

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1952)
Heft: 1186

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, L.S. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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. 37. No. 1186.

FRIDAY, JULY 25th, 1952.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

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(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss electorate has rejected the Government's proposal for raising Frs. 1,463 m. (£121.9 m) for defence by means of new taxes for all, including a tax on all drinks but milk.

The final results of the national referendum was 352,205 to 256,035 against. The Federal Council must now work out a new method of raising the money. The rearmament scheme will go on; only the method has been rejected.

Here are the particulars of the voting:

Zürich	68,706	67,000
Bern	40,317	38,853
Luzern	11,478	15,149
Uri	1,726	1,842
Schwyz	1,906	5,057
Obwalden	796	1,378
Nidwalden	1,172	1,604
Glarus	2,571	3,321
Zug	1,708	2,506
Fribourg	2,866	10,699
Solothurn	11,560	9,790
Baselland	5,818	8,237
Baselstadt	9,000	10,340
Schaffhausen	5,247	7,192
Appenzell A.Rh.	2,806	6,162
Appenzell I.Rh.	418	993
St. Gallen	20,333	26,971
Graubünden	8,776	8,840
Aargau	29,842	35,301
Thurgau	11,146	16,452
Ticino	4,052	6,577
Vaud	5,252	31,439
Valais	1,558	11,157
Neuchâtel	3,617	11,078
Genève	3,364	14,267
Total	256,035	352,205

43 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

Monsieur Asaf Ali, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of India, has presented his credentials to Dr. C. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly appointed Minister was a very active member of the Indian National Congress, and in 1947 was appointed Ambassador in Washington, and a year later, attained the post as Governor of Onissa.

* * *

Customs receipts in June, 1952, totalled Frs. 49.5 million or 2.3 million francs less than in June, 1951.

During the first six months of the current year, 291.9 million francs were collected for customs duties, which is 20.2 million francs less than during the same period in 1951.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 15.87 million passengers during the month of May, 1952, or 596,000 less than in May, 1951. The receipts are given as 23.99 million francs. (May, 1951: 24.18 million francs).

Goods traffic during the same period is about the same as a year ago. (1.72 million tons) Receipts: 32.09 million francs. (May, 1951: 31.95 million francs).

* * *

Cantonal

Dr. Peter Meyer, the well-known art historian and Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Dublin. (Trinity College). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Horgen (Ct. Zurich) has recently celebrated the 1,000 year of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

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