

News at random

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1950)**

Heft 1139

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

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

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 35. No. 1139.

FRIDAY, JULY 14th, 1950.

PRICE 8d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	6 issues, post free	4/6
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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Minister, Dr. Jean Hotz, since 1935 Director of the Commercial Section of the Federal Economic Office (Eidg. Volkswirtschaftsdepartement), has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Berne.

Born in Uster (Ct. Zurich) he studied political economy at the Universities of Zurich, Geneva and London. After an appointment with a Banking Institute, and a post as teacher at the cantonal commercial school in Zurich, he entered into the service of the Federal Economic Office, of which he was appointed Vice-Director in 1928 and Director of the commercial section in 1935.

Minister Hotz represented our Government at numerous international meetings in connection with commercial treaties. In 1947, he received the title of Minister.

The Swiss Government will be officially represented on the occasion of the initiation of the new President of the Republic of Columbia. Monsieur Ernst Schlatter, Chargé d'Affaires in Bogota will attend the celebration.

The newly appointed Canadian Minister, M. Victor Doré has presented his credentials to Monsieur

Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

M. Doré had been from 1946 Canadian Ambassador in Brussels and at the same time Minister for Luxemburg.

During the month of May, 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.14 million passengers, or 91,000 less than in May, 1949. The receipts were reduced by 131,000.—frs. and are 23.41 million francs.

Goods traffic registers an increase on last years figures by 52,000 tons, and is given as 1.35 millions tons, the receipts of which are 26.31 million francs or 1.86 million francs more than in May, 1949.

Cantonal

A mountaineer, Ernst Wyss-Frey, aged 45, from Aarau lost his life whilst climbing in the Krönten district, near Erstfeld, his body was found in a *couloir* of the Männlisser (Ct. Uri). [A.T.S.]

The Arth Rigi Railway has celebrated its 75th Jubilee. A Banquet was held at Rigi-Klösterli to com-

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 30th July, 1950
2.30 to 5.00 p.m. (Doors open 2.00 p.m.)

AT THE

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memorate the occasion, at which various speeches were made. [A.T.S.]

Burglars smashed the windows of a Jeweller's shop in the Pilatusstrasse in Lucerne, and got away with goods worth several thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. h.c. Jakob Schmidheiny, a former National-Councillor, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary in Heerbrugg.

The Federal Institute of Technology (E.T.H.) Zurich has bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Elise Wildi-Peter, who was born in Schafisheim (Ct. Aargau), has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

During the month of May, 1950, 768 (May, 1949: 542) traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich. Nine people (May, 1949: 5) were killed. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Rudolf Fueter, since 1916, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

Professor Fueter is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Oslo. [A.T.S.]

States-Councillor, Dr. A. Iten, has resigned from his post as State prosecutor of the canton of Zug, he had held this office since 1930. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Dr. R. Pfenninger, Director of the National Bank, Zurich, expressing thanks for the services which he had rendered. (We understand, that Dr. R. Pfenninger will assume an important post with a London Banking house.) [A.T.S.]

The "Handels & Industrieverein" St. Gall has recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

A ceremony took place at the "Grossratssaal", at which a large gathering of representatives from the Federal and cantonal authorities were present.

In his address of welcome the President, Dr. Wegelin, referred to the history of this Society. Federal-Councillor Rubattel delivered the greetings of the Swiss Government.

The following were nominated Honorary Members of the "Handels & Industrieverein": Dr. Albert Hautley (Goldach); Dr. Friedrich Hug, Dr. R. Ikle,

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Prof., Dr. Paul Keller, Prof., Dr. P. H. Schmidt and Carl Stucki. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Anna Aenisegger-Moosberger has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary at Lütisburg (Toggenburg). [A.T.S.]

Pater Alexander Lozza, one of the chief exponents of Romantsch literature, and author of numerous novels, plays and poems has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Tiefencastel (Ct. Grisons). [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Aargau, Mme. Josefina Suter-Bütler has died in Holderstock near Sins, at the age of 101. [A.T.S.]

A piper Sports aeroplane crashed into the "Schöllenen Schlucht", near Göschenen (Ct. Uri). Both the pilot and his passenger were killed. The names of the victims are Alois Rüttimann and his wife, of Wetzikon (Ct. Thurgau). [A.T.S.]

Dr. Pierre Favarger, National-Councillor from 1927-1932, and since 1913 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, over which he presided in 1934/44, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. By profession a lawyer, he is at present the oldest member practising at the bar. [A.T.S.]

Economics

Negotiations in connection with a 50 million Swiss franc loan to the Belgian Congo Administration are under way in Switzerland. The plentiful supply of

capital on the Swiss market will, it is believed, enable the Congo loan to be granted without arranging conditional orders of Swiss electrical equipment.

* * *

The Swiss wholesale price index, based on August 1939 equalling 100, rose to 196.8 in May from 193.9 in April. The index based on July 1914 equalling 100 rose to 211.4 in May from 208.2 in April.

The Swiss cost-of-living index, based on August 1939 equalling 100, rose to 158.2 in May from 157.5 in April.

—oO—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Philippe Pierrehumbert, for many years Protestant Pastor in Moutier, at the age of 73.

Gustave Curchod, Manager of the "Banque Cantonale" in Lausanne.

August Ackermann, "Christlichsozialer Gewerkschaftsführer" for 30 years, in Zurich, aged 67.

Colonel Luigi Hirschbühl, a former commander of the papal Swiss guard at the Vatican, in Burvagn (Ct. Grisons), at the age of 67.

The deceased was born in Chur in 1883, and after a lengthy military career in Switzerland entered the Swiss guard in Rome, reaching the rank of Captain in 1910. Eleven years later (1921), he was appointed commander of the Swiss guard by Pope Benedikt XV with the rank of Colonel. In 1935, he relinquished his post and returned to Switzerland.

Armand Taillefert, for many years Director of the cantonal agricultural school Cernier (Ct. Neuchâtel) in Pesoux, at the age of 64.

Eugène Thiébaud, from 1921-1948, a teacher of French and History at the Commercial School in Neuchâtel, at Grindelwald, aged 67.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Güntensperger of Trogen (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland. Mr. and Mrs. P. Rügsegger of Frick (Ct. Aargau), have also reached 60 years of married life. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Veuve O. Salvagni-Darani, a citizeness of the canton of Ticino, has celebrated her 105th birthday anniversary in Zug, she is the oldest inhabitant of Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Unemployment in Switzerland on May 31st this year totalled less than one per cent. of the working population. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The next "Schweiz. Tonkünstlerfest" will be held on May 19th-20th, 1951, at Sitten (Ct. Valais).

[A.T.S.]

* * *

According to a report from the "Schweizer Europahilfe" Berne, an amount of frs.1,150,000.— was collected in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

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The Swiss Government are considering placing a large order for British tanks.

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After the recent announcement on the necessity of building up home food reserves the Swiss Federal Government has published instructions to that effect. It recommends that every family should purchase food-

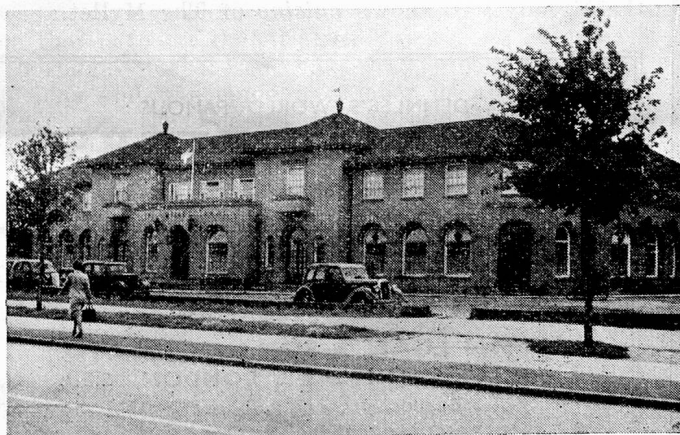
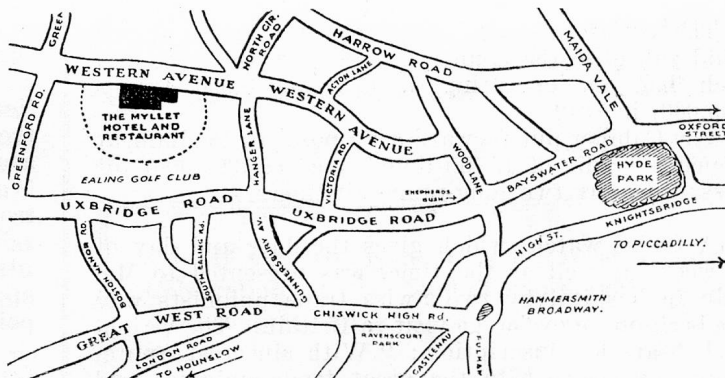
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stuffs constituting a minimum for each person — namely, 6lb. sugar, 4lb. fats, 6lb. rice, and *ad lib.*, according to the possibility of storing them; also a certain amount of macaroni, flour, oats, barley, maize, and dried vegetables. These reserves must be built up before mid-September next, and the communes will help the poorer families. Hotels, restaurants, and hospitals are asked also to build up sufficient reserves of these products. The Government emphasizes that Switzerland almost entirely depends on imports for her re-victualling and that measures such as the building up of reserves are natural at a time when the political situation is tense.

The prolonged attempt to finalise plans for the remodelling of Berne Central Station and its immediate surroundings has been brought nearer to a conclusion by the recent publication of the results of a further contest. Earlier, more far-reaching plans to move the entire station to a more spacious site some distance away had been discarded, and the general track layout of the existing station had to be accepted. The programme also called for due regard to architecturally valuable buildings in the vicinity. The main purpose of the latest contest was to obtain ideas which could be embodied in the final plans.

The assessing committee does not recommend immediate measures to place some of the road traffic underground, but this possibility should not be prejudiced. It is, however, recommended to create adequate parking space above or below ground. The idea of combining the station building with a major office building is favoured, and the construction of commercially useful buildings above the tracks is not ruled out.

The Swiss Cabinet has proposed that the State should subsidise the country's main air line Swissair, which had an operating loss of 5,000,000 francs (£400,000) in 1949.

The Cabinet put forward a proposal in Parliament to open a credit of 15 million francs (£1,200,000) for Swissair to buy two long-range air-liners.

A Swiss watch, which gives the date and day of the week, as well as the time, was presented to Mr. Bevin in hospital by two Swiss trade unionists who have been on an exchange visit to Britain. The watch, which bears the inscription: "With sincerest appreciation and respect to the great trade unionist and politician, Ernest Bevin," is a gift from the Swiss Trades Union Congress.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"*Semaine Suisse*" (Service de Presse).

La presse finlandaise a réservé un accueil aussi chaleureux qu'inattendu à l'exposition suisse du livre à Helsinki. On peut relever les appréciations suivantes: la présentation des livres s'est maintenue pendant la guerre au niveau qui avait fait la renommée de l'édition suisse; aucune autre exposition étrangère n'a jamais produit un effet aussi représentatif en Finlande. Il est remarquable qu'un pays aussi petit que la Suisse puisse présenter une telle quantité d'ouvrages de qualité; ce seul témoignage prouve le niveau culturel élevé qu'a atteint notre pays.

Le président d'une grande fabrique américaine de boîtes de montres a donné son impression sur son récent voyage en Europe: la Suisse est le meilleur des petits états du monde; les Suisses sont très doués et voient courir le vent . . .

L'ingénieur genevois Jean Dreyfus-Graf a inventé le sténosonographe, appareil qui transpose la parole en signes d'écriture.

Une mission commerciale du Pakistan va sous peu visiter la Suisse.

1st OF AUGUST DINNER AND BALL AT THE MYLLET.

Whilst this year's First of August celebration of the Swiss Colony takes place on Sunday, July 30th, at the Stoll Theatre, Kingsway, a Dinner and Ball has been arranged by our countryman, Albert Widmer, at "The Myllet", Western Avenue, Perivale, Middx., on August 1st, which is on a Tuesday.

The Swiss Accordion Club, which recently performed with great success at the "Fête Suisse," has arranged a special programme and a well-known "Yodeller" from Berne, has been engaged to appear; in addition the famous band of Tony Wayne will provide dance music.

Besides accommodation in the attractive Restaurant, room will be put at the disposal of the visitors on the illuminated Restaurant Terrace, which is under cover.

To remind our countrymen of the 659th Anniversary of the Confederation, in a more material way, the famous Swiss Chef of the Myllet, Monsieur Sallet, is arranging an attractive Menu, consisting of such well-known specialities as *f.i.*, Fondue, Rame Quin, Onion Soup, etc., etc.

To "toast" the future of the homeland, a selection of vintage wines from the sun-kissed vineyards of the cantons of Valais, Vaud and Neuchâtel will be available at very reasonable prices. The price per head has been fixed at £1.1.0. Dinner will be served from 7.30 p.m. and evening dress is to be worn.

We understand, that several Swiss parties have already booked their tables, and it is advisable to apply as early as possible, in order not to be disappointed.

This intimate celebration, promises to be a real family party, which will, no doubt, add new lustre to the already well-known *cuisine* of The Myllet.

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