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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. EUSEPIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a telegram of condolence to King Olav V of Norway on the occasion of the death of King Haakon VIII.

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, accompanied by Minister Robert Kohli, head of the Division for Political Affairs and General Secretary of the Federal Political Department, called at the Norwegian Embassy in Berne to express, on behalf of the Federal Council and the Swiss people, their sympathy.

\* \* \*

Switzerland is ready to provide a meeting-place for a world-wide conference on the effects of radio-activity released by nuclear explosions. The Swiss Government announced that when the time came for scientists to meet and discuss the problem it "will be ready to receive and organise the conference in a Swiss town".

\* \* \*

Monsieur Jan Obhidai, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

\* \* \*

The receipts of the Federal Customs Administration for the month of August 1957 amounted to 78.7 million francs, of which the Confederation receives 54.4 million francs or 1.4 million francs less than during the same period in 1956.

The receipts for the first eight months of the current year total 470.8 million francs, which is 39.8 million francs more than in 1956.

\* \* \*

King Saud of Saudi-Arabia, with a suite numbering 32 persons, at the end of last month arrived at the Cointrin airport (Geneva). On alighting from the plane he was greeted by M. Jacques Mallet,

Assistant Chef du Protocole, on behalf of the Federal Council, and by officials of the town of Geneva. The visitors later on travelled by car to Ouchy, where they made a stay.

\* \* \*

M. Césaire Lucchini, a former General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, received the insignia of an officer of the "Légion d'Honneur" from the French Consul-General on behalf of the French President.

#### Cantonal

Mr. Walter Corti of Zurich, founder of the archives for "Genetische Philosophie" and the Pestalozzi children's village at Trogen (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh) has been honoured by the Philosophical faculty of the University of Tübingen with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Schweizerische Lebensversicherung & Rentenanstalt" Zurich has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

At the banquet which took place at the "Tonhalle" Zurich, Professor Dr. Marchand, General Manager, extended a hearty welcome to the 900 guests. He presented on behalf of the Company a golden jubilee medal to the "Schweiz. Kreditanstalt" Zurich, in recognition of services rendered on the occasion of the foundation of the Company a hundred years ago.

Amongst the various speakers who addressed the gathering were: Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. E. Wetter, President of the Board and a former Federal Councillor, Dr. E. Vaterlaus,

### Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 22nd, 1957, together with remittance for 10/-.

President of the Government of the canton of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, and Mr. E. Gamper, President of the Board of the "Schweiz. Kreditanstalt" Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Winterthur on August 31st 1957 numbered 77,037. (88.9 per cent Swiss and 11.81 per cent foreigners). [A.T.S.]

The warehouse of the firm "Baubedarf Zurich A.G.", Zurich, was completely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 1 million francs.

A burglar entered the premises of "Strebel-Muth, A.G.", tobacconists, at the Morgartenstrasse Lucerne, and stole an amount of 1,500.— francs from the till. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car collided with an express train at a level-crossing near Ebikon (Ct. Lucerne). The driver of the car, Alois Kuettel (55), of Ebikon, father of 14 children, was killed instantly. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Eduard Binkert, at present Director of the electric power station Lucerne, has been elected in the same capacity to the electric power station in Berne in succession to Mr. H. Jaecklin, who is retiring. [A.T.S.]

A monument executed by the Fribourg sculptor Antoine Claraz, in memory of the popular folk-lore composer Abbé Joseph Bovet, was unveiled at Bulle (Ct. Fribourg) amidst great enthusiasm. A colourful procession, in which over 3,000 persons and 40 bands took part, paraded through the gaily decorated streets of the town of Bulle to the monument, before which Dr. Pierre Glasson, President of the Government of the canton of Fribourg, delivered a speech in which he eulogised the work of the popular composer. [A.T.S.]

Corporal Stalder of Riehen, when on leave from the "Aspirantenschule" in Appenzell, was handling a revolver in the kitchen of the parental home; and being under the impression that the weapon was unloaded pulled the trigger. A shot rang out hitting his mother, Mrs. Stalder-Zeller (50), who was killed instantly. [A.T.S.]

Miss Frieda Boller, a district nurse of Jona near Rapperswil (Ct. St. Gall), was run over by a motor-car when cycling. She succumbed to her injuries. [A.T.S.]

A motor-cyclist collided with a motor-car at Münsterlingen (Ct. Thurgau). The wife of the motor-cyclist, Mrs. Maria Haag-Bauhofer (29), of Altnau, was killed, and her husband received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

A monument designed by the sculptor Renno Rossi to the memory of the late Federal-Councillor Giuseppe Motta was unveiled in Bellinzona in the presence of over 5,000 persons, amongst them Federal-Councillor Lepori, the members of the Government of the canton of Ticino *in corpore*, members of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, Members of Parliament

representing the canton in the Federal Chambers, representatives of the Federal Supreme Court and the churches, and delegations of the cantonal and communal authorities. The sons of the late Federal-Councillor Motta, Riccardo, Sigismondo and Christopher, with their families, attended the ceremony.

Speeches were made by the former Federal-Councillor Enrico Celio, M. Tatti, Mayor of the town of Bellinzona, M. Nello Celio, President of the Government of the canton of Ticino, and by Federal-Councillor G. Lepori. [A.T.S.]

A serious traffic accident occurred on the road between La Tour-de-Peilz and Clarens when three cars were involved in a collision. One person was killed and four seriously hurt. The victim was Mme. Selz, of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

At a creditors' meeting of the firm "Baumgartner & Cie., S.A.", paper merchants of Lausanne, it was decided to recommend the management of the firm to transfer the business to a new company, to which they agreed. The firm will be known in future under the name "Baumgartner Papiers S.A."

It was announced that the Banks which sustained heavy losses through the presenting of incorrect balance sheets have issued a writ through their legal representatives against Pierre Baumgartner. [A.T.S.]

The 38th "Comptoir Suisse" Lausanne closed its doors on the 22nd of last month; over 800,000 visitors went through the turnstiles.

King Saud of Saudia Arabia, whilst staying at Ouchy, paid a visit to the exhibition. He also received the visit of General Guisan to whom he presented a gold chronometer watch inscribed with his name and coat of arms. [A.T.S.]

The two alpinists who were missing in the Taeschhorn district near Zermatt were found dead by a rescue party. They were Miss Margrit Straumann (35), of Olten, and Max Julien (37), a mountain guide of Zermatt. [A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

takes place on Tuesday, October 29th, 1957.  
at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.** (Stanhope Room).

#### AGENDA

Minutes of the last Meeting.  
Admission — Resignations.  
Election to the Committee.

Members wishing to be present should send their slip to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, October 28th 1957.

TH. von SPEYR.

Hon. Secretary.

A tablet has been placed on the spot where the famous mountain guide, Franz Lochmatter, lost his life 25 years ago on an ascent on the Weisshorn. He made a name for himself by his many mountaineering feats, both in the Swiss Alps and the Himalayas.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Government of the canton of Geneva has accepted with thanks the legacy of the late Baron Maurice de Rothschild comprising his Château at Pregny and estate, as well as a large sum of money.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A cashier of a Bank in Geneva has been arrested and charged with the embezzlement of 60,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**DEATHS.**

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. August Baumann, in Wohlen (Ct. Aargau), at the age of 63. The deceased was editor of the "Freiämter Zeitung", and since 1933 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau.

Dr. med. Henri Glasson, of the "Providence" hospital Fribourg, in Fribourg, aged 62.

Professor Georges Golay, a teacher at the commercial school, Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 68.

Alfred Dietiker, in Basle, aged 83. He was for 48 years in the service of the PTT administration, and from 1932 to 1940 held the post of "Kreispostdirektor" of Basle.

Mme. Sophie Menzel-Steinberg, in Zurich, at the age of 58. The deceased has played an important role in the publishing profession.

Ernest Mestrallet, a noted opera singer, in Geneva, at the age of 64.

Jean Baumgartner, a former manager of the "Bücherfabrik Bodan, A.G.", Kreuzlingen, in Krenzlingen, aged 83.

D. O. Mathieu, for 40 years a teacher of French at the schools in Balerna, Mendrisio, and at the Institute Bosco in Maroggia, in Lugano, at the age of 93.

Robert Deroche, a former President of the commune of Montier, in Isenfluh (whilst on holiday), aged 62.

Dr. med. vet. Jakob Unger, formerly Director of the slaughter-house, Basle, in Basle, at the age of 81.

Karl Matter, a member of the Superior Court of the canton Basle-Country, and President of the commune of Sissach, in Sissach, aged 63.

Eugen Tripet, formerly head of the Sports Institute Berne, in Basle, owing to a motoring accident, at the age of 64. The deceased held the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel (Infantry) in the army. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**ARMY.**

Colonel Hans Rieser, formerly Military and Air Attaché in London, Washington and Ottawa, who had been relieved of his post for having accepted a gift of money during the negotiations in connection with the purchase of 100 Centurion tanks from Britain, has lodged an appeal against his dismissal with the Federal Supreme Court.



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Brigade-Colonel Robert Ackermann, since 1948 "Chef der Abteilung für Heeresmotorisierung", has tendered his resignation to take effect on 31st December 1957.

\* \* \*

Prince Ghulam Reza, brother of the Shah of Persia, has visited a number of military establishments in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### ANNIVERSARY.

Paul Hulliger (70), of Riehen, for many years drawing master at the Teachers Seminary of the canton of Basle-Town. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Jaquet, of Vallorbe, Mr. & Mrs. Max Juyer-Kern, of Zurich, Mr. & Mrs. A. Strub-Bauer, of Basle. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### VARIOUS.

The Swiss Federal Institute for the study of snow and avalanches on the Weissfluhjoch, above Davos, is taking all Swiss who own a refrigerator to gather hailstones exceeding one-fifth of an inch in diameter and to keep them at a temperature under freezing point until officials of the institute can collect them. The recent heavy falls of hailstones of abnormal size show, it is explained, the urgency of studying all possible

means of protection against hailstorms. The institute is now concentrating on that study and it believes that the examination of abnormal hailstones can contribute to the solution of the problem.

\* \* \*

*Good news for motorists.* The Swiss authorities are now preparing plans which they expect to be introduced at the beginning of 1958.

It is understood that motorists from abroad will no longer be required to produce a "carnet de passage en douane" or a triptyque when entering or leaving Switzerland. This very important Customs concession will be operated during a trial period.

Further details will be published as soon as possible.

#### A L'AVEUGLETTE. . .

Depuis nombre d'années, la Semaine suisse s'efforce de lutter contre l'utilisation abusive des emblèmes nationaux et d'autres signes publics suisses sur les marchandises offertes aux consommateurs. On sait qu'un produit d'origine étrangère se vend plus facilement en Suisse lorsqu'il est muni d'une croix fédérale, d'un écusson cantonal, de l'image de Guillaume Tell ou d'une région connue de notre pays. Cette action de la Semaine suisse est trop souvent freinée par l'effet d'une législation peu claire et que les tribunaux appliquent dans un sens très large. Il faudrait à ce propos consacrer des pages entières au cas particulier des "articles-souvenirs", qui très souvent nous arrivent directement de l'étranger, ornés d'une croix helvétique.

D'autres marchandises parviennent sur le marché suisse avec des noms de fantaisie, sans indication de provenance et sans que soit connu le fabricant.

Dans de tels cas, la curiosité de l'acheteuse ou de l'acheteur sera bienfaisante. Certes, le commerce international est basé sur la réciprocité et il ne viendra à l'idée de personne de renoncer par principe à l'achat d'une marchandise parce qu'elle est étrangère au pays. En revanche, chaque consommateur a le droit d'être renseigné honnêtement sur la provenance du produit qu'on lui offre. Ainsi, il n'achètera pas à l'aveuglette. Il sera d'autre part absolument certain de l'origine suisse d'un produit, si celui-ci porte la marque de l'"Arbalète", que le Bureau central pour la marque suisse d'origine a créé il y a 25 ans et qui sera présente le mois prochain dans les milliers de vitrines que préparent les détaillants avec les bons produits de chez nous.

*Semaine suisse.*

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