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Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1944)**

Heft 1028

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY 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 2321/2.

Published Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 26 — No. 1028.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29th, 1944.

PRICE 6d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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UNITED KINGDOM	{ ( 6 issues, post free) . . . . .	3/6
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(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Contradictory reports as to the fate of letters handed to post offices here and in Switzerland have competed with each other and have left us in the dark. On August 20th it was stated officially in Switzerland that the air mail carried by Swissair on the Zurich-Stuttgart route was suspended. Letters and parcels already lying in Swiss post offices were being despatched by rail via St. Margarethen-Lindau-Munich whence after inspection by the censor the oversea part was expected to be flown to Lisbon. Later on the Swiss P.O. declined to accept any airmail for abroad and on the 31st similar action was taken by the Postmaster-General in this country. However, as for the first time since May, 1940, we have a common frontier with the Allies, it can be a matter of days only before a regular postal service, restricted, perhaps, will be resumed between our two countries.

The existing exchange agreement between Turkey and Switzerland has been extended to December 1st.

In the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council which met on September 13th, Federal Councillor Pilez-Golaz expounded the delicate position of the last phase of the war imposed on Switzerland. He was of opinion that post-war desiderata would necessitate the establishment of new diplomatic and commercial representations abroad apart from strengthening the existing ones. Considerable financial sacrifices for this expansion could not be avoided.

According to the Swiss Radio the Federal Council has bestowed upon their colleague, the President of the Confederation, the title of Dr.h.c.(!).

### Cantonal

A violent hail storm visited the region of Lucerne on August 24th when the tramway service had to be temporarily suspended and the cellars in the town were flooded.

A reported raid by local footpads on the office of the Andermatt branch of the Urner Kantonalbank and the removal of Frs. 30,000 was subsequently discovered after police enquiries to be a feint staged by the cashier to cover up defalcations of a like amount.

What is described as an old-age "assistance" scheme was approved by the electors of the canton Zurich with an overwhelming majority. It is a temporary measure pending the introduction of Federal old-age insurance which may take some years to become operative.

The intended re-organisation of the Beromünster station orchestra is meeting with considerable opposition in the musical profession.

Dr. Walter Weibel, one of the foreign editors of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, has now definitely retired after 25 years of journalism. His sympathetic personality will be well remembered by the older members of the London Colony where, soon after the last war, he displayed an active interest.

Dr. Th. Hämmerli-Schindler, a widely consulted heart specialist, died in Zürich at the age of 61 after a prolonged illness.

A private mountaineering tour on the Mürtschenstock claimed three victims through the leading climber losing his foothold and dragging the other two after him. They are all from Winterthur, their names being Lt. Richard Hess, aged 22, and the brothers Albert and Walter Ganz, aged 22 and 19 respectively.

In the elections for the Landsrat of the canton Glarus, the four old parties practically retained their relative strength, though the socialists increased their number from 10 to 13 seats.

The municipal accounts of Berne for 1943 closed with a small surplus which surpassed the budgeted amount by about five million francs. The Stadtrat decided on the motion of a socialist member to reduce the rents of "council" houses to tenants with large families.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

### L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi, le 24 octobre, 1944 à 6h., dîner à 6h. 30 au DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1.

Cette assemblée sera en forme d'un "BIERABIG."

Les Membres sont priés de s'inscrire par écrit au plus tard le 20 octobre auprès de M. P. A. Moehr, Hon. Secr., Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

Prière de s'abstenir de téléphoner.

LE COMITÉ.