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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, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The various Departments in the Swiss Government have been assigned as follows:

Political Department:		
	M. Petitpierre,	Deputy: Ph. Etter,
Home Affairs:		
	Ph. Etter,	Deputy: M. Weber,
Justice and Police:		
	M. Feldmann,	Deputy: J. Escher,
Military:		
	K. Kobelt,	Deputy: M. Feldmann,
Finance and Customs:		
	M. Weber,	Deputy: M. Petitpierre,
Public Economy:		
	M. Rubattel,	Deputy: K. Kobelt,
Post and Railways:		
	J. Escher,	Deputy: M. Rubattel.

On New Year's Day, Monsieur K. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, received at the Federal Palais in Berne, the representatives of the cantonal and municipal authorities of Berne, and members of the Diplomatic Corps, representing fifty accredited missions.

The Federal Council has decided to open a Legation in Djakarta (Indonesia), and has appointed Monsieur René Naville, Counsellor of Legation, as Chargé d'Affaires.

Monsieur Naville was born in 1905 in Cologny (Geneva). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Basle, London and Berlin. He entered the diplomatic service in 1931, and two years later he was sent to Paris as Attaché and later on was promoted to the rank of Secretary of Legation. From 1941-1945 he was in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Paris. In 1945, M. Naville was made a Counsellor of Legation and sent to Venezuela as Chargé d'Affaires, where he remained until his return to Berne in 1949.

The South African Minister of Finance, Mr. N. C. Havenga, whilst passing through Switzerland, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation. A dinner, offered by the Federal Council, was given at the "Wattenwyl House" in honour of the distinguished guest.

Counsellor of Legation, Dr. Egbert von Graffenried, has been appointed 2nd deputy to the Chief for "Politische Angelegenheiten" at the Federal Political Department in Berne. (Dr. von Graffenried was, for a number of years at the Swiss Legation in London, first as Commercial Attaché and later on as 1st Counsellor of Legation.)

Major Hans Raeber (born 1909 in Lucerne), a member of the Instructors Corps (Artillery), has been appointed Military and Air Attaché to the Swiss Legations in Stockholm, Oslo and Copenhagen with seat at Stockholm, in succession to Colonel of division Probst.

Mr. Albert Jakob Schlatter (born 1891 in Zurich), has been appointed "Eidg. Oberforstinspektor" in succession to the late Dr. Emil Hess.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.03 million passengers in November 1951, 1.41 million more than in November, 1950. The receipts are returned as 19.14 million francs (Nov. 1950: 17.56 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 236,000 tons, reaching a total of two million tons carried; the receipts of which are given as 34.54 million francs, which is 3.48 million francs more than in November, 1950.

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Cantonal

Dr. Max Theiler, who recently was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine, has been made an honorary citizen of Hasle (Entlebuch). The family Theiler originated from Hasle. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Jaques Jenny, at present Manager of the "Zürcher Kantonalbank", has been appointed Manager of the "Schweiz. Kreditanstalt" in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Wolfgang von Juvalta, who died in Zurich, has bequeathed 100,000.—frs. to the canton of Grisons for a Fund to assist mentally deficient and blind persons: in addition to this, he left another 31,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Arnold Ith, for the last 23 years "Verkehrsdirektor" of the town of Zurich, has vacated his post, he is succeeded by Dr. Werner Kämpfen. [A.T.S.]

The late Mlle. Frieda Vogt (Zurich), has left an amount of 50,000.—frs. to the home for old people in the commune of Kirchberg (Ct. Zurich).

Dr. Ernst Fritsche, physician-in-chief of the "Kantonale Krankenstalt" in Glarus, has retired from his post; he was, for the last 40 years connected with this institution. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Josef Schmid-Lütschg, architect, and since 1941, mayor of the town of Glarus, is relinquishing his post for reasons of age. He is 78 years old. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Marguerite Janson of Leubringen has been awarded the Literary Prize of the town of Bienne, as a token of appreciation for her work as a novelist. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Karl Geissbühler (Köniz), has entered the National Council in succession to Professor Dr. Max Weber, who has resigned his seat. Mr. Geissbühler belongs to the Socialist party. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernst Flückiger, a teacher at the secondary school of the "See Bezirk", has been nominated an honorary citizen of the town of Murten (Ct. Fribourg), for his many historical works on the town and the "See Bezirk". [A.T.S.]

Dr. Max Obrecht has been elected "Landammann" of the canton of Solothurn for the year 1952. Mr. Gottfried Klaus will act as Vice-Landammann. [A.T.S.]

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Dr. h.c. Carl Köchlin has retired from his post as President of the Chamber of Commerce in Basle; in appreciation of the great services rendered he has been nominated Honorary President. [A.T.S.]

In remembrance of a deceased son, Mr. & Mrs. Vischer-Simonius of Basle, have given a legacy of 150,000.—frs to the "Basler Heilstätte" at Davos. [A.T.S.]

Dr. E. Lüscher, Professor of Otology at the University of Basle, has been nominated an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine in London. [A.T.S.]

The "Bündner Tagblatt" published at Chur, official organ of the Conservative Popular Party, has celebrated its 100th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Fritz Schoder, Librarian of the town of Zofingen, has been nominated Honorary citizen of that town. [A.T.S.]

The late Dr. Gustav Küchler, lawyer, who recently died at Muri (Ct. Aargau), has left various legacies to different charitable institutions, amounting to 43,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Pierre Oguey, has been nominated President of the government of the canton of Vaud for the year 1952. [A.T.S.]

The late Adrien Gilliéron, a clerk at the Registry Office in Cully (Ct. Vaud), has left various legacies to

Jean Hurny, for many years a teacher at the Commercial School of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, aged 81.

Gottfried Kradolfer, formerly Manager of the "Vereinigten Bern-Worb Bahnen" in Wabern, nr. Berne, at the age of 85.

Dr. h.c. Heinrich Wild, inventor of "Geodätischer" instruments and *doctor honoris causa* of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Baden, aged 74.

Emil Baumann, proprietor of a large builders contracting firm in Altdorf, at the age of 65. The deceased was for many years, a member of the "Landrat" of the canton Uri.

Marc Loréтан, Manager of the Société Energie Ouest Suisse, and one of the engineers who built the 2nd Simplon tunnel, in Lausanne, aged 64.

Angelo Martignoni, from 1927-1947, a member of the government of the canton of Ticino, in Lugano, aged 62.

August Meier, since 1926 a member of the "Kantonsrat", Zurich, and Vice-President of the "Bankkommission" of the Cantonal Bank Zurich. The deceased was a member of the Socialist party. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced from Switzerland:—

Professor Dr. Hans Fierz (70), he was for many years Professor of Chemical Technology at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich and is the author of a great many scientific works.

Dr. Karl Miescher (60), Director of the CIBA and head of the Pharmaceutical Department; he enjoys an international reputation as a scientist. In 1946, the University of Basle honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Emil Junker (60), Director of the "Kohlenunion Geldner, A.G.", an authority in the coal industry.

Dr. Franz Stämpfli (70), from 1916-1948 "Bundesanwalt". In 1941, he was honoured by the University of Berne with degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Victor Buchs (85), from 1920-1936, a member of the government of the canton of Fribourg.

Professor Hans Zickendraht (70), Professor of Physics at the University of Basle.

Dr. E. F. Knuchel (60), since 1918 a member of the Editorial Staff of the "Basler Nachrichten" and author of historical plays and travel books.

A. L. Gassmann (75), "Musikdirektor" and well-known composer of folklore songs for male and mixed choirs.

Dr. Guido Fanconi (60), Director of the Children's Hospital Zurich and lecturer at the University of Zurich.

Professor August Hagenbach (80), from 1906-1931, Professor of Physics at the University of Basle.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Despite more stringent prosecution and imposing heavier fines and even imprisonment in some cases, traffic accidents are still on the increase as the following figures show:— *Ct. Aargau*: December, 1951: 124 accidents, eight persons killed, 75 injured; *Ct. Basle-County*: from Jan.-Dec., 1951: 494 accidents; (1950: 484), 13 persons killed, 477 injured; *Ct. Berne*: December, 1951: 333 accidents, 8 persons killed, 169 injured (Dec. 1950: 155); *Ct. Thurgau*: December 1951: 50 accidents, 3 persons killed, 26 persons injured.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60), in Switzerland:— Mr. and Mrs. L. Lesquereux, of Neuchâtel; Mr. and Mrs. K. Bolliger-Himmelsbach, of Rheinfelden. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swissair has established a new record by a recent flight on the New York-Gander-Geneva route, the time taken being 11 hours and twelve minutes.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

According to statistics published there are 283,400 foreigners living in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A Swiss artist, Robert Schiess, who served for 22 years in the famed Swiss Guard of the Vatican, has been decorated by the Pope with the Knight of the Order of St. Silvester.

During his term of service with the Pontifical Guard, Schiess decorated the Swiss Guard's Chapel and theatre.

* * *

By 113 votes to 4, the Swiss National Council has decided on a three years' experimental plan for television.

The experimental station will be constructed at Zurich, at an estimated cost of Frs. 4,000,000 (£325,000).

The cost will be met by public loans, and contributions from various sources, including the Swiss Confederation.

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The boys were mixed up a few hours after birth in hospital in 1947, but this year the family resemblances were too strong to ignore. The mothers took blood tests and discovered the mistake.

* * *

The première of the opera, "La Botte Rouge," was recently given at the Stockholm Opera. Afterwards a dinner was given at the Swiss Legation in honour of the Swiss composer, Sutermeister.

* * *

A group of Swiss banks has concluded an agreement with Mr. Havenga, the South African Finance Minister, for a loan to South Africa of 300 million Swiss francs (about £24,500,000) at 4 per cent., repayable in 18 years. It is expected that the loan will be issued two months after the approval of the agreement by the South African Government. Bondholders will have the choice of being paid either in Swiss francs or in South African currency.

* * *

The doubling of the Zurich-Sargans-Buchs main line is proceeding rapidly. The Reichenburg-Ziegelbrücke and Unterterzen-Flums sections were doubled in 1950. The second track has been completed on the 1¾-mile Schübelbach-Buttikon-Reichenburg section, on which double-track working began on December 18. In the 36 miles between Zurich and Ziegelbrücke, only 4½ miles are still single, between Lachen (25 miles from Zurich) and Schübelbach-Buttikon. This section is to be doubled within the next two years.

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The 36th Swiss Industries Fair takes place in Basle from the 19th to 29th April, 1952. More than 2,000 firms are taking part as exhibitors in this great display of goods which emphasises the international importance of the products offered by the leading Swiss export industries.

Switzerland depends more than almost any other land on the exchange of goods between different countries. She herself has practically no raw materials and only limited quantities of foodstuffs and hence obtains the necessary commodities from all over the world in exchange for industrial products which are the result of immense labour and applied skill. The 36th Swiss Industries Fair, due to take place from 19th to 29th April, 1952, in Basle, offers an excellent display of the extremely varied production of Swiss industry, where those national industries such as the watchmaking industry, the textile industry, the machinery industry, the electrical industry and various other industries which specialise in export, concentrate their goods and offer them to the world's markets.

2,147 exhibitors on a total exhibition area of 1 million square feet; 670,000 visitors, of whom 30,000 came from abroad (11,750 recorded at the Foreign Visitors Office as coming from 72 different countries), those are a few figures from last year's Swiss Industries Fair in Basle. They illustrate the importance of this greatest of all Swiss commercial fairs, at which it is principally the export industries which are represented with their wide range of high class products, which in itself explains the great attraction of the Fair for the business world.

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