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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Federal Councillor Dr. Walter Stampfli has tendered his resignation to the President of the Swiss Confederation, for reasons of health.

Dr. Stampfli was born in 1884 in Büren (Solothurn) and studied law at the Universities of Zurich and Göttingen. In 1906 he obtained the degree of *Doctor rer. pol.* After a short activity in the insurance world he took over the editorship of the "Oltener Tagblattes" in 1908, this position he occupied for ten years.

In 1918 Dr. Stampfli was elected Secretary of the "Solothurn Chamber of Commerce," and three years later entered into the services of the v. Roll'schen Eisenwerke.

At the early age of 28 he was elected a member of the "Kantonsrat" of Solothurn to which he belonged until 1937. He entered Parliament (National Council) as a Liberal in 1931. In 1940, Dr. Stampfli was elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to the late Dr. H. Obrecht.

Federal Councillor Dr. W. Stampfli has rendered the Confederation great services, especially as one of the promoters of the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Act, and his leaving the Federal Government is universally regretted.

\* \* \*

The funeral of Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, late Swiss Minister in London, took place in Berne, on Saturday, November 18th.

Amongst the numerous congregation were the Swiss Foreign Minister, Monsieur Petitpierre, and members of the Diplomatic Corps and the Swiss Foreign Office.

The service was conducted by Pasteur Morgenthaler (Oberhofen). Monsieur de Rham and Monsieur Preiswerk, former colleagues of the late Minister, spoke on behalf of his friends and the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

\* \* \*

The Austrian Government has decided to open a Consulate General in Zurich, and has appointed M. W. Peinsipp as Consul General.

Revenue of the Swiss Confederation during 1948 is estimated at Frs.1,794,800,000, while expenditure is expected to amount to Frs.1,800,700,000, leaving an adverse balance of only Frs.5,900,000. The current year's budgeted deficit amounts to Frs.97,000,000.

\* \* \*

On 31st October Swiss notes in circulation reached the record figure of Frs.4,192,000,000, an increase over the previous week of Frs.138,300,000. The latest weekly return of the Swiss National Bank ascribes this increase to end-month requirements. The gold reserve remained almost unchanged at Frs.5,374,000,000, so that the alleged recent gold transfers from England to Zurich and Geneva, reported by an English news agency to have amounted to many million pounds sterling, could not have been for the account of the Swiss National Bank.

\* \* \*

Drastic electricity economy measures have been ordered by the Swiss Government. This is the result of the drought — the worst for 100 years in Switzerland — which has affected the output of hydro-electric plants. As from November 1st electric heating in private homes is forbidden, factories must reduce consumption of electricity by 70 to 80 per cent., and the consumption of electricity in hotels, restaurants, shops and places of entertainment must be cut by one-third.

Imports of cars into Switzerland which registered a decrease in the month of August increased again substantially in September, when 2,261 cars with a custom value of 17,500,000 Swiss francs arrived in the country against 1,110 in September, 1946. The United Kingdom heads the list of suppliers of small and medium sized cars, whereas the U.S. supplies chiefly heavy and large cars.

\* \* \*

Swiss foreign trade figures for the first nine months of this year show imports from the United Kingdom valued at Frs.223,900,000 (£12,900,000), as

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compared with Frs.134,600,000 (£7,800,000) in the corresponding period of 1946. Exports to the United Kingdom rose from Frs.35,500,000 (£2,050,000) to Frs.82,500,000 (£4,750,000). There is every indication that this country is going to play an important role in Britain's export drive.

Total Swiss imports from January to September, 1947, amounted to Frs.3,383,200,000 (£195,000,000), exports being Frs.2,369,400,000 (£137,000,000).

The Swiss index of wholesale prices, at the end of October, was another 5.2 points up at 213.9 (August, 1939, equals 100) over the September figure.

### CANTONAL

The "Tellspielgesellschaft" has announced that they will again give a number of "William Tell" performances during the summer, 1948, at Altdorf. During the 1947 season altogether 13,300 persons attended the performances. [A.T.S.]

Mme A. Frei-Schwyter, the oldest inhabitant of Lachen (Schwyz) has died at the age of 100. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Mirko Ros, Professor at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Liège (Belgium). [A.T.S.]

The late Mme Pauline Huber-Uster, from Küsnacht (Zurich), has left an amount of 20,000.—frs. to the community of Küsnacht for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Hans Flück, of Zurich, has been awarded the gold medal given in memory of Daniel Hanbury, for original drug research, by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

The late Xaver Jten, from Unterägeri (Zug) has left an amount of 30,000.—frs. to the community towards the erection of an orphanage. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Bienne of Dr. H. Wendling, surgeon-in-chief of the District Hospital, in Bienne. [A.T.S.]

Pierre Glasson, a member of the Government of the canton of Fribourg, has renounced his seat in the National Council. Edmund Blanc, from Villars St.

Pierre, has been declared elected in his stead. According to the Swiss constitution not more than two members of a cantonal government can belong to the Federal Chambers, and as there are already two members sitting in Parliament, Glasson had to retire.

[A.T.S.]

G. Roulin, from Estavayer, has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg for the year 1948. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of Jakob Burckhardt, the great Balois scholar, an impressive service was held at the University of Basle, during which Professor A. von Salis spoke of the achievements of J. Burckhardt. [A.T.S.]

Hans Morf, foreign correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" in Paris, has celebrated his 40th anniversary as a member of the Staff of this paper. [A.T.S.]

Edmund Dähler, a former "Stadtammann" and member of the cantonal government of Appenzell J.-Rh., has died at Appenzell at the age of 74. The deceased was a Member of Parliament (National Council) from 1926-1935. [A.T.S.]

J. Eisenhut-Schaefer, well-known in the embroidery industry, has died in Gais (Appenzell A.-Rh.) at the age of 92. The deceased was a member of the "Kantonsrat" of the canton Appenzell A.-Rh. and sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1911-1931. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car collided at a level crossing near Notkersegg with a railway engine, causing the death of J. Boppart, a commercial traveller from St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

Pastor Albert Rothenberger, who was for a great number of years Pastor at the protestant Linsenbühlkirche in St. Gall, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. He was for 38 years President of the "Gemeinnützigen Gesellschaft" of the town of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

From Altstätten (St. Gall) comes the news of the death of Hans Hongler, President of the Board of the "Rheintalischen Kreditanstalt," at the age of 62. [A.T.S.]

Two passers-by were killed in Flawil (St. Gall) by a motorist Walther Grubenmann, from Wattwil, who, after the accident, failed to stop. On the point of being arrested, he committed suicide. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of Bremgarten (Aargau), J. Huber, a master gardener, has died at the age of 101. [A.T.S.]

H. Businger, Manufacturer, in Aarau, has given an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the community of Wittnau for school excursions. [A.T.S.]

Walter Siegfried, a native of Zofingen, and a writer of many well-known novels, has died in Patenkirchen, at the age of 90. [A.T.S.]

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

### SOCIAL EVENING

Saturday, December 6th, 1947, from

6—11 p.m., at the Vienna Café,  
Berkeley Arcade, Opposite Baker St. Station.

Dancing — Sing Songs — Recitations.

ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE  
HEARTILY INVITED.

The town of Aarau is the beneficiary to an amount of nearly 100,000.—frs. left by the late Sophie Wagner, of Aarau. The money is to be used for needy old people. [A.T.S.]

States Councillor Dr. Altwegg has tendered his resignation as a member of the government of the canton of Thurgau. [A.T.S.]

Despite the failure of a recent Three and a quarter per cent. loan of the canton Basle-City at par plus 0.6 per cent. tax, the canton of Ticino is inviting subscriptions to a Frs.15,000,000.—loan, also at par, but including tax. As 3½ per cent. is no longer considered a sufficient rate of interest for long term loans, the offer is generally regarded as a "test case" for future loans. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the *dies academicus* of the University of Lausanne, the following new Professors have been installed: Paul Chapuis (Theology); F. Culès (Law); M. Jacot (Medicine); P. Gillard (Philosophy); H. Girardet (Pharmacology); P. Hauduroy (Medicine); J. Bolomey (Philosophy); A. Dumas (Philosophy); M. Favez (Philosophy); and H. Zwahlen (Law). [A.T.S.]

Jean Peytréquin, who has recently been elected as a member of the National Council, has been unable to take up his seat as a member of the National Council, owing to the constitution not allowing more than two members of a cantonal government to occupy a seat in Parliament, he has been replaced by U. Peclard, who sat in the last Parliament. [A.T.S.]

Etienne Cuénod, a notary in Morges, has been arrested for embezzlement. [A.T.S.]

René Gerber, from Peseux, has been elected Director of the Conservatory of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

At the frontier post Perly-Saint-Julien a motor-car coming from Geneva was stopped, and after investigations a case containing 550 gold coins was found. The two passengers a man and a woman, were arrested and the motor-car, belonging to a garage proprietor in Geneva was confiscated. [A.T.S.]

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### Army

The death occurred in Zurich of Colonel of Division, Johannes von Muralt, at the age of 70.

The deceased studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Berlin and Munich, and in 1902 took the degree of doctor of law. From 1903-1907 von Muralt occupied the post of District Attorney in Zurich.

In 1908 he entered the Swiss Instruction Corps (Artillery), and from 1921-1931 he was Commander of the Artillery Officers Courses. The deceased held the following high commands in the Swiss Army: Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army Corps, Commander of the Artillery Brigade 3, and Commander of the 5th Division, which post he relinquished in 1937. [A.T.S.]

### Economics

Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon, Swiss machinery manufacturers, announces a gross profit for the trading year 1946-47 of Frs.7,700,000 (against Frs.6,900,000) and net profit of Frs.1,380,000 (against Frs.1,370,000). The dividend is maintained at 5 per cent.

Orders received would have justified an increase in production, it is stated, but this was rendered impossible on account of shortage of labour. Substantial orders were received for steam turbines from Egypt and Canada.

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Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding Company will propose, at an extraordinary general meeting to be held on 5th December, an increase in the share capital by Swiss francs 7,200,000 to francs 65,200,000 by issuing at francs 525 72,000 new bearer shares of francs 100 each nominal.

This issue is in connection with the merger scheme with Alimentana. As already reported, shareholders in Alimentana, the holding company for the Swiss Maggi food concern, have been offered for each share 15 Nestlé shares and 15 shares in Unilac Incorporated, of Panama, a concern allotted to Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Holding Company.

#### Humanitarian

The "Kinderhilfe" of the Swiss Red Cross has organised further transports of children. On the 20th of this month 500 children from Austria have arrived in Switzerland, another batch from Italy is expected to arrive shortly in our country. They will stay for three months and will be distributed amongst Swiss families. [A.T.S.]

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The Annual Seismological Report concerning Swiss earthquakes during 1945 has been compiled by Dr. E. Wanner, of Zurich. Seismographs are installed at the Swiss Observatories of Zurich, Chur, Neuchâtel, Basel and Brig, and during the year 85 near earthquakes and 189 strong distant earthquakes were registered. There were ten earth tremors with epicentres in Switzerland which were felt by people during the year. None of these had a greater intensity than V on the Rossi-Forel Scale, so that none reached destructive intensity. The greatest three tremors were (1) May 13th at Freiburg, (2) October 13th, at Engadine, and (3) November 10th, at Wildhorn.

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Swiss hotels and restaurants will serve meals without coupons from November 14th.

#### SWITZERLAND'S CONSTITUTION, HISTORY AND CULTURE.

We wish to draw our reader's attention to a most interesting course of three lectures on the above-mentioned theme.

The first of these lectures will be given by Dr. A. R. Lindt, Press Attaché at the Swiss Legation, on Tuesday, December 2nd, 1947, at 7 p.m., at the Vienna Café. (See Forthcoming Events.)

The course is organised by the Nouvelle Société Helvétique in an endeavour to give us an opportunity to refresh our memories and to help foreign born wives and the younger generation to get to know something about the fundamentals of the far off homeland.

#### TWENTY ENGLISHMEN IN SWITZERLAND.

On the 16th of December, a very attractive talk will be given by Professor de Beer, one of Switzerland's greatest friends in England, on the experiences of famous Englishmen, men of letters in Switzerland in the course of the last 200 years. This lecture also takes place at the Vienna Café under the auspices of the N.S.H. (See Forthcoming Events.)

#### UN CADEAU ORIGINAL DE RADIO-LAUSANNE A LA PRINCESSE ELIZABETH D'ANGLETERRE.

La Suisse, comme tous les pays du monde, se passionne pour le mariage du couple princier d'Angleterre.

Un cadeau fort original sera fait à la Princesse Elizabeth par la Chaîne du Bonheur qui est l'une des émissions les plus goûtables de Radio-Lausanne. Les animateurs de cette émission philanthropique ont envoyé à la Princesse Elizabeth le télégramme suivant :

"A Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Elizabeth.

Les auditeurs de Radio-Lausanne, groupés sous le signe de la Chaîne du Bonheur conduite par Roger Nordmann et Jack Rollan, vous présentent, à l'occasion de votre mariage, leurs vœux les plus respectueux et sincères.

Pour marquer cet heureux événement, ils se font un plaisir d'inviter 20 petits Londoniens à passer un mois en Suisse et ils voudraient que vous trouviez dans ce geste, l'expression des sentiments que nous éprouvons pour la valeureuse Angleterre et la Famille Royale.

Signé : Marcel Bezençon.

Directeur de Radio-Lausanne."

Les auditeurs de Radio-Lausanne ont ainsi trouvé une formule originale et bien sympathique pour leur cadeau à la Princesse Elizabeth.

