

**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:** - (1941)  
**Heft:** 989  
  
**Rubrik:** Swiss stock exchange prices

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Prof. Ernst Laur, the distinguished secretary of the Swiss Farmers Union, who is so closely identified with every movement to advance agriculture in our country, celebrated on March 27th, at Effingen (Aargau), his seventieth anniversary in the best of health.

\* \* \*

Former Federal Judge Arthur Couchepin died in Lausanne at the age of 73. Born in Martigny (Valais) he studied law in Sion and Berne and joined his father's legal practice at the age of 24. He was elected a member of the Federal Tribunal in 1916 which he presided in 1935/36.

\* \* \*

States Councillor Dr. Fritz Hauser died at the age of 57 at Berne, where he had been attending the parliamentary session; he had been ailing for some years and succumbed to a sudden attack before the arrival of the doctor. The deceased, a fervent though unconventional socialist, was already actively interested in politics when at the age of 22 he was a teacher at the Basle Primarschule. Five years later during which time he had advanced his education by self-tuition and obtained the doctorat, he was elected to the Grosse Rat; his rise to political honours was quick and uninterrupted, in 1937/38 he was president of the National Council. Dr. Hauser's death constitutes a great loss to Basle where he was extremely popular among all parties.

\* \* \*

A fatal street accident has robbed Geneva of a widely known and respected patriot in the person of Dr. Henri Dutrembley; for the last 42 years he had been the devoted medical practitioner at the Asile de Loëx. In his younger years he was a zealous alpine climber and a champion rifleman.

\* \* \*

Dr. Otto Brunner-Waser died in Zurich at the age of 64 after a long and painful illness; owner of one of the oldest pharmacies, he at all times took a leading interest in the sporting and social activities of his native town. In the army he was a colonel of infantry.

\* \* \*

A well-known skiing expert, Albert Piquet senior, from Winterthur, made a fatal fall when taking a party over the Tödi; he was thrown down a snow covered crevice which his daughter had just successfully negotiated.

\* \* \*

Dr. J. Hofmann, Director of the Agricultural Training School Strickhof in Zürich, has resigned. He was on the teaching staff since 1902 and in 1917 he took over the direction of the Strickhof. Dr. Hofmann was responsible for the linking up of a number of agricultural institutions, experimental and otherwise, with the Strickhof, such as institutions concerned with the cultivation of fruit trees, vegetable production and poultry farming. He was also responsible for the creation of a special office to advise farmers on administrative questions. To the many farmers who have attended his school, he was more than just a teacher, he was always eager to keep in touch with them and to help them with their farming experiences.

\* \* \*

The postman of Eptingen (Baselland) is said to have covered 231,000 km. or five times round the earth during his daily peregrinations; he is Mr. Robert Bürgin who has now retired after 35 years faithful service.

The organisation for the purpose of bringing about a closer contact between Swiss children living abroad and those in Switzerland has once again this year made great efforts to further this cause. Its council met recently in St. Gall, and it became known afterwards that 1,000 Swiss girls and boys coming from abroad will be able to spend a holiday in the mountains. There will probably be many coming from occupied countries and unfortunately none this year from England as available communications are not such as to encourage travelling.

\* \* \*

The town of Zurich has decided to present Beauvais, famous for its Cathedral, which still stands, and for its beautiful carpets, with a Hut for the benefit of school children. The Hut is planned to house 40 children and everything is to be provided: beds, crockery and other necessities. In doing this, Zurich is following the example given by the people of Fribourg who chose Breteuil as a "Home Fribourgeois" equally well-equipped.

\* \* \*

Over 6,200 school children from the canton Ticino travelling in special trains made a pilgrimage to the Rütli and other historic places in the district.

\* \* \*

Among the English people stranded in Switzerland and unable to return home is a happy group of children stationed in Davos where they are undergoing treatment for tubercular complaints. They hail from Birmingham — 27 of them — and their stay and cure is due to the initiative of our compatriot, Mr. Christian Kunzle, who as far back as 1932 turned his chateau at Davos into a sanatorium.

### SWISS STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Through the courtesy of the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation we are enabled to publish the quotations of some of the leading stocks ruling on June 5th:—

	May 7th.	June 5th.
Bankverein ... ..	383	385
Kreditanstalt ... ..	447	453
Rückversicherung ... ..	2820	2900
Ciba ... ..	5100	5175
Nestlé ... ..	842	830
Aluminium Neuhausen	3240	2860 ex right
Columbus ... ..	208	267
Sulzer ... ..	890	950 ex div.
Brown Boveri ... ..	227	246
Wehranleihe 3% 1936	101%	101%
SBB JURA-SIMPLON	99 $\frac{3}{4}$ %	100%

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