

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1947)
Heft: 1074

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 30. No. 1074.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 1947.

PRICE 6d.

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(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto
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NEWS AT RANDOM

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Excessive speed in passing a curve at Fellibrücke near Amsteg (Uri) was responsible for the death of two young brothers, Walter and Siegfried Meier, who on their motor cycles missed the road border and disappeared in the Fellibach. [A.T.S.]

Record figures — the highest since 1925 — in the frequentation of hotels and pensions in Zurich are published for the month of July. 124,088 (107,381 in July 1946) visitors found shelter occupying 91.6% of the available sleeping accommodation (83.9%); of these 71,421 (49,196) were foreign tourists a quarter of whom came from Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland. First class hotels claimed the highest proportion of this patronage. [A.T.S.]

For the second time within the life-time of the generation two large adjoining farmsteads were burnt out in Ober-Seglingen near Eglisau. No lives were lost though one of the farmers named Fehr suffered badly from burns and had to be taken to hospital. Most of the cattle were saved but a large stock of cereals, fodder and agricultural implements were reduced to cinders. A short circuit is believed to have been the cause of the conflagration and the damage is stated to exceed 250,000 francs. [A.T.S.]

A memorable achievement will be remembered by the death of Henri Daniel Gross, who passed away at Winterthur at the age of 75. He entered as a young man 55 years ago the engineering firm of J. J. Rieter & Co., A.G., was made a director in 1907 and joined the board in 1925 of which he was vice-president. [A.T.S.]

By a small majority the voters of Zug decided to impose an entertainment tax (Billetsteuer). The proceeds — Frs. 15,000 all told — are to be assigned to the up-keep and amortisation of gymnastic and sports installations and the furtherance of cultural, musical and sports activities [A.T.S.]

In the district of Langenthal experiments encouraged by subsidies are being made by the local Aeroclub to produce rain by spraying an ice-preparation over the clouds. It is stated that these trials have so far been stimulating and in a few instances even successful but it has not been definitely established that rain supposed to have been produced was not the result of natural impulses. [A.T.S.]

Senseless form-filling, restrictions in treatment and medicaments and official interference in the relations between doctor and patient are given as the reasons for the resignation of 53 local practitioners from their contract or agreement with the sick-fund. [A.T.S.]

The mayor (Stadtpräsident) of Berne has left for Moscow with two colleagues following an official invitation to attend the 800th anniversary celebration of that town. [A.T.S.]

A large farmstead in Mühledorf near Bümplitz, owned by Ernst Schwab, was set on fire, the cattle alone being saved. Lorries, benzine and the harvest so far gathered were ruined and the loss is estimated to exceed 100,000 francs. [A.T.S.]

A row of six houses were destroyed by a fire which broke out in Kaisten in the Laufenburg district. Shortage of water hampered the efforts of the fire brigades from Rheinfelden and Brugg. The fire broke out just before midday and there is no loss of life or cattle but 300,000 francs worth of damage has been caused. About fifty people including twenty children have been rendered homeless. The conflagration is attributed to children playing with matches. [A.T.S.]

Speeding whether by car or cycle is generally considered by Swiss courts as a pardonable offence. In a

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