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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Peter von Salis as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Rumanian Government. This post became vacant when René de Weck was transferred to Rome.

Peter von Salis hails from Soglio (Grisons) and was born in 1898. He studied at the University of Berne where he obtained the degree of doctor of law. After having joined one of the Banking Institutes, he entered the Diplomatic service in 1929; during his career as a diplomat he occupied various posts at Washington, Paris, Rome and Moscow. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Marshal Mannerheim, late commander-in-chief of the Finnish Army, who has been spending a holiday in Switzerland, before his departure paid a courtesy visit to the Swiss Foreign Minister, Monsieur Petitpierre. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Swiss Minister in Rome, M. René de Weck, has officially taken possession of the Villa Maraini, which was presented to the Swiss Confederation by the Countess Carolina Maraini Sommaruga. The building will be used to house the Swiss Institute in Rome. This institution has been founded to promote cultural relations between Italy and Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On presenting his credentials to Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Rudolf Seemann, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Austrian Republic, expressed his appreciation to the Swiss government and the Swiss people for the help they have constantly given to his country during the darkest hours of their existence.

He expressed the sincere hope that both commercial and cultural relations between the two neighbouring countries will become ever closer for the mutual benefit of both nations. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Gottfried Plattner, from Langenbruch (born 1900) to the post of Director of the Federal Powder Works in Wimmis. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Ottawa announced the establishment of a Canadian Legation in Berne and the appointment of M. L. Dana Wilgress as Canadian Minister there. A Swiss Legation was established in Ottawa about a year ago.

M. Wilgress hitherto has been in Moscow, first as Minister and then as Ambassador, since the opening of the Canadian diplomatic mission in the U.S.S.R. in 1942. In his new appointment he will retain his personal rank of Ambassador in the Canadian diplomatic service.

\* \* \*

A new financial and trade agreement was concluded between Greece and Switzerland to replace the 1933 pact. The new accord, which will have to be ratified, would be effective shortly. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Rumanian Government has made an offer to Swiss holders of Rumanian external loans for the repurchase of their holdings at prices considerably under their nominal value. The discount varies between 50 per cent. for the Seven per cent. Unified Loan of 1937 of the Autonomous Administration of Monopolies, and 5 per cent. for the Four-and-a-half per cent. Consolidated Loan of 1934.

Payment is made in Swiss francs up to the limit of the amount available for the purpose.

\* \* \*

A Swiss trade delegation to Poland is negotiating a new commercial agreement between the two countries. During 1946, Polish imports from Switzerland consisted almost exclusively of chemicals, medicines and dyes.

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**Cantonal**

The Abbot of the cloister of Einsiedeln, Dr. Jgnatius Staub, has died in Einsiedeln at the age of 75. The deceased was born in Menzingen (Ct. Zug) and studied at the University of Fribourg. In 1910 he entered the "Stiftsschule" as a teacher, and in 1923 was elected as Abbot. He was the author of many works on theological subjects, and one of the founders of the agricultural college in Pfäffikon. Federal President Etter and Federal Counsellor Celio attended the funeral.

\* \* \*

The well-known child specialist, Dr. Fritz Stirnimann, has died in Lucerne at the age of 70. He was the author of several works on the psychology of children.

\* \* \*

Gangsters, of the worst type, still seem to be busy in Zurich. Whilst a lady assistant in a tailor's shop at the Badenerstrasse was wrapping up a parcel for a customer, he suddenly attacked her by hitting her with a revolver, when she cried for help the man escaped without however collecting his booty. The shop assistant was taken to hospital suffering from shock. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The administrator of the cantonal hospital in Zurich, J. C. Bruggmann, has retired from his post which he has held since 1941, in order to take up a post in a private concern. J. C. Bruggmann was for a number of years President of the liberal party of the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The government of the canton of Zurich is asking for a credit of 40 million francs for the re-building of the cantonal hospital at Winterthur.

Professor Dr. Ernst Meyer has been appointed Professor of literature, and Dr. Max Wehrli, Professor for German literature at the University of Zurich.

\* \* \*

The Central-Committee of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Verein" met at Zurich, in order to accept the report of its finance commission. The expenses for the educational efforts of this association during 1946 amounted to 750,000 frs., and the membership is given as 53,200. The Meeting of the delegates, at which the London section (Swiss Mercantile Society) will be represented, is taking place on May 10th and 11th, at Interlaken.

\* \* \*

Edmund Wenninger, editor-in-chief of the "Tages Anzeiger" in Zurich, has completed 25 years service with this paper.

\* \* \*

Pastor Otto Winkler met with an accident, when attending the exams at the Secondary-school in Wülflingen. He slipped on the stairs and received fatal injuries. The deceased, who was 70 years of age, was pastor in Wülflingen for 25 years.

\* \* \*

From Zurich comes the news of the death of Professor William Silberschmidt at the age of 79. The deceased was a native of La Chaux-de-Fonds, and was appointed in 1895 as a lecturer to the medical faculty of the University of Zurich; eleven years later (1906) he was appointed Professor. He was from 1910-1935 *ordinarius* for hygiene and bacteriology and director of the Institute of Hygiene. He retired in 1935.

\* \* \*

Dr. Eugen Rentsch, the well-known Publisher, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary at Erlenbach near Zurich.

\* \* \*

The Mayor of Prague, Dr. Vaclav Vacek, has arrived in Zurich on an official visit. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the 10th of this month the population of the canton of Glarus celebrated the traditional anniversary of the battle of Näfels (1388). Dr. Hefti-Haab, Landammann, addressed a large congregation, and the Bishop of Chur, Christian Caminada conducted the religious service. The Swiss army was represented by army-corps commander Constam. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for the year 1946 of the canton of Zug close with a deficit of 291,150 frs.

\* \* \*

General Motors Corporation of Detroit has bought the factory which it leased before the war at Bienne; the latter town will become the corporation's main European motor manufacturing centre.

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1946 of the town of Berne show a credit-balance of 30,529 frs.

\* \* \*

The death has occurred in Berne of Dr. Fritz Dumont, surgeon-in-chief of the Lory hospital in Berne, at the age of 65. Dr. Dumont was a lecturer of surgery at the University of Berne, and a member of the administration of the Swiss Red Cross. He wrote several works on medical subjects.

\* \* \*

The passing is also recorded from Berne of Professor Voegtlin, at the age of 86. For 43 years he was

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a teacher first at the "Bezirksschule Baden," and then at the "Ober Realschule Basel," Seminar Küssnacht and the "Kantonsschule Zurich." Professor Vögtlin made a name for himself through his many novels.

\* \* \*

Bernard Girard-Degoumois, a well-known watch manufacturer, has died in St. Imier. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A commission has been appointed to study the question of building an aerodrome in Fribourg. The Fribourg section of the Swiss Aero-Club has taken the initiative. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Jean Rollier, surgeon-in-chief of the Daler hospital in Fribourg, has been made a member of the "Association française de chirurgie." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Dr. Tobias Christ of Basle, has left his valuable collection of prints of the XVth & XVIth century to the "Kunstmuseum" in Basle.

\* \* \*

An employee of the "Darlehenskasse" Therwil (Baselland) was sentenced to three years imprisonment for having embezzled an amount of frs. 133,637 frs.

\* \* \*

The twenty-six-years-old medical practitioner, Dr. Sebastian Hodel, from Basle but practising at Geneva, has lost his life whilst on a mountaineering excursion. He fell into a glacier crevasse on the Les Grands glacier and was killed instantly.

\* \* \*

The *Première* of the play "Santa Cruz," by the Swiss author Max Frisch, took place in Basle.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the anniversary (1st of April, 1944) of the bombing of the town of Schaffhausen by the American Air Force, a service of remembrance for the victims was held at the "Waldfriedhof."

The head of the cantonal government, Traugott Wanner, placed wreaths on the graves of those who lost their lives. [A.T.S.]

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The village of Stein in the Toggenburg was almost completely destroyed by fire; fourteen dwellings and twenty-one barns were burned down and more than 120 inhabitants have been rendered homeless.

In addition a considerable number of cattle have perished in the flames. The total of the damage caused is not yet known, but it is considered to be high. A collection for the victims of the catastrophe has been opened, the sum collected so far has reached several thousand francs.

\* \* \*

A cheese-monger at Flawil was condemned to one month's imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 frs. for supplying cheese and butter without collecting ration vouchers. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The road over the Julier Pass is now again open for motor-car traffic. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Brugg of Hans Häfeli, a former "Stadtammann" of the town of Brugg.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Fishermen in the harbour of Rorschach netted in one catch a total of sixty hundredweight of fish.

[A.T.S.]

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Burglars entered the premises of the Jewelry firm Bernasconi at Lugano, and stole a large quantity of watches and several hundred francs in cash. No arrest has as yet been made.

The town of Lausanne has lost one of its most distinguished sons in the person of Dr. Paul Perret. The deceased was at one time editor of the "Feuille d'Avis de Vevey," and subsequently editor-in-chief of the "Tribune de Lausanne." He was also closely connected with the "Oeuvre." In 1921 he entered the Grand Council, and from 1929-1931 was mayor of the town of Lausanne. He sat in Parliament (National Council) in 1931; and entered the government to the canton of Lausanne in 1931, from which post he retired in the spring of 1946. The University of Lausanne honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

The new British Consul in Lausanne, General W. F. Lukis, the successor of Consul Maurice Galland, was officially received by the cantonal government of Vaud.

Rosalie Gay, a well-known Swiss painter has died at Vevey at the age of 95. She was principally known for her pictures of flowers which were regularly exhibited in Paris and in some of the Swiss towns.

The couple Edouard Elskes-Fehr in Lausanne have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary (Diamond-Jubilee). Edouard Elskes was a former Manager of the Portland-Zementfabrik in St. Sulpice.

Dr. Charles Scholder, a medical practitioner in Lausanne, has been nominated Professor of orthopaedy at the University of Lausanne in succession to Professor Nicod, who recently retired from the post.

[A.T.S.]

The building, housing the offices of the coal mines in Grône (Valais) was completely destroyed by fire, the cause of it is not known.

The 25 years old Marcel Bruttin from Nax (Valais) was manipulating a service rifle, when a shot rang out, which killed him instantaneously.

[A.T.S.]

Four fishermen, Sylvain Braillard and his three sons of 25-37 were drowned in the lake of Neuchâtel during a heavy storm. Sylvain Braillard was the father of eight children.

Adrien Jaquerod, well-known in watch manufacturing circles as a scientist, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Neuchâtel.

A heavy storm which broke out over the town of Neuchâtel caused considerable damage. Four aeroplanes on the airfield in Planeyse were overturned and damaged. The gale reached a speed of 100 km. p.h.

[A.T.S.]

The head of a gang, who, a few months ago committed a burglary at a jewelry shop at the Quai des Bergues in Geneva, has been arrested in Paris.

The Town Council of Geneva has voted a credit of 482,000frs. for the renovation of the Hotel Metro-

pole. On completion, the hotel will have room for 135 beds.

### Army

Whilst practising the throwing of hand grenades at the cavalry "Rekrutenschule" in Aarau, Lieutenant Hans Rudolf Walther, from Oberentfelden was badly hurt. Non-commissioned Officer Ernst Galli (Aarau) and recruit Rudolf Nyffenegger from Böttingen were also hurt. A military investigation into the cause of the accident has been ordered. [A.T.S.]

### Traffic

For the first time, since the termination of the war, a Douglas freight machine belonging to Swissair, has been flown to Budapest. It carried ninety parcels of Penicillin at a total weight of 1,600 kg. which was urgently required by the Hungarian Ministry of Health. The flight took three hours each way.

From the 1st of this month, the Swissair service between London and Geneva was revised coinciding with the replacement of the Douglas DC-3 aircraft by a Douglas DC-4 (Skymaster). The London airport is now Northolt instead of Croydon. [A.T.S.]

### Humanitarian

A collection undertaken in Switzerland for enabling British war invalids to recuperate in our country has brought in the splendid amount of 300,000 frs., which will enable 400 to 500 British ex-soldiers to spend a few weeks in Switzerland.

A batch of 400 German children from Cologne have arrived in Switzerland, they are the guests of the Swiss Red Cross and will be distributed amongst Swiss families. Their stay will be extended over three months.

The Swiss Red Cross "Secours aux enfants" institution has now terminated its activity in France, during which time they have sent 66,000 French children to Switzerland, fed and educated thousands in canteens and schools, and run altogether ten homes. For this work alone the Swiss population has subscribed a total of 65 million francs.

[A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The smuggling of gold coins from Switzerland is still in full swing. An employée of the International Sleeping Car Co., was arrested at Vallorbe, being in possession of 900 twenty franc pieces, which he had tried to smuggle into France.

Altogether 1839 Swiss emigrated overseas in 1946, as against 313 in the previous year.

A delegation of four editors of technical periodicals, Chas. Cooper (*Engineering*), B. W. Pendred (*The Engineer*), Norman Stubbs (*The Machinist*) and A. C. Hardy (*Journal of Commerce, Shipbuilding and Engineering Section*), has arrived in Switzerland. They are inspecting various engineering works in Geneva, Zurich, Schaffhausen and Winterthur.

[A.T.S.]