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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: *National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève*).

### FEDERAL.

#### MONSIEUR MARTIN PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS.

Monsieur Henri Martin, has presented recently his credentials as Swiss Minister to King Boris of Bulgaria, at Sofia.

#### SWISS NEUTRALITY "GUARANTEE."

M. Motta, the Swiss President, denied in Parliament that Herr Hitler's recent guarantee of Swiss neutrality was "in any way conditional."

M. Motta's statement seems to dispose of reports that in return for the German guarantee the Swiss Government had promised to negotiate a "cultural" agreement which would permit an infiltration of Nazi influence and free entry of Nazi newspapers into Switzerland.

#### COLONEL LOUIS DE COURTEN +.

Colonel Louis de Courten, from 1878-1901 Commander of the Swiss Guard at the Vatican, has died in Nancy (France) at the age of 102.

#### DR. ERNEST PERRIER A PRIEST.

Dr. Ernest Perrier, a former Vice-President of the National-Council and a member of the government of the Canton of Fribourg, will be consecrated as a priest by Msgr. Besson, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, on May 19th. Dr. Perrier has been for the last four years at the Benedictine Abbey of Pierre-qui-vire (France). His departure from the political arena has caused, at the time, a great sensation.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS APPOINTMENT FOR MINISTER STUCKI.

Minister Stucki has been appointed President of the Raw Products Committee of the League of Nations.

#### INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MATCH. Holland v. Switzerland.

The Match played at Amsterdam, between the National Teams of Holland and Switzerland ended with a victory for the Dutch team. (2 : 1).

#### TWO DEAD IN SWISS AIR CRASH.

A collision in mid-air between two Swiss military 'planes resulted in the death of both the pilots: they are: Lieutenant Ernst Meier from Watt (Zurich) born in 1910, and Lieutenant Henry Rochaix from Chavannes, born in 1913.

One of them made a vain attempt to jump, but before his parachute opened, he was struck by the wing of his 'plane as it fell. The accident, which took place above Zurich, resulted from an error when the unit, of which the two 'planes formed a part, tried to change formation.

#### BLACK-OUT OF ALL SWITZERLAND.

The League of Nations has been asked by the Swiss Federal authorities to co-operate in the precautions against air raids which are being taken in Geneva.

Plans are being made for a complete "black-out" of all Switzerland at a moment's notice. All windows are to be fitted with shutters or heavy paper screens to prevent any light escaping, while exposed lights will be extinguished or replaced by small blue hooded bulbs.

Conspicuous buildings are to be camouflaged with paint. It is not likely that the big white secretariat building, a landmark from the air for miles, will be camouflaged, but the secretariat will observe the strict lighting discipline laid down by the Swiss Government.

#### NESTLE HOLDING CO.

The directors of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding Co., Ltd., have decided, in accordance with the decisions of the extra-ordinary meeting held on November 27th last, to proceed, as from March 15th, 1937, with the exchange of the old

share certificates of the company against new share certificates, the distribution of the shares in Unilac, Inc., and the payment of the cash bonus.

Bearers of Nestlé shares are asked, accordingly, to send their old certificates to the head office, or one of the branches in Switzerland, of Crédit Suisse, Société de Banque Suisse, Banque Commerciale de Bâle, &c. The Swiss Bank Corporation in London will give English shareholders any information which they may require.

#### SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

On February 23rd, 1937, the gold and gold exchange reserves of the Swiss National Bank amounted to 2,717 million Swiss francs; discounts and advances on securities reached 79 millions. The notes in circulation (1,319 millions) and the other liabilities at sight (1,480 millions) were covered by 97.05 per cent. by gold and gold exchange.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW.

The next International Motor Show will be held in Geneva from 12th to 21st March, 1937. American, Czechoslovak, English, French, German and Italian car manufacturers will be represented.

#### THE PROGRESS OF WIRELESS.

The number of wireless receiving sets in Switzerland was 465,000 at the end of 1936; an increase of 46,000 over the previous year.

#### SWITZERLAND IS ONE OF THE BEST-LIGHTED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE.

According to a recent census, the consumption of electricity in Switzerland for private and public lighting amounts to 47 kilowatt-hours per inhabitant per year, whilst for Europe as a whole, the average annual consumption per inhabitant is only about 20 kilowatt-hours. The value of Switzerland's annual consumption of current for lighting is estimated at 80 million francs.

#### SWITZERLAND, COUNTRY OF INDUSTRIAL INVENTIONS.

According to recent statistics, demands for patents in Switzerland since 1925 represent annually 9.3 per 10,000 inhabitants.

Switzerland thus takes first place, followed by Germany with 8.9 and the United States with 6.4. Inventions are particularly numerous in connection with heating apparatuses, refrigerators, electrical appliances, household articles, sanitary articles, and machines for the textile industry. The large number of patents which are renewed each year goes to prove that the inventions they cover have a real industrial value.

#### RIVER NAVIGATION IN SWITZERLAND.

Traffic from the port of Basle reached in 1936 approximately 2.3 million tons — an increase of 74,000 tons as compared with 1935.

GROTRIAN HALL  
Wigmore Street, London, W.1.

**Berty Jenny**  
(CONTRALTO)

**SONG RECITAL**  
**Friday, March 19th**

at  
8.30 p.m.

First Appearance in England.

At the Piano :  
**GEORGE REEVES**  
Grotrian Steinweg Pianoforte

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### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

M. Balz Stäger, a well-known landscape painter, died at Zurich at the age of 76.

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the General Meeting of the Banque Fédérale, S.A. Zurich, M. F. A. Schoeller-von Planta has been elected President of the Board in succession to M. E. Appenzeller-Frühe who has resigned for reasons of health, the latter will, however, still remain on the Board.

#### BERNE.

M. Paul Comte, "Oberzollinspektor" at the Federal Customs Office has celebrated his 40th service Jubilee. M. Comte, who hails from Landecy (Geneva) entered the customs administration in 1897. He has rendered great services to the Confederation during the last 40 years.

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Berne of Dr. Rudolf Beer-Haller, a noted dentist and founder of the municipal "Zahnärzte Gesellschaft" at the age of 75.

#### GLARUS.

States-Councillor, Dr. Joachim Mercier has tendered his resignation as a member of the cantonal government, he entered Parliament in 1934 in succession to M. Heinrich Jenny.

#### ZUG.

The commemoration of the 450th Anniversary of the death of Niklaus von der Flüe took place last week at the "Casino" in Zug. Amongst the various speakers was Federal-Councillor Etter.

#### BASLE.

The death is reported from Riehen of Professor, Dr. A. Jaquet, for many years a lecturer at the University of Basle, at the age of 72. The deceased was the founder of the sanatorium "La Charmille" in Riehen, he was also the author of many works on medical science.

\* \* \*

M. Robert Rosenthal, a partner of the "Eos Film A.G." and proprietor of a large number of cinemas in Basle, has died in Engelberg where he was recuperating. M. Rosenthal was one of the leading personalities in the Swiss Film Industry.

#### APPENZELL J.-RH.

M. Adolf Steuble, a member of the cantonal Government (Military Dept.) has been arrested for embezzlement. M. Steuble was at the same time Manager of the "Schweiz. Genossenschaftsbank" at Appenzell. The defalcation amounts to about 30,000 frs.

#### GRISONS.

The young King Farouk of Egypt, accompanied by Queen Nazli, the Queen Mother, and his four sisters, arrived at St. Moritz by special train from Paris. From the station the King travelled to his hotel in a sleigh drawn by four horses and decorated with the Egyptian colours. His suite followed him in sleighs. He will probably stay at St. Moritz until the end of March.

#### AARGAU.

Professor E. Truan, for many years Rector of the "Kantonsschule" Aarau, has resigned from his post. His successor is Dr. Fritz Gassmann, since 1928 a teacher at the "Kantonsschule" and a lecturer at the Federal Technical University in Zurich.

#### THURGAU.

M. Jakob Herzog from Märwil has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary at Wetzikon on March 2nd.

#### VAUD.

The Senate of the University of Lausanne has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* (des sciences sociales) on Signor Mussolini. The Duce was at one time a student at the University. —

The 400th century of the University of Lausanne will be celebrated beginning of June next.

\* \* \*

The state of the parties in the New Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, after the recent elections, are as follows : 19 Radicals, 13 Liberals and 2 Socialists. A second ballot for the 9 remaining seats will take place on Wednesday next.

#### NEUCHÂTEL.

At Neuchâtel died at the age of 78, Doctor Arthur Cornaz, the Doyen of the Neuchâtel Medical Association. Dr. Cornaz was for 25 years President of the "Neuenburgischen Musikgesellschaft," he was also a member of the Editorial Staff of the "Suisse Libérale."

**VALAIS.**

The election for the cantonal government took place on Sunday last.

The result is as follows, elected are: Pitte-loud, (Conservative) 23,598 votes: no change; de Chastanay (Conservative) 22,610 votes: new; Troillet (Conservative) 22,019 votes: no change; M. Fama (Radical) 17,785 votes: new. M. Loretan, a former member has not been elected. A further election for the vacant seat in the cantonal government will be held in the near future.

**OBWALDEN.**

National-Councillor M. Odermatt, a member of the cantonal government has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

After having played an important part in the cantonal affairs for many years he was elected a member of Parliament in 1924 (National Council) where he enjoys a great reputation.

**LA POLITIQUE.****Débats en perspective.**

Lundi soir, à la séance de rentrée, le Conseil national s'occupera du projet de loi sur le désendettement agricole, qui fera, selon toute probabilité, s'ouvrir largement les écluses de l'éloquence parlementaire. On attend en particulier un discours de M. Quartenoud, de Fribourg, qui devient, de session en session, un des porte-parole les plus autorisés des paysans. Le député de Fribourg aura un duel avec son ami, M. Rossi, du Tessin, rapporteur de la majorité de la commission, lequel, jeudi dernier, a fait maintes réserves sur les conséquences financières du projet, tandis que le rapporteur de langue allemande, M. Studer, de Lucerne, avait déposé une motion de renvoi à la commission.

A l'époque où fut publié le message du Conseil fédéral, c'est-à-dire l'été dernier, nous avons exposé en détail le but de cette œuvre de secours à l'agriculture et les moyens envisagés pour la réaliser. Rappelons simplement aujourd'hui que la loi comporte deux principaux éléments: d'une part, une aide financière immédiate, après estimation, aux propriétaires ruraux surendettés; d'autre part, des mesures préventives, destinées à empêcher, à l'avenir, certaines opérations vouées à un insuccès fatal notamment la constitution d'hypothèques pour des sommes excédant la valeur réelle de l'immeuble.

On s'accorde à reconnaître que ces précautions répondent à une nécessité, ou du moins peuvent être fort utiles. En revanche, les avis divergent sur l'aide financière même, qui pose le redoutable principe d'un droit des particuliers à un appui matériel de l'Etat, à la suite de pertes essuyées, par leur faute ou par celle des circonstances. De plus, le projet du Conseil fédéral, daté du mois de juin et qui fut élaboré au cours des mois précédents, est antérieur à la dévaluation, qui peut avoir modifié les données du problème, dans une mesure qu'il importerait de connaître.

Tel est justement le motif pour lequel MM. Rossi et consorts demandent la disjonction des deux parties du projet et le renvoi pour nouvelle étude de tout ce qui touche à la participation financière de la Confédération. Le fait que cette opinion ait triomphé à la commission est caractéristique: le subventionnement à tour de bras va-t-il cesser de faire figure de doctrine orthodoxe, sous la coupole fédérale? Combien l'on aimerait à l'espérer!

Mais les paysans, déjà, fourbissent leurs armes. Ils ne vont pas se rendre sans un âpre combat. Celui-ci durera probablement plus d'une séance. Et l'issue en demeure fort incertaine.

Mardi soir, l'intérêt se concentrera aux Etats, où M. Albert Malche, d'accord avec presque tous ses collègues (sa demande, en effet, ne porte pas moins de 39 signatures) interpellera le Conseil fédéral sur l'entrevue Hitler-Schulthess. Il s'agit là d'une contreminne, lancée par les groupes nationaux pour riposter aux socialistes, qui ont chargé M. Huber, le subtil dialecticien, de questionner le gouvernement sur la même affaire. Au national, outre M. Huber, M. Meyer de Lucerne, fournira à M. Motta l'occasion de s'expliquer. Seulement, comme le chef du département politique répondra d'abord à M. Malche, aux Etats, et lira, devant l'un et l'autre conseil, une déclaration écrite, la curiosité générale se trouvera déjà satisfaite par ce qui se sera passé chez les sénateurs. En telle sorte que les insinuantes paroles et les hochements de tête dubitatifs du rhéteur saint-gallois viendront, par la suite, comme moutarde après dîner.

M. Motta dira dans quelles conditions M. Schulthess fut amené à s'entretenir avec le chancelier du Reich et montrera que l'attitude de l'ancien conseiller fédéral fut absolument correcte vis-à-vis des autorités responsables. Le texte de l'interpellation socialiste mentionne le fait que la démarche en question s'est accomplie sans le concours de notre légation à Berlin... Si toute vérité était bonne à dire, de ce choses M. Motta pourrait raconter à ce propos!

Léon Savary.  
(Tribune de Genève).

**BERTY JENNY.****Mezzo-Soprano.**

The musical inheritance of Berty Jenny can be traced back for many generations, the Jenny home in Basle, being always a centre of interest for local music lovers. To the intensely musical environment in which she passed her childhood may undoubtedly be attributed much of the remarkable musicianship which characterizes the singing of this artist. Her unusually beautiful voice and musical intelligence attracted attention at an early age, and at seventeen she became the pupil of Madame Emilie Weisser, the eminent German *Kammersängerin*. After several years of hard study, Berty Jenny made her debut in the opera "Das Rheingold" and participated as soloist in various Bach and Haendel oratorios in her home town. Although her professional debut was made in opera, she soon realized that her chief musical interest lay in the interpretation of songs. Her ambition to become a lieder singer was made definite when she heard the great Brahms interpreter Madame Ilona Durigo of Budapest. She placed herself under the tutelage of this great authority and under the inspiration of her teaching, Miss Jenny learned the true art of song interpretation. The great teacher predicted a brilliant future for her unusually talented pupil, who gave a number of successful recitals in various European cities.

The enthusiasm with which her singing was received in Europe was duplicated upon her arrival in America. Her New York debut was made in Aeolian Hall in October, 1926, and among her important American engagements have been appearances in "Die Walküre" with the international Opera Festivals in Washington and New York, concerts at Wisconsin University, in Chicago and other cities.

Berty Jenny has won a definite place among the few great lieder singers of the day. She possesses a mezzo-soprano voice of rare beauty, a truly artistic individuality and a prepossessing and charming personality. She sings in English, German, French, Italian and Swiss and her repertory includes practically all the songs of the great masters, as well as the standard oratorios.

**PERSONAL.**

We hear that Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, is suffering from a bad attack of influenza, and consequently had to cancel all engagements.

We are sending him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mme. Paravicini and her two daughters, Miles. Livia and Jacqueline, have left for the Continent on a journey to Italy.

\* \* \*

The burial of the ashes of the late Mrs. Dorothy, Mona Nussle, of 11, Marble Arch, W.1. and "Swiss House," Elmer Road, Middleton-on-Sea, will take place on Saturday, March 13th, 3 o'clock at Elmer Church, Middleton-on-Sea, near Bognor.

\* \* \*

Mr. Nussle wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the many tokens of sympathy which he has received on the occasion of his sad bereavement.

\* \* \*

We deeply regret to inform our readers of the passing away of Mr. Conrad Buhner, the well-known Swiss sculptor. A biographical notice will appear in one of our next issues.

**"BOOTS OF THE ASCENSION."**

A young daughter of a friend of mine told her father on her return from Switzerland that there was a notice in the hotel which baffled her. It read: "It is defended to circulate the hotel in boots of the ascension."

It was only after a certain amount of research that my friend discovered what the prohibition was.

The sight of his own heavy, spiked climbing boots gave him the clue.

PETERBOROUGH.

(Daily Telegraph).

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