

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: 964

Rubrik: News at random

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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. 964.

LONDON, 11th MAY, 1940.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

The army command states that a n.c.officer arrested last November has been sentenced to five years' hard labour for supplying to a German agent particulars about our fortifications in the north-east part of the country. — The case of a woman (Swiss) now under arrest is also being investigated; she is under suspicion of befriending Swiss officers for the purpose of extracting on behalf of a German agency certain information of a military nature.

Since the beginning of this month a compulsory register of empty houses and flats has been set up; owners who refuse to supply the required information are liable to be prosecuted and fined.

An amount of Frs.900,000 is to be spent in Olten on air-raid shelters.

A Geneva initiative to extend suffrage to women finds little favour with the Grand Conseil; though the socialists solidly stood behind this innovation the council expressed its disapproval by 39 votes against 32.

General Guisan has been present at most of the recent Landsgemeinde of the inner cantons, in fact he is an eagerly sought guest at any patriotic manifestation in our country. Last week Mezières presented him with an illuminated address nominating him an honorary citizen; large crowds including the locally stationed regiment attended the ceremony.

A somewhat heavy penalty — 120 days imprisonment — was inflicted by the military tribunal of the fifth division on an army motorist. He had been granted two days' leave but was anxious to depart a few hours before the fixed time. On the day before he telephoned to a friend and arranged that a telegram should be sent early in the morning informing him that his bride had met with a motor accident. He

secured his immediate departure but not without rousing the suspicions of his officer. Subsequent inquiries established the real facts; the obliging friend was sent to prison for ten days for complicity.

Dr. Friedrich Michel died in Interlaken at the age of 84. He practised as a local advocate for the last sixty years and has been a member of the National Council from 1902 to 1922.

Dr. Mathias Kaelin, a well-known medical authority and founder of the renowned "Paracelsus" clinic in Zurich, died at the age of 73. Swiss riflemen will remember him as the inventor of the popular firing spectacles bearing his name.

The hunt for members of the fifth column has brought the foreign inmates of the Geneva Zoological Garden under suspicion and has resulted in the arrest of the manager who is German. No charge has been formulated so far and the existence of a conspiracy among his variegated flock is denied.

Professional altercations accentuated by physical corroboration between the director and captain of the cantonal police in Zug will be the subject of an official inquiry by the Regierungsrat; in the meantime the two combatants have been suspended from their functions.

(Owing to the late and irregular arrival of the Continental mail the " News at Random " has suffered an unavoidable curtailment).

THE GREATNESS OF THE SMALL STATE.

Particularly in these difficult times, which no doubt are imminent, one cannot possibly preserve the existence of a State by a population which only considers "questions of stomach."

The life of the State, even more so than the life of the individual, gains its value and merit through the greatness of its thoughts which guide and govern it. Big deeds and sufferings ennoble a people, then only these alone will make a people from out of a crowd and both, deeds and sufferings are derived from great ideals which at one time must have been conceived by that people.

(*Carl Hilty* 1833-1909.)