of that wonderful song "Die Dämmerung sinkt auf's Schweizerland" then, if it be the 1st of August, all of a sudden, bells are heard all over the country, joyous bells, thankful bells, little ones and big, deep-voiced ones, all sending out one momentous message to the people:

Switzerland Again Celebrates Its Independence!

Gladness and gratitude fill the heart of every right thinking man and woman. Gladness that once again Switzerland has been allowed to live a year in peace, gratitude that once again the Swiss People may celebrate that precious gift which surpasses everything else in importance, that FREEDOM.

Bon-fires are lit on the hills and mountains, signalling one to the other that "all is well," songs are sung in the Towns and villages testifying to the same message, speeches are made from endless platforms to thank Providence and to exhort the listeners to continue living lives worthy of FREEMEN and FREEWOMEN.

We SWISS living abroad, separated from our homeland by land and by sea, send our innermost thoughts across on that evening, across to our beloved country, across to the hills and dales, the eternal mountains and in those moments, when we celebrate in close union of spirit with our kinsmen at home, we too feel that deep gratitude, that holy stir in our hearts, we too, testify with our kinsmen and rejoice that once again "all is well."

We are proud to signal, not only to each other, but to the World at large, that "all is well" in Switzerland. We know very well that there is a great deal happening also in Switzerland, to which that signal could not be applied, but when, on the 1st of August we Swiss celebrate our INDEPENDENCE, we say "all is well," and we signal it to those abroad, not in a spirit of arrogance, of superiority, but in a spirit of deep gratitude, and in the hope that others, who, in an effort to cure the ills that beset their people, chase after all sorts of chimerical expedients, might take stock of themselves and their thoughts and turn, for a moment, to the contemplation of what has been achieved in Switzerland and what is being held fast there.

It has been stated with a great show of reason that the abolition of patriotism must necessarily precede any serious attempt to bring the Nations of the World together in a closer union.

It all depends what one understands by the term "patriotism." If it means the love one bears one's own country to the exclusion of kindly consideration for any other, if it means that one's own country must be considered right in every case, that one's own country must come first in every instance, that one must be imbued with the notion that no other country can possibly come near it in any way, that no other country's people