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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Egbert von Graffenried to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Lebanon, Persia, Jordania and Syria, in succession to Minister Franz Kappeler.

Minister von Graffenried was born in Berne in 1909, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1934. After having occupied posts at the Swiss Consulates in Shanghai and New York, he returned to Berne where he held a position at the Commercial Division of the Political Department.

In 1943, he was appointed Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, and three years later (1946) was promoted to 1st Counsellor of Legation. Dr. von Graffenried returned to the Swiss Foreign Office in 1950, and in 1954, received the rank of Minister, in which capacity he acted as Deputy to the Head of the division for political affairs. From August, 1955, until March, 1956, he was Head of the Swiss Delegation of the Neutral International Commission in Korea.

The Swiss Government has announced that it will establish Legations in Tunisia, Morocco and Libya.

Counsellor of Legation, Walter Jaeggi, has been appointed permanent Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia, in succession to M. Jean-Jacques de Tribolet. He was born in Berne in 1913, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1939. He saw service at the Swiss Consulates in New York, Ottawa and Karachi.

A Swiss military mission attended an air display, which took place on June 24th, in Moscow. The mission, which was invited by the Soviet Government consisted of the following: Divisional-colonel Primault, Lieut-Colonel Triponnez, and General Staff Colonel Mosimann.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried during the month of April, 1956, 18 million passengers or 400,000

more than during the same period in 1955. Receipts: 26.4 million francs (April, 1955: 25.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.83 million tons, or 54,000 tons less than in April, 1955. Receipts: 34.9 million francs (April, 1955: 35.7 million francs).

\* \* \*

Customs net receipts in the month of May, 1956, amounted to 55 million francs, or 5.7 million francs more than in May, 1955.

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, 1st August, 1956

6 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Doors open at 5.30 p.m.)

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During the first five months of the current year receipts totalled 258.2 million francs, which exceed last year's figures during the same period by 25 million francs.

The Federal Council has remitted to the "Schweizerische Europahilfe" the amount of 812,500.—frs. to be used for needy and fugitive persons in Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Austria and Berlin.

### Cantonal

Mr. Fridolin Sigrist, a veterinary-surgeon in Hochdorf, lost his life when his car skidded into the Reuss, his wife, who was a passenger, was rescued. He was the father of five children. [A.T.S.]

The council of the "Innerschweizerischen Kulturstiftung" has awarded the literature prize, amounting to 5,000.—frs., to Dr. Hans Urs von Balthasar. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Gottlieb Naegeli, "Forstingenieur" of Zug, his wife and four children, went on a motor-boat excursion on the lake of Zug. A heavy storm broke out, causing the boat to overturn. The father and mother were able to save two of the children, whilst two, a boy of two, and a girl of four, were drowned. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Fintschi (40) of Bienne, lost his life when climbing the Raimex, in the Moutier district. [A.T.S.]

M. Claude Genoud, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, and President of the commune of Châtel-Saint-Denis, has been elected a member of the Cantonal Government, in succession to the late M. Quartenoud. M. Genoud belongs to the Conservative party. [A.T.S.]

The firm Eterna, A.G. of Grenchen, watch manufacturers, has celebrated its 100th Jubilee. The head of the firm, which employs 1,300 work hands, is Dr. Rudolf Schild-Comtesse. [A.T.S.]

The Indian Ambassador in Berne, Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, paid an official visit to the Government of the canton Basle-Town. He was officially received at the Town Hall, and later on inspected the Basle Port. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Margaretha Amstutz, aged 33, until recently a teacher at the "Maedchengymnasium", Basle, has been elected rector of the newly created "Mädchen-Oberschule", Basle. [A.T.S.]

The newspaper "Freier Aargauer" published in Aarau, has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. The Editor-in-chief is National-Councillor, Dr. Arthur Schmid. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Paul Reiffer (41), a partner in the firm "Gebrüder Reiffer", of Oeberschlatt (Ct. Thurgau), was killed when his car collided with a train at a level-crossing between Guettingen and Kesswil. [A.T.S.]

A "Riley 55" machine, owing to bad visibility, collided with a rock about a mile from the Gotthard hospice. The pilot, Mr. Walter Ammann of Kloten, and his passenger, Dr. A. Gerber of Zurich, received

injuries, and had to be taken to the military hospital at Andermatt. [A.T.S.]

A seventeen year old German national, who was recently involved in a burglary at the "Banque Populaire", Lugano, has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1955, altogether 183,000 persons visited the Château Chillon, paying 110,046.—frs. entrance fees. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Edgar Notz (46), since 1935, a teacher at the cantonal *Gymnasium* in Lausanne, has been elected rector of the school, in succession to the late Pierre Chessex. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Henri Badoux, since 1950, President of the commune of Aigle, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. He will, however, continue to be a member of the National Council. [A.T.S.]

A serious accident occurred at a building site of the Lienne power station, in the neighbourhood of Ayent (Ct. Valais) when the cable of a lift snapped. Four workmen were killed, and a number received injuries. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car driven by Dr. med. Pius Koch of Visp, collided, at a level-crossing near Gams, with a train. The doctor was seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

M. Gaston Clottu, has been nominated President of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel. M.

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André Sandoz, has been elected Vice-President.  
[A.T.S.]

The "Comptoir" Neuchâtel, which closed its doors on the 5th of this month, was visited by 120,000 persons. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the *dies academicus* of the University of Geneva, Professor Paul E. Wenger was elected rector for 1956/58. M. Paul Humbert theologian, was made a *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Grand Hotel in Les Diablerets, favoured by Victor Hugo, the Grand Duke of Russia, and many of Europe's royalty in the 19th century, has been burned to the ground. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Hans Zickendraht, Professor of Physics at the University of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 74. The deceased was one of the pioneers in the field of Swiss radio.

Dr. h.c. H. C. Bodmer, in Zurich, aged 65. Dr. Bodmer was the holder of one of the largest collections of MSS and letters of Beethoven.

Dr. Paul Dubi, from 1943-1954, President of the Appeal Court of the canton of Basle-Town, in Basle, at the age of 62.

Heinrich Samuel Huber, a former chief engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, in Berne, aged 68.

Emil Hornung, well-known landscape painter, in Cologny (Geneva), at the age of 73.

Pasteur Marc André Savary in Lausanne, aged 63. He was for many years, although blind, a preacher at La Chaux-du-milieu (Ct. Neuchâtel).

Louis Verdan, for 40 years in the service of the Federal Customs Administration, in Geneva, at the age of 69.  
[A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Mlle. Maria Luethi, a school-teacher at Aadorf (Ct. Thurgau) has left an amount of 50,000.—frs. to the communities of Aadorf and Matzingen for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Ernst Spiess (80) of Bülach (Ct. Zurich), for 25 years President of the commune of Bülach, and for more than a quarter century a member of the "Kantonsrat", Zurich. He was for over 30 years a member of the Federal Insurance Tribunal.

Dr. ing. Karl Sachs (70) of Zurich, Professor for "Eisenbahnmaschinenbau und elektrische Zugförderung" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Technical University, Vienna. [A.T.S.]

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Moser-Haas of Appenzell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sonderegger-Pfäusler of Altstätten (Ct. St. Gall).

Mr. and Mrs. Lutz-Kobelt of Walzenhausen (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.) have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65).  
[A.T.S.]



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