

News at random

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1954)**

Heft 1228

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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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.

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. 29. No. 1228.

FRIDAY, MAY 28th, 1954.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	{ 6 issues, post free	6/-
	{ 12 issues, post free	11/6
	{ 24 issues, post free	21/-
SWITZERLAND	{ 12 issues, post free	Frs. 7.—
	{ 24 issues, post free	Frs. 13.50

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



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Fernand Bernoulli to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in China, in succession to Minister C. Rezzonico, who will shortly assume another post.

Minister Bernoulli was born in Basle in 1905. He studied Philosophy at the Universities of Basle, Paris and Berne. In 1934, he entered the Diplomatic Service and was sent to the Swiss Legation in Buenos Aires, four years later (1938) he returned to Berne, where for two years he occupied a post at the Commercial Division.

In 1940, Monsieur Bernoulli was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Belgrade, and the following year to Rio de Janeiro, with the rank of Secretary of Legation, at the latter post he remained until 1951; during this time (1946) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1951, M. Bernoulli was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Washington as 1st Counsellor of Legation, in the same year he returned to Berne as Deputy to the Head of International Organisations.

* * *

Monsieur André Boissier, has been nominated Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Egypt, he succeeds Minister von Fischer, who has been transferred to Lisbon.

Minister Boissier hails from Geneva and was born in Paris in 1904. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Cambridge. He was for 10 years General Secretary of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. M. Boissier entered into the service of the Confederation in 1942, and occupied a post at the Swiss Legation in Washington, where he was promoted in 1946 to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation; the following year he was transferred to Berne, and after having been made a Counsellor of Legation in 1949, was appointed Chief of the Protocol. In 1951, he was again sent to the Swiss Legation in Washington, this time as 1st Counsellor of Legation.

In March, 1954, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.8 million passengers, 356,000 more than in March, 1953. The receipts amounted to 24.29 million francs or 714,000 frs. more than during the same month in 1953.

Goods traffic is returned as 1.72 million tons, which is 159,000 tons more than in March, 1953. Receipts 34.01 million francs. (March, 1953: 32.70 million francs.)

* * *

During the first quarter of this year, the Swiss Foreign trade balance has again become unfavourable. This is a matter for congratulation, as Swiss trade exchanges can only stand a favourable balance quite exceptionally, otherwise there is serious risk of the financial equilibrium of the country being compromised. As a matter of fact, this unfavourable balance is only slight. Whereas, during the years which preceded the last World War; Swiss exports represented two-thirds of her imports, to-day, they still represent 90 per cent of the latter.

This change in the situation is due to a fortunate increase in imports, which surpass the level of the 1st quarter of 1953, to a considerable extent. This increase extends, more or less, to all the various branches and more particularly to that of raw materials, as well as to liquid fuel and to manufactured products. There has been a marked rise in respect of imports of motor-cars, as well as of instruments, apparatus, machinery, rubber goods and tar derivatives for the dye industry.

As for exports, these show a slight decline in comparison with the 1st quarter of 1953. They have slowed down a bit as a result of the increasing competition which prevails on the world markets. A

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decrease may be observed in regard to textiles in general, with the exception of cotton fabrics and embroideries. Exports of footwear, on the other hand, show an increase. A special decrease is to be noted in respect of exports of watches and of machinery, but an increase in exports of aluminium, instruments and apparatus. The decline has also affected the chemico-pharmaceutical industry and the chocolate industry.

The Swiss Government have asked the United States and Communist China to examine the possibilities of releasing the Swiss delegation from its duties in the neutral supervision commission in Korea.

Cantonal

The late Mlle. May Müller of Gersau (Ct. Schwyz) has left an amount of 40,000.— frs. to the "Bürgerheim" Gersau. This amount is to be used towards the costs of a new building. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Paul Meierhans, has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Zurich for 1954/55, and Mr. F. Egger, as Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

The University of Zurich appointed the British skiing veteran and author, Sir Arnold Lunn, an honorary Doctor of Philosophy, in recognition of his "affectionate interpretation of the Swiss way of life to the Anglo-Saxon world". [A.T.S.]

Madame Christin Jenny-Jenny of Ennenda (Ct. Glarus) has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

M. Henri Béguelin, at present President of the Tribunal of Courtelary, has been appointed States Prosecutor of the Jura district, in succession of M. Paul Billieux who has vacated his post for reasons of age. M. Henri Béguelin is 42 years of age. [A.T.S.]

Traffic accidents in Switzerland are still on the up grade. During the period of January 1st — March 31st, 151 accidents occurred in the canton of Solothurn. (1953: 93). 69 persons were injured of whom 6 succumbed to their injuries. (1953: 1).

Dr. Pierre Aeby, from 1922-1935, Mayor of the town of Fribourg, and Professor of law at the University of Fribourg, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. He was for several years a member of the National Council over which he presided in 1944/45. [A.T.S.]

On the 1st of April, 1954, it was ten years since the town of Schaffhausen was bombed by the American Air Force. More than 400 bombs were mistakenly dropped over the town. 40 persons were killed, and 450 lost their homes, 70 buildings having been partly or totally destroyed. [A.T.S.]

The hospital on the "Geissberg" near Schaffhausen, which took four years to build at the cost of 17.2 million francs, and which numbers 300 beds has recently been inaugurated. [A.T.S.]

An important step towards introducing women's suffrage in Switzerland has been taken by the Basle-Town Cantonal Parliament. By 79 votes to 31 the Government of the canton has been authorised to amend the constitution giving women the right to vote. The amendment will have to be submitted to a popular ballot before becoming law. [A.T.S.]

The heirs of the late Dr. h.c. Jöhr, President of the Board of the "Schweizerischen Kredit-Anstalt", Zurich, have made a donation amounting to 50,000.— frs. to the Commercial University of St. Gall.

Mr. Engelberth Würth (aged 61) of Niederbüren has been elected "Kreispostdirektor" of St. Gall.

Mr. Heinrich Steinbeck of Arbon, composer and conductor, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The "Charles Veillon" Prize for 1953, for the best work in the Italian language was awarded (amongst 54 entries) to Sig. Lalla Romano, (Milan) for his novel "Maria", and to Sig. Giovanni Bonalumi, (Locarno). [A.T.S.]

Gangster tactics are also practised in Switzerland. A young lady employee withdrawing an amount of 3,500.— frs. from a Lugano Post Office, was robbed of the envelope in which she carried the money. She screamed for help and the police were able to arrest the assailant, a young man of 23. The money was recovered intact. [A.T.S.]

The late Professor Placide Nicod, formerly head surgeon at the "Hospice orthopédique" (Western Switzerland) has left an amount of 10,000.— frs to this institution to which he had already given an amount of 20,000.— frs. during his life time. [A.T.S.]

M. Marcel Gard (radical) head of the Finance Department of the canton of Valais, has been nominated President of the cantonal Government for 1954/55. M. Oscar Schnyder (conservative) has been elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

M. Jean Christen, a former policeman in Lausanne, has celebrated his 100th birthday at the home for old people, Chailly. [A.T.S.]



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Traffic accidents in the canton of Neuchâtel, during the period of January 1st — March 31st, 1954, numbered 114. 92 persons were injured of whom one succumbed to his injuries. In eight cases, the accident was caused through the drunkenness of the driver.(!). [A.T.S.]

Professor E. Wegmann, Director of the Geological Institute of the University of Neuchâtel has been nominated a corresponding member of the American Geological Society. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1953 of the canton of Neuchâtel show a surplus of 5,133.922.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland :

Francis Guyot, since 1943, Manager of the "Credit Suisse" Geneva, in Geneva.

Johnny Aubert, pianist and Professor at the "Conservatoire" Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 65.

Dr. Hans Martz, a medical practitioner, in Basle, aged 66. The deceased was President of the "Krankenpflege Kommission", and for many years had rendered conspicuous services to the Swiss Red Cross for which he was made an Honorary Member.

Tito Manlio Barboni, a judge of the Appeal Court of the canton of Ticino, in Lugano, at the age of 59.

Anna Hersperger, author and journalist, in Basle, aged 61.

Dr. August Roth, in Frauenfeld, at the age of 60. The deceased studied law at the Universities of

Lausanne, Zurich, Leipzig and Berne, after which he practised as an advocate in Rorschach and Arbon. He had been a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau since 1923. In the year 1941, he was elected a member of the cantonal Government, and he sat at one time in Parliament. (National Council).

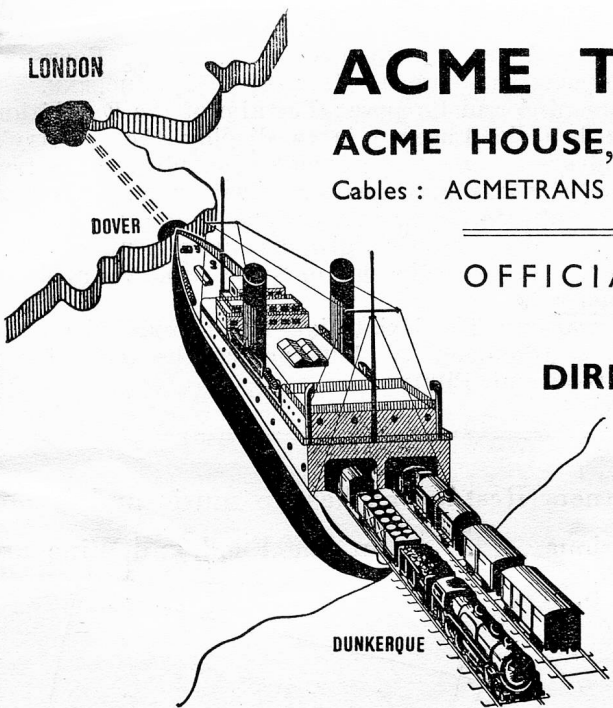
Dr. Maurice Mûret, in Lausanne, aged 91. He studied medicine at the Universities of Strassbourg and Basle, and started a practice in Lausanne in 1893. Ten years later (1903) he was nominated Professor of Gynecology at the University of Lausanne from which post he retired in 1926. Dr. Mûret was President of "l'Association des gynécologues et obstétriciens de la Suisse romande". [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in Switzerland; Mr. & Mrs. Alphonse Hug-Zeller of St. Gall, Mr. & Mrs. Numa Grandjean-Schmid, of Le Locle, and Mr. & Mrs. Alcide Brandt-Diacon of La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Nearly two million cycles were in use in Switzerland at the end of 1953.

The Swiss Alpine Club has decided to drop its bid to climb Mount Everest before the monsoons start. The attempt will take place in the autumn.

For the first time foreigners are to be admitted to a Swiss course for mountain guides. The Canton Valais Government has approved the admission of



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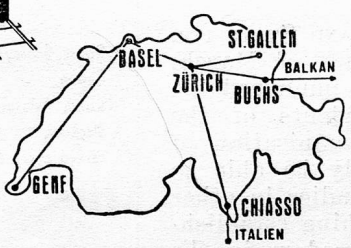
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Tenzing Norkay and six Sherpas to a course organized by the Swiss Alpine Club every three years. The teaching of the Indians will be facilitated by a serving officer of the Indian Army, who is to be their leader and interpreter. Tenzing and his companions will improve and complete their climbing technique at Rosenlauri mountaineering school under Arnold Glatthard, the well known guide who went to India last year to advise Indians on the creation of a mountaineering institute which has now been planned at Darjeeling.

* * *

5TH WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP. The final tournament will be inaugurated at Lausanne, on June 16th, before the France-Yugoslavia match. The ceremony will be simple: the President of the International Football Association Federation, Mr. Jules Rimet, will say a few words, then the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Rodolphe Rubattel, will declare the competition open and, to the sound of the Swiss national anthem, the flags of the nations participating will be hoisted at the stadium.

The interest shown abroad in these championships is enormous. In the middle of March the following applications for places had already been recorded: 15,000 from Germany, 11,000 from France and Italy, 9,000 from Spain, 8,000 from Austria, 4,000 from England and Scotland. The applications from the other side of the Atlantic are particularly high if one thinks of the distance: Uruguay sends word of 11,000 visitors, Mexico 6,400, Brazil 3,000, Argentina 2,300, the United States 800, Chile 400, Canada and Bolivia 200, Haiti 50. There will be about a hundred Japanese visitors.

The excitement aroused in the countries not participating in the world tournament is also to the same degree: 1,500 visitors will come from Holland, 500 from Sweden, Finland and Portugal, 300 from Denmark and Luxembourg.

The meetings will be broadcast by the radio stations of the whole world. The sole rights for the film of the tournament have been reserved for a Swiss firm, with which the cinematographic societies will be able to arrange for the taking of photographs.

Applications by clients for tickets covering the following matches are accepted by the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W.C.2.:

June 20th — Berne: Switzerland v. England, Covered seats (stands), price: £1.6.9.; Quarter finals: June 26th — Bâle and June 27th — Berne, Lausanne, Geneva. Covered seats (stands), price: £2.0.0.; Semi-finals June 30th — Bâle. Covered seats (stands), price: £2.11.0.; Uncovered seats, price: £1.6.9.; June 30th — Lausanne Covered seats (stands), price: £2.11.0.; Finals July 3rd (loser's final) Zurich, July 4th, (final) Berne, prices not yet known.

* * *

FREEDING OF PAYMENTS FOR TRAVEL AND STAYS FOR STUDY IN SWITZERLAND. Dated the 31st of March, 1954, the press service of the E.O.E.C. published the following communication: "The residents of the member countries of the European Organisation of Economic Cooperation will more easily be able to undertake university or professional studies in other member countries and stay at the teaching establishments, thanks to new measures of freedom in the

domain of invisible transactions which have just been adopted by the Council of the E.O.E.C.

Henceforth, in effect, the member countries will authorise, for a period not exceeding a year by instalments, the transfers of the sums necessary to cover the fees to be paid for study in a university, a professional college and, up to a reasonable amount, in a secondary school or primary teaching establishment. They will also authorise the transfers of the sums necessary for the payment of living expenses.

This decision constitutes real progress when compared to the former situation, for, up to now, the member countries were only called upon to treat applications for transfers as liberally as possible. The new decision obliges the freeing of transfers. It applies to all the member countries of the E.O.E.C. with the exception of, however, France, Greece, Iceland and Turkey which, either because of the deficit in their balance of payments or their economic situation, are temporarily authorised not to apply the provisions of the freedom code as concerns invisible transactions. Italy and Sweden, on the other hand, have indicated that they were not, for the moment, able to adopt this decision although exercising a very liberal policy in this domain. The position of these two countries will be reconsidered by the Council in six months.

The educational allowance granted by the Bank of England to scholars and students attending Swiss schools or universities is:

£320 per year for schools

£600 ,, ,, ,, universities.

In addition to these amounts the basic travel allowance of £50 per adult of £35 for children under 12 years may be claimed.

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11TH SWISS EXHIBITION OF FARMING, FORESTRY AND GARDENING, SEPT. 16- OCT. 11 1954., LUCERNE.

Meaning and Purpose: The aim of the Exhibition to be held in Lucerne is to display the country's agriculture in all its branches, including Forestry, Market Gardening, Game Preservation and Fishing, and to indicate the progress which has been made. It should prove instructive, give encouragement to enterprise, and increase the sale of Swiss products at home and abroad.

Location: The Exhibition will be erected on the Allmend (Common) at Lucerne, at the foot of the famous Mount Pilatus.

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Displays of Livestock: In addition to the permanent sections of the exhibition, there will be a series of temporary displays of livestock characteristic of Switzerland, as follows:

- 16.-21. Sept.: Horses; 18.-19. Sept.: Dogs.
 24.-28. Sept.: Fatstock, Sheep, Pigs, Goats.
 1.-10. Oct.: Pedigree Cattle — all four Swiss breeds.
 8.-10. Oct.: Ornithological Show: Poultry, Pigeons.

Scope of the Exhibition: Switzerland's best and latest methods, machinery, tools and equipment, prize Swiss productions in farming, dairying, farm marketing, horticulture, fruit processing, wine growing, horse and cattle breeding, rabbits and poultry, pigeons and bees, dog breeding, fish breeding, bird and game protection, agricultural training, farm buildings, farm machinery, high mountain farming, veterinary science, accident prevention, forestry, hunting, gardening, vegetable growing, will be on show.

Special events and entertainments: Livestock displays in the big ring, as well as an extensive entertainment programme with processions, demonstrations of national customs, show jumping, wrestling, driving exhibitions with carts and tractors, dog trials, etc. should make the Exhibition a centre of attraction not only for the whole Swiss nation, but also for the rest of Europe and nations overseas.

THE POSTAL MOTOR COACHES OF THE ALPINE ROUTES are powerful vehicles fitted with three independent brakes. The carefully selected drivers have been prepared individually for the routes in the Alps. They are furthermore, forbidden to consume alcoholic drinks and to smoke on duty.

GRINDELWALD-FIRST. The regular daily service of the Chair Lift Grindelwald-First will be resumed on May 8th 1954 during the following hours:

8.30 — 12.00
 14.00 — 17.30

PABLO CASALS WILL BE AT ZERMATT. From August 19th to September the 8th, numerous will be the amateur and professional musicians and other music lovers, desiring to instruct or perfect themselves, who will gather together at the foot of the Matterhorn, at Zermatt, under the direction of distinguished maestros. For the execution of the pieces, under the sign of Beethoven's chamber music, it has been possible to obtain, besides Pablo Casals, the assistance of well-known professors. Four public concerts of soloists and reputed "ensembles" (The Végh Quartet, Mieczyslaw, Horszowski, etc.) will make these pieces accessible to a large audience.

* * *

COMMEMORATIVE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN BÂLE. The Canton of Bâle became a member of the Swiss Confederation in the year 1501 and, on the occasion each of the other Confederate Cantons presented the newcomer with a fine stained glass window for the Town Hall. In 1951, when Bâle celebrated the 450th anniversary of that historic occasion, her sister Cantons repeated their gifts, so that Bâle now possesses 24 new stained glass windows bearing the Cantonal arms. To inaugurate these new windows in the Bâle Town Hall, the Bâle Government invited each of the other Cantons to send a delegate to attend the ceremony. The artists who designed the windows were also present.

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THE YEAR-BOOK OF STATISTICS OF SWITZERLAND. The 61st year of this interesting work, published through the good offices of the Federal Bureau of Statistics at Berne is entirely devoted to 1952. In more than 600 pages, the most widely varied subjects are presented. It goes from the chapter on the Swiss population to that of education, passing by way of the labour market, tourism and transportation, business, industry, trades and agriculture; the various forms of insurance also have their place in these pages and it is likewise with hygiene and sport. One will study with interest the table giving, on the 31st of May 1953, the manner of election of the executive powers and the legislative authorities of the 25 cantons of the Confederation, as well as the composition of the legislative deputations in the National Council, by cantons and by parties, with a table of the respective electors. The results of the various federal votings organised in 1952 are also detailed. Several pages are devoted to international comparisons of population, production, business, the money market, the national income and transportation and communications. The evolution of the population of the continents, from 1913, is also detailed in this volume, which is a credit to the Federal Bureau of Statistics, whose contribution is always invaluable in the study of the most varied problems.

* * *

RECORD PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL MARKSMANSHIP CONTEST, LAUSANNE (8th-25th JULY). The organisers of the Federal Marksmanship Contest of Lausanne have pointed out with great satisfaction that 2,149 shooting societies have sent word of their participation in the competition by group at 300 metres, and 400 will participate in the competition by group with the pistol.

This Federal Marksmanship Contest will bring together, on the basis of the present figures, 120 groups more than that of Chur (Canton Grisons), five years ago; from now on its success seems to be already largely assured, since two thirds of the shooting societies of the country will be represented.

* * *

THE GENEVA FESTIVALS. These great events will take place, this year, from the 13th to the 16th of August. A theme which seems to be very happily inspired has been adopted for the folklore procession, under the title of "French provinces and Swiss cantons".

On Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th of August, in the afternoon, the Grand Corso Fleuri (the Great Procession of Flowers) will take place and on Saturday evening, August 14th, there will be the traditional fireworks display in the imposing setting of the Geneva roadstends.

* * *

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPING SITES. At a recent meeting of the Swiss Federation of Camping Clubs in Zurich, a motion was adopted to extend the network of camping sites; to further this development, subscription rates will be increased. Fifty new camping sites are to feature in Switzerland's 1954 list.

SWISS SPORTS.

A full report of the Swiss Sports Festival held on Saturday, May 29th, 1954, will appear in our issue of June 11th, 1954.