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Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1947)**

Heft 1064

PDF erstellt am: **16.07.2024**

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

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 30. No. 1064.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th, 1947.

PRICE 6d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

(Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	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

Swiss imports in February have decreased by 21,000,000 Swiss francs and exports increased by over 13,000,000 francs over the January figures.

With imports to the value of 36,000,000 francs and exports amounting to 57,300,000 francs, the United States continues to be the principal factor in Switzerland's foreign trade. Among the suppliers of Switzerland, the United States is followed by France, the Belgian-Luxembourg customs union, Italy, Britain, Argentina and Czechoslovakia. Apart from the United States, principal markets of Swiss goods were in France, Belgium-Luxembourg, Sweden, Argentina, Czechoslovakia and Great Britain.

Products of the watch industry maintained their dominant position among the country's exports with 50,360,000 Swiss francs. Machinery to the value of 40,800,000 francs, occupying the second place, represents a considerable increase over the January figures. Exports of silk, cotton and products of the chemical industry maintained their January levels.

All restrictions regarding the consumption of electricity in Switzerland have been taken off.

The wholesale price index of Switzerland rose to 203.9 by the end of February 1947, against 100 for August 1939. The increase during January amounted to 0.2 per cent, and to 3.1 per cent. during the year between January 1946 and January 1947.

An agreement has recently been concluded between Switzerland and Liechtenstein on one part and Sweden on the other, eliminating visas after the first of this month, except for persons who desire to take up jobs in Sweden, as well as in Switzerland.

The Federal Political Department makes known that similar negotiations with other countries are under way.

According to a statement issued by the Federal Finance Department, there were, at the end of December 1946, altogether 87,207 persons in the employ of the Confederation, of these, 31,975 were employed by the Swiss Federal Railways.

There are forty-four Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Swiss Confederation in Berne, consisting of 33 Ministers, 5 permanent and 6 (ad. int.) Chargé d'Affaires. The total number of diplomats accredited is 265 which constitutes a record.

The Federal Council has promoted M. André Parodi, 1st Secretary of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Rome, to Counsellor of Legation. M. Parodi was born in 1909, and hails from Geneva, he entered the diplomatic service in 1932.

M. Henri Voirier, formerly in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Marseilles (ad. interim) has been promoted Consul at Besancon. He joined the Consular Service in 1932, and the Swiss Consulate in Marseilles in 1937.

Dr. Max Holzer, has been nominated Vice-Director of the "Bundesamt für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit." He was born in 1902, and after having studied political economy at the Universities of Jena, Munich and Berne, entered into the service of the B.I.G.A. in 1933.

After a break of more than nine years, the Republic of Austria has again a Legation in Berne.

The Austrian Government has appointed Monsieur Rudolf Seemann as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Swiss Confederation, he has recently presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les Membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

aura lieu Mardi, 29 Avril, 1947, au BROWN'S HOTEL, DOVER STREET, W.1, le diner commencera à 6.30 heures précises.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Décharge au Comité.
Admissions et Démissions.	Elections du Comité pour 1947-1948.
Divers Rapports.	Divers.

Messieurs les Membres sont priés de s'inscrire par écrit pas plus tard que le 25 Avril auprès du Manager, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.