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The Swiss Observer

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS ACTION AGAINST THE NAZIS.

The German Note protesting against the Swiss decision to prohibit Nazi organizations in Switzerland was examined by the Federal Council, a reply will not be drafted for another week.

Reprisals decreed by one German Government department against Switzerland for the suppression of the German Nazi Party in that country have not so far been carried out owing to opposition from another Government department.

To the hotheads eager to suppress all Swiss cultural and social organisations on German territory, it has been pointed out that it would be dangerous for Germany to embark on reprisals against the country where several hundred thousands of her nationals exist.

Orders given to the secret State Police to suppress these organisations were countermanded before they could be executed. —

There appears to be some misunderstanding abroad about the measures taken by the Swiss Federal Government in regard to German Nazi organisations in Switzerland. It was announced that all such organisations had been suppressed in Switzerland, but this is not at present the case.

The position is that the Federal Government has as yet decided only to forbid any sort of national or regional Nazi centre or executive. The local Nazi organisations are not affected. The question of suppressing them, however, is under consideration. Several papers of various political opinions hold that the measure taken by the Government is insufficient and continue to demand the entire suppression of German Nazi organisations. They point out that these organisations will no doubt continue to be subordinated to a central executive, which may send out its messages from some place just across the German-Swiss frontier.

The "Gazette de Lausanne" published an interesting communication, evidently obtained from an official source, about German university students in Switzerland. The communication says that since the beginning of this year the question has been considered whether the corporations of German students in Switzerland could be tolerated any longer. Several domiciliary visits made by the police in Geneva, Zurich, and Berne led to the discovery of documentary evidence which threw a singular light on the part played by German students in Switzerland. It was discovered that the German students before going to Switzerland had to prove that they were able to perform the task that the Government expected from them. Most of them were obliged beforehand to go through a National Socialist training camp where they were prepared for "their special duties."

It was ascertained that some students were instructed to collect information about certain persons living in Switzerland and to send their reports to the competent German authorities, which include the Gestapo. The German students' associations in Switzerland were combined in a corporation of which the headquarters are at Berlin. The students had to undertake to propagate in Switzerland the ideas and conceptions of the Third Reich, and were specially chosen for that purpose.

The bulk of German students did not seem to have sufficiently carried out the instructions that were given to them, and those who did not have been threatened and are in danger at any moment of being recalled to Germany and thus obliged to interrupt their studies in Switzerland.

Other students, however, went very far with their propaganda and even approached persons of German origin who are naturalised Swiss citizens.

MORATORIUM FOR SWISS BANK.

It was announced that the Schweizerische Genossenschaftsbank had been granted a moratorium on its liabilities by the Cantonal authorities of St. Gall for six months.

The bank's capital at the end of 1934 amounted to Frs.20,360,000. The head office is at St. Gall and the principal branches are at Basle, Geneva and Zurich.

SWISS HOARDING.

The total amount of money at present hoarded by private individuals in Switzerland has been calculated by the Swiss Economic Research Committee at 100,000,000 gold francs — about £62,000,000 at current rates.

This sum is stated to be held half in notes and half in gold.

FAREWELL DINNER TO DR. FEER.

The Swiss Colony in Berlin has offered a Farewell dinner to Dr. Feer, Counsellor of Legation on the occasion of his departure. Dr. Feer has been transferred to the Swiss Legation in Washington.

INITIATIVE FOR RE-UNION OF THE CANTONS BASLE TOWN AND BASLE COUNTY ACCEPTED.

The electors of the cantons Basle-town and Basle County accepted last Sunday the re-union initiative.

The figures of the poll are as follows:— Basle Town, for: 20,171; against: 7,450 votes. Basle County, for: 12,722; against: 10,823 votes.

"SCHWEIZERISCHE LANDESAUSTELLUNG" POSTPONED.

The organisation committee of the "Schweizerische Landesaustellung" has decided to postpone the date of the exhibition from 1938 to 1939.

RESULTS OF PRO JUVENTUTE STAMPS.

The net result of the sales of Pro Juventute stamps and postcards in 1934 amounted to Frs. 825,000 (1933: Frs.885,000).

NEW SWISS MINISTER ARRIVES IN ROME.

The newly appointed Swiss Minister, Dr. Ruegg, has arrived in Rome, he was received at the station by a large delegation of Swiss, as well as by various officials of the Italian Foreign Office.

"MISS SWITZERLAND" CONDEMNED.

There will be no "Miss Switzerland" elected this year. Such an avalanche of letters, telegrams and messages of all kinds have reached the jury against "cheap exhibitions of our young women" that the jury has decided to suspend its work for one year and to cancel the competition for 1936.

"We are not willing to allow our girls to tour the world as exhibits of beauty," states a petition bearing over 2,000 signatures. "We prefer to keep them at home, amongst our native mountains where they will be happier and more respected."

CANTONAL BANK OF ZURICH.

Net profit for 1935, 3,555,398f. (3,314,810f.); 305,398f. goes to new account; 1,625,000f. to reserves, 1,300,000f. handed to cantonal exchequer and 325,000f. to fund for poor.

REDUCED PETROL PRICES FOR FOREIGN MOTORISTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to extend until December 31st the order under which visiting motorists from abroad obtain petrol at reduced prices.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IN SWITZERLAND.

The customs receipts for 1935 amount to 267 million francs against 269 million francs in 1934.

The customs for tobacco reached the amount of 41,284,000 frs. and the net receipts for beverages 16,435,000 frs.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH, 1936.

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

HYDE PARK HOTEL, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

On April 20th Zurich will pay tribute to Spring with its traditional "Sechseläuten," or six-o'clock ringing feast. The program opens with a children's parade which escorts the flower bedecked floats bearing the Goddess of Spring and her attendant maidens. An effigy of Winter, known as "Bögg," plays an outstanding part in this fête. Made of wood, with a thick covering of cotton-wool, and stuffed with fire-crackers, this figure is formally deposited on a large open square at the head of the lake. In the afternoon follows a colourful cavalcade of the ancient guilds, and when the clocks strike the hour of six Bögg is set on fire. As he expiates his wrongdoings a company of horsemen in flowing white garb circle the pyre. Bonfires flare up on the surrounding heights and a venetian night festival dispels the last memories of Winter.

M. J. V. Güntensperger has been appointed Manager of the "Banque Populaire Suisse" in Zurich. M. Güntensperger was, since 1928, Manager of the Basle Branch.

The well-known Swiss writer, Adolf Vögtlin, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. M. Vögtlin has written many novels and plays, and for many years he edited the periodicals "Am Häuslichen Herd" and "Merkur."

BASLE.

Dr. Hans Hotz, (Bourgeois Party) has been elected a member of the criminal court with 10,742 votes, his opponent F. Kugler (Socialist) received 9,578 votes.

On March 2nd, historic Basle will start its annual two-day Lenten festivities, consisting of a carnival de luxe, parades and fancy dress balls. The city's widely-famed drummers will, as usual, be prominent participants in the out-of-doors doings.

BERNE.

The so-called "Hunger" Spring above Bienne has started to flow again! This spring bursts forth at intervals of from 5 to 7 years and is evidently an overflow of some subterranean water course. However, as the name suggests, popular superstition regards the occasional appearances of these water with awe, for they are said to presage a year of drought and even famine.

The death has occurred in Interlaken of M. Hans Ruef, notary and for many years a member of the communal council.

GENEVA.

The death is reported from Geneva of M. H. de Mynen, the well-known portrait and landscape painter at the age of 76.

The first international automobile race for the "Grand Prix of Geneva" will be held on May 31st. Accommodation for upwards of 100,000 spectators is to be provided along the Quai Gustave Ador. On the following day, (June 1st) the "International Grand Prix for Motorcycles" will be competed for.

Professor Jacques, Eugène Choisy, lecturer at the theological University in Geneva, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. He enjoys a great reputation as an expert on Calvin and the history of the reformation. Professor Choisy is also President of the Association of Swiss Protestant Churches.

AARGAU.

Federal and cantonal subsidies have been granted for the exploitation of an iron mine near Herzpach in the Fricktal. The ore was found in an extensive hillside area behind the parish church and it is estimated that some 23 million tons can be mined, yielding about 7 million tons of pure iron.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Albert Henney from Ziefen (Basle-County) to the post of Manager of the National Bank in Aarau, in succession to M. Trachsler.

FRIBOURG.

The cantonal Government has sent a letter to Dr. Ehrhardt, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Fribourg, and a German subject, warning him to cease any Nazi propaganda. This is the second time that Professor Ehrhardt has been warned.