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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

During the month of March, 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.37 million passengers (March 1949: 16.15 million). The receipts from passenger service are given as 19.89 million francs (March 1949: 20.13 million francs).

Goods traffic declined by 100,000 tons and is returned as having totalled 1.23 million tons, the receipts brought in 23.84 million francs, or 1.69 million francs less than in March 1949.

The Federal Council has appointed George Falquier to the post of Vice-Consul in Tangier.

Falquier was born in Geneva in 1905, and is a citizen of Vevytau (Ct. Vaud), he entered the Consular Service in 1930, and has previously held posts at the Swiss Consulates in Mühlhausen, Sydney, Brisbane and Singapore.

### Cantonal

Dr. Hans Ming (Giswil), has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Obwalden, he has had a seat in the "Kantonsrat" since 1946. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Werner Allgöwer, socialist (Lucerne), a member of the "Amtsgericht", has entered the National Council, in succession to Mr. Paul Fröhlich. [A.T.S.]

A very interesting programme for the "Zürcher Juni Festwochen" has been arranged.

Three works by the Swiss composer Arthur Honegger, will be given, amongst them the "Cantique des cantiques". (First performance in Switzerland).

During the first week in June the Scala Opera Company (Milano) will present the "Barber of Sevilla" and "La Tosca" and the Opéra Comique (Paris) will present the opera "Werther".

Fritz Busch, will conduct Mozart's opera "The marriage of Figaro" and Robert Denzler, Beethoven's "Fidelio".

The "Old Vic" company (London) will give a performance of "Hamlet".

Various symphony concerts will be conducted by Eric Kleiber, George Szell and Paul Hindemith. Amongst the soloists engaged are: Yehudi Menuhin, Horszowski and Cathleen Ferrier. [A.T.S.]

Professor W. v. Gonzenbach, since 1920, Professor of Bacteriology at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Vaterlaus has been elected President of the government of the canton of Zurich for the year 1950/51. Dr. Briner has been elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

The "A.G. Textildruckerei Hohlenstein" of Glarus, has made a donation of 20,000 frs. to the "Kindergartenschule" Glarus. [A.T.S.]

Marcel Bezençon, until recently Director of the studio Lausanne, has been elected General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Rundspruchgesellschaft."

Bezençon was born in 1907, and is a citizen of Orbe and Ballaigues, he studied languages at the Universities of Lausanne, Vienna and Rome, and for many years followed the profession of a journalist. From 1932-1939 he was the theatre, cine, art and literature critic of the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne." In 1939, he was appointed a Director of the Radio Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Professor A. Schädelin, Professor of Theology at the University of Berne, has retired from his post on reaching retirement age. [A.T.S.]

The final accounts of the "KABA" Exhibition, which was held in the summer of 1949, at Thun, have just been published. The accounts close with a credit balance of 678,823.32 frs.

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The guarantee capital was paid back in full, and various exhibitors received a donation towards their exhibition costs, leaving a net profit of 250,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Gottlieb Wehrli of St. Margarethen (Ct. St. Gall), has made various bequests totalling 50,000.—frs. to charitable institutions of the town of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Oscar Beer, Editor of the "Davoser Zeitung", has resigned from his post, he is succeeded by Mr. Trenkwaller, hitherto on the editorial staff of the "Fricktaler Bote" in Frick. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Army-Corps Commander Theophil Sprecher von Bernegg, Chief of Staff of the Swiss army during the first world war, who died in December 1927, a memorial service was held in Maienfeld (Ct. Grisons).

The following high ranking Swiss Officers took part in the service: Colonel Louis de Montmollon, Chief of the General Staff, representing the Federal Military Department, Army-Corps Commanders Lardelli and Wille, Colonel of division Ch. Dubois and Colonels of Brigade Wichser and Hold.

The Government of the canton of Grisons was represented by a delegation of three of its members. Speeches were made by Colonel de Haller, and Army-Corps Commanders Lardelli and de Montmollin.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Kabelwerke Brugg" have made a donation amounting to 100,000.—frs. to the District Hospital in Brugg (Ct. Aargau), towards the cost of additional buildings, which are estimated to require the sum of 700,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Dr. 7. Goldschmid, professor of Medicine at the University of Lausanne, and a member of the "Académie internationale d'histoire des sciences," has been nominated a corresponding member of the Swedish Medical Association. ([A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Benjamin Rossier, a Banker in La Tour de Peilz, has left the sum of 10,000.—frs. to the urban council of La Tour de Peilz for needy families. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The ashes of Colonel Ami Girard — who, in 1848, together with his friend, Colonel Fritz Couvoisier

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staged the Neuchâtelois revolution" were interned at the cemetery of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. C. Pitteloud, has been elected President of the government of the canton of Valais. M. Troillet will act as Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

### Economics

The trade agreement which was concluded a few days ago in Berne with an Indian delegation assumes considerable importance on account of the envisaged delivery of capital goods required for the further industrial development of India. The new agreement, which will remain in force until the end of February next year, provides for the shipment of Swiss goods valued at almost 100 million of Swiss francs. These goods include machine tools worth 18 million francs, other machinery amounting to 22 million francs, railway carriages costing five million francs, aluminium and manufactures therefrom, as well as chemical goods aggregating 17 million Swiss francs. India proposes to increase substantially her shipments of a wide range of goods, including manganese ore, raw materials for the chemical industry, timber, jute, hides and skins, and oilseeds.

It is indicated that both the Swiss and the Indian economic authorities are anxious to bring about an intensification of trade relations. In particular, it is

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hoped that the export of Swiss capital goods will lead to higher invisible exports in the form of services of Swiss technicians and other experts, the payment of royalties and licence fees and so on.

The Swiss cost-of-living index based on June 1914 equalling 100 declined to 216.8 in March from 217.2 in February. That based on the average for August 1939 equalling 100 fell to 158 in March from 158.3 in February.

An interest rate of only 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. is offered on a new 15-year loan of Frs.5 million, which is being raised by the City of St. Gall. Recent offers of this type have carried interest at the rate of 3 per cent.

Most Swiss banks are still paying 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. interest on deposit accounts, but it appears not unlikely that the banks will find it necessary to revise their rates in the near future.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Rosa Goettisheim, for 32 years a teacher at the "Mädchen Gymnasium" in Basle, and later President of the "Basler Frauenzentrale", at Basle, at the age of 75.

The deceased was also Central President of the Swiss teacher's association.

Dr. Auguste Junod, specialist for throat and ear diseases, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 59.

Mme Veuve A. Segesser-Peyer, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Lucerne, at the age of 101.

Charles Gorgerat, in Lausanne, aged 71, due to a motoring accident. The deceased was from 1911-1936, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, over which he presided in 1931. He was a member of Parliament (National Council) for twelve years.

[A.T.S.]

Here are further balances of the accounts for 1949, of the following cantons:

Valais .....Debit Balance Frs. 1,520,000.—  
Grisons .....Debit Balance Frs. 979,044.—

Scotland beat Switzerland 3—1 in their international Association football match at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on April 26th.

Delicate children from Dewsbury and Barnsley, 21 of them, have left for Switzerland for four months as guests of the Swiss Red Cross.

Three alpine scientists from Switzerland will join Canadians preparing to explore a mountain range near the North Pole.

## PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

On projette actuellement sur les écrans de l'Allemagne occidentale un certain nombre de films documentaires suisses, sous le titre général de "Voyages en Suisse." Les cinémas sont décorés d'affiches publicitaires représentant des paysages suisses. Ces séances rencontrent partout beaucoup d'intérêt de la part du public.

La Suisse reste le pays des congrès internationaux ! Une assemblée internationale des opticiens se termine ces jours à Berne. Les délégués étrangers ont déclaré être enchantés de l'hospitalité Suisse. En 1952 aura lieu à Lucerne une exposition internationale de photographie.

D'après son rapport pour 1949, l'école d'aviation sportive de Berne-Belpmoos est la plus grande école privée de vol à voile d'Europe.

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Le pianiste Paul Baumgartner a donné 4 concerts à Belgrade, qui ont provoqué l'enthousiasme des quelque 1200 spectateurs qui assistaient à chacun d'eux. Les milieux musicaux de Belgrade considèrent Baumgartner comme le meilleur interprète de Beethoven. Elisabeth Wyss a donné une soirée de chant à Amsterdam, qui a été chaudement accueillie par le public et la presse.

\* \* \*

Le Choeur Bach des Grisons, renforcé par des membres de la Cécilienne de Glaris, sous la direction de Jacob Kobelt, et avec l'accompagnement de l'Orchestre de chambre de Thurgovie, a donné le "Messie" de G.-F. Haendel à La Haye, Rotterdam et Amsterdam. Les solistes étaient: Dora van Doorn-Lindemann, Katharina Marti, Heinz Huggler et Hermann, Schey. De nombreux membres des corps diplomatique et consulaire ont suivi les concerts de La Haye et d'Amsterdam. Cette tournée a remporté un grand succès et la presse a qualifié l'exécution d'excellente.

\* \* \*

Adrian Aeschbacher a joué à la radio danoise. Le concert au studio a été honoré de la présence du couple royal. Le ballet "Don Quichotte," d'après le livret et la musique de Robert Gerhard, un argovien résidant à Cambridge, a été donné en première au Covent Garden de Londres, avec Margot Fonteyn et Robert Helpman dans les rôles principaux.

#### THE 34th SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR IN BASLE.

The Swiss Industries Fair which has just closed its doors was characterised by the fact that the exhibitors, present in just as large numbers as the previous year (2,200), had not placed very great hopes in this year's Fair, owing to the present economic situation.

However, the Fair was a huge success from the point of view of visitors, having attracted something like 650,000 altogether, and this figure was only exceeded in 1948 and 1946. As for foreign buyers, their numbers increase every year; this year more than 10,000 were recorded at the Foreign Visitors Office specially organised for them, and it is known that a large proportion of the visitors from foreign countries omit to have themselves registered by the office in question. Germany was there once again for the first time since the war, and headed the list, followed by France, the Benelux countries, Italy, Austria, Great Britain. For the first time, the number of visitors from overseas exceeded 500.

It is rather difficult to gain an exact idea of the volume of business done at this year's Fair, owing to the fact that opinions vary from one group to another

and even amongst firms in the same line of business. Still, it can be said, in a general way, that the exhibitors who sell their goods mainly on the home market were surprised to have to deal with such a steady demand for their goods. This was particularly the case in the furniture section and in the important group comprising domestic supplies, but it also applied to other industrial sectors, e.g., lighting equipment, building materials, etc.

Amongst those firms working specially for export trade, those connected with technical lines such as the electrical industry, machinery and particularly wood-working machinery and textile machinery aroused a great deal of interest amongst foreign visitors. The textile industry, which is leaning more and more towards the home market, has nevertheless still a large number of foreign firms interested in the particular specialities in that line of business. The watchmaking industry is able to hold its own as a result of efforts to make suitable propaganda, but it is meeting increasing difficulties in the form of customs restrictions and quota regulations in other countries.

Mention should also be made of admiring comments heard from foreign visitors about the excellent presentation of the exhibits at the Fair, in a compact and well ordered display of Swiss industrial production in all its varied aspects, and that is assuredly not the least of the successes booked by the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle this year.

The next Swiss Industries Fair will be held in Basle from the 7th to the 17th April, 1951.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, May 26th, 1950.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations, over and above their subscriptions:

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