

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1940)  
**Heft:** 962

## **Rubrik**

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone : Clerkenwell 2321/2.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD ST., E.C.2.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 22—No. 962.

LONDON, 27th APRIL, 1940.

PRICE 3d.

### PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

The Swiss Army Command issued a radio warning to all citizens that a large number of requests had been received by public bodies and private persons for the despatch of ordnance survey maps and bird's-eye views of Swiss localities. The recipients of such requests are asked to forward the correspondence received to the military headquarters in Berne.

Colonel Ernst Burgunder from Heimenhausen (Aargau) has been appointed secretary of the Federal Department in place of the retiring Colonel Kissling.

A message from the Federal Council — which we reprint in the French original in another column — contains detailed instructions in case of a “surprise attack.” In a separate statement president Pilet-Golaz adds that there are no reasons for alarm or apprehension but in view of what has happened elsewhere precautionary measures and directions are not out of place.

Schaffhausen is to have an underground power station which will come into operation in an emergency; the cost is Frs.190,000, and the municipal gas-works will also contribute Frs.53,000 towards the purchase of coal transports (ships).

Strict orders have been issued for observing the traditional Labour Day on May 1st in Geneva, apart from outlawing all street manifestations, orators in private halls may not criticise the policy of foreign governments, any leaflets will have to be approved by the police; as an example, the Conseil d'Etat stipulates that such pious wishes as " Nous souhaitons la victoire des démocraties occidentales " must not be voiced.

Of the 1,715 unemployed registered in Zurich on the 15th inst., 484 or 28% were foreigners.

A "dog fight" developed in the Geneva Grand Conseil during the session last Saturday. The socialist, Nicole, delivered a spiteful attack against Avenol, the general secretary of the League of Nations; the president repudiated the remarks and suspended

the meeting. On its resumption Nicole was denounced by his former associate Rosselet, who in turn was described by a communist member as a spy and agent provocateur. Rosselet pounced upon his accuser which led to a vigorous exchange of fisticuffs between the two socialist groups of the council.

“ La Gloire qui chante ” is the title of a historic musical drama written by Gonzague de Reynold and recently staged in Berne by a troupe of mobilised artists. This first performance, at which the Federal President and high army officials attended, proved such a success that a number of representations are to be given in all the principal towns of western Switzerland. The proceeds will go to the National Defence Fund and the Red Cross.

Federal and cantonal technicians are making a complete survey of the plateau in the Valle Maggia (Ticino) on which the village of Campo is situated. A slight subsidence of this stretch of land has been noticed for many years, but during the last winter this movement has shown acceleration and is causing uneasiness.

Dr. Gustave Clément, a well-known surgeon at Fribourg, died suddenly at the age of 72; he had performed several operations at the municipal hospital on the eve of his death. Dr. Clément was president of the Grand Conseil of which he has been a member for the last 26 years.

The "Ciba" (Ges. für Chemische Industrie in Basle) has allotted out of its profits for 1939 one million francs to the National Defence collection, and another million to the pension fund of its employees.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

## L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi le 7 Mai à 6.30 h. précises au Restaurant PAGANI 42, Great Portland Street, W.1.

ORDRE DU JOUR:

## Procès-verbal.

### Démissions.

### Admissions.

Divers.

Le souper est facultatif et les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P.F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

Le Comité