

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: - (1947)

Heft: 1066

Rubrik: News at random

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 30. No. 1066.

FRIDAY, MAY 16th, 1947.

PRICE 6d.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

For some considerable time, the name of General Guisan has been mentioned as a possible candidate for the Governorship of the Free City of Trieste. The General has let it be known, that should he be officially approached on this matter, he would be unable to accede to this request owing to his age. [A.T.S.]

Switzerland has formally ratified the constitution of the World Health Organization. The ratification by Switzerland brings to eight the countries that have pledged themselves to adhere to the health charter. Other signers are Canada, Great Britain, China, Iran, New Zealand, Syria and Liberia.

The Swiss Government has opened customs offices at Zermatt and St. Moritz, so that tourists may send their baggage direct to either resort and have it examined there instead of at the frontier.

The Federal Gymnastic Competition will take place in Berne from the 18th to the 21st of July, 1947, altogether 1,162 sections with 28,335 entrants will compete. [A.T.S.]

A memorial service for the late King Christian X of Denmark was held at the "Französische Kirche" in Berne.

Amongst those present were Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Petitpierre, Foreign Minister, and members of the Diplomatic Corp. [A.T.S.]

Monsieur Abol Chassem Pourevaly, Minister Plenipotentiary of Iran, has presented his credentials to Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, and so has Monsieur Fernando Cisterna Ortiz, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Chile. [A.T.S.]

Federal Councillor Celio has attended the canonisation celebration of Nicholas von Flue, which

took place in Rome on the 15th of this month, his visit did not bear any official character, and was a purely private affair. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has delegated Dr. A. Sauter, Vice-Director of the Federal Office of Health, and M. Clottu, Social Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, to attend the British Conference for combating tubercular diseases which will take place in London on July 8th to 10th, 1947. [A.T.S.]

Cantonal

Mme. Veuve Elisabeth Niederöst-Odermatt, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Schwyz, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary in Schwyz. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Benno Gut, born in 1897 has been elected Abbot of the cloister of Einsiedeln, in succession to the late Dr. Jgnatius Staub. [A.T.S.]

The couple Josef Reichmuth in Oberiberg have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. The husband is 87 and his wife 81 years old. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Obwalden was held on Sunday, April 27th, at Sarnen. The accounts, which show a credit-balance of 40,958.— frs. were accepted. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Nidwalden took place at Nidwalden on Sunday, April 29th. H. Wymann (Liberal) was elected "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

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Leo Löw, Central Secretary, and Jacques Haug, of the "Schweiz. Textil & Fabrikarbeiter Verbandes," have been arrested in Zurich for embezzlement of the funds of the association. The amounts in question are between 60 to 100,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The 19th Congress of the P.E.N. Club will take place in Zurich from the 2nd to the 6th of June, 1947. [A.T.S.]

Professor Paul Karrer, Professor of chemistry, University of Zurich, and Nobel prize winner 1947, who has made outstanding contributions to the study of the chemistry of natural products, especially the chemistry of the carotenoids, carbohydrates and vitamins, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Zurich of Leo Fritzsche, Central Secretary of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Verein," he was for the last 18 years in the service of this institution. [A.T.S.]

The elections for the "Kantonsrat" Zurich show no great changes in the strength of the various parties. The new Council constitutes itself as follows: Peasant Party 36 (34); Liberals 25 (24); Democrats 21 (18); Christian-Socialists 16 (11); Socialists 49 (53); Partei der Arbeit (Communists) 12 (5); Landesring 20 (29); Evang. Volkspartei 1 (2); Young Peasants 0 (1); Freiwirtschaftler 0 (3);

At the same time, the elections for the members of the cantonal Government took place, the following have been elected: Briner (Democrat, hitherto); Streuli (Liberal, hitherto) Vaterlaus (Liberal, hitherto); Heusser (Peasant Party, hitherto); Meier (Peasant Party, new); Henggeler (Socialist, hitherto); Kägi (Socialist, hitherto). [A.T.S.]

Hermann Hug, for forty years town engineer of Winterthur, has relinquished his post for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

Alfred Stähli, Winterthur, is entering the National Council, in succession to J. Henggeler. A. Stähli belongs to the Socialist Party. [A.T.S.]

Jakob Egli, for fifty years organist in Wald, has died at the age of 72. [A.T.S.]

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A woman, aged forty-four, and described as being "comfortably off," was caught stealing a dress in one of the big stores in Zurich.

Investigations made at the home of the culprit brought to light ten dresses, half a dozen blouses, a large quantity of stockings, fifty pieces of curtain material and numbers of vases and other ornaments. [A.T.S.]

Professor Friedrich Frauchiger, a teacher at the commercial section of the "Kantonschule" Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. He was for a number of years a member of the "Grosse Stadtrat" and the "Kantonsrat," he was also President of the Liberal Party of the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Zurich of the well-known painter, Heinrich Altherr, from Basle. After completing his studies in Germany; he was appointed Professor and Director of the Academy in Stuttgart. In 1938, he returned to Switzerland, and established himself in Zurich. Many of his paintings are to be found in the art galleries throughout Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

Frau Ratsherr Legler-Schlittler has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary at Diesbach (Glarus), she is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Glarus. [A.T.S.]

Three small children playing with matches, set fire to a barn at Schwarzenburg (Berne); whilst one of the children was able to get away, the two others were badly burned and died a few hours after. [A.T.S.]

The Mayor of the town of Budapest, Josef Kövago, has paid an official visit to the Mayor of the Federal capital. Kövago was, during the war an important member of the resistance movement, and was at one time imprisoned by the Germans. [A.T.S.]

Dr. H. Mouttet, a member of the cantonal government of Berne, has celebrated his 40th service jubilee. He started his career as secretary to the cantonal tribunal, and from 1909-1912 was public-prosecutor of the Jura District. From 1912-1928 he was a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Berne, and for the last nineteen years a member of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

A. Stauffer, who was a member of the cantonal government of Berne from 1918-1937, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary at Gorgémont. [A.T.S.]

Two Jewellery shops in Berne were victims of burglaries, when a considerable amount of watches and Jewellery were taken. The burglar was found by the police and the missing articles were recovered. [A.T.S.]

Richard Corbaz, a member of the cantonal government of Fribourg, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Victor Buchs, who for many years belonged to the cantonal government of Fribourg, has celebrated his golden wedding day and his 80th birthday. He was responsible for the building of the bridges in Pérolles and Zähringen. [A.T.S.]

Considerable damage has been caused through an outbreak of fire in the Maggenberg forest near Tafers (Fribourg). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Dining Car Company has appointed Walter Seewer from Interlaken, formerly Director of the "Neuen Waldhotels" Arosa; as Manager in succession to the late Gottfried Muller. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious accident occurred in Basle, when three tramway-trains collided at the Aeschenplatz.

Five persons were killed, and between 30-40 passengers were hurt, some of them seriously. The names of those who lost their lives are Flora Näf (born 1920) Birsfelden; H. Degen-Schmassmann (born 1871) Reinach; Otto Kohler-Rhiner (born 1911) Winterthur; George Rudin (born 1927) Frenkendorf; Josef Kuhn (born 1894) Birmingham.

Investigations are being made as to the cause of the accident. The material damage is expected to exceed 100,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

As a thanks-offering for the help given to Holland by the town of Basle, the Dutch Government has presented the town with 30,000 tulip and narcissus bulbs. These have recently bloomed and adorned the municipal parks. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Excessive speed caused the death of two motorists, when a four-seater motor-car collided with a seven-ton lorry at Basle.

Both the driver of the motor-car, Dr. Dominik Stutz, a lawyer from Zurich, and his passenger, Dr. A. Lenzi-von Matt, district attorney, Dietikon, were killed, their wives, who sat in the back of the car were slightly hurt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

More than 900 persons attended the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell A.Rh. at Hundswil, on Sunday, April 27th. The accounts which close with a balance of 350,000.— frs. to the good were accepted. All seven members of the cantonal government were confirmed in their offices.

Amongst the guests were present, Federal Councillor Petitpierre and Colonel of Division Brunner. [A.T.S.]

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The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell I.Rh. was held on Sunday, April 27th, at Appenzell. States-Councillor A. Locher was elected "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

* * *

Various institutions and organisations in the canton of St. Gall have benefited by various bequests. From the Estate of the late Dr. Janggen, advocate in St. Gall, the "Janggen-Pöhn Stiftung" receives 1,220,900.— frs.; the municipal theatre in St. Gall, 102,800.— frs.; the Swiss Alpine Club 50,000.— frs. for the erection of a club hut; 20,000.— frs. to the "Schweiz. Juristenverein," and an equal amount to the school in Malans for "Schulreisen."

The late Arnold Neithardt has left 20,000.— frs. to various charitable and scientific institutions. The evangelical church community of Niederuzwil has received 100,000.— frs. for acquiring the ground for a church hall. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A military court sitting at St. Gall has condemned Edwin Bösch, a commercial clerk, to three years penal servitude for having passed on military secrets to a foreign power. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The theological faculty of the University of Zurich has conferred on Pastor Paul Vogt in Grabs (St. Gall) the degree of doctor of divinity, for his work as ad-

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ministrator of the "Kirchlichen Flüchtlingswerkes." [A.T.S.]

The collection made throughout Switzerland for the village of Stein (Toggenburg), which was almost completely destroyed by fire, has reached the sum of 300,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The factory and store rooms of the furniture manufacturers firm Stoffel in Widnau (St. Gall) have been completely destroyed by fire. The damage is considered to be high. [A.T.S.]

The elections for the government of the canton of Grisons show no changes; as before, the parties are represented as follows 2 conservatives, 1 liberal and 2 democrats. [A.T.S.]

Hans Valer-Branger, from 1912-1942 Director of the "Kurverein" at Davos, has died at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

Whilst the accounts of most of the various cantons for 1946 register credit balances, the one of the canton of Grisons shows a deficit of 714,437.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The distinction of belonging fifty years to the Grand Council of Grisons falls on National Councillor Johann Vonmoos in Remus, who was elected to this body in 1897. He will retire at the next elections. [A.T.S.]

The elections for the Grand Council of the canton Grisons have taken place recently. The various parties in the new council are represented as follows: Conservatives 30 (32); Liberals 12 (14); Democrats 42 (42); Socialists 7 (7); Independent 5 (3). The following members were not re-elected; National Councillor, Dr. Albrecht (Conservative); States Councillor Dr. Vieli (Conservative) and M. Silberroth (Socialist). [A.T.S.]

A. Widmer, a former "Vizeammann" and "Stadtammann" of Lenzburg, member of the Grand Council of the canton Aargau for 21 years, a member of Parliament (National Council) from 1917-1919, has died in Lenzburg at the age of 70. [A.T.S.]

The late Anna Traxler, from Sirmach, has bequeathed an amount of 32,000.— frs. to the parish of Bichelsee (Ct. Thurgau). [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Ticino for 1946 show a credit balance of 15,932.87 frs. [A.T.S.]

The burglars, two Italian subjects, who some time ago got away with goods to the value of 30,000.— frs. from the jewellery firm of Bernasconi in Lugano, have been arrested. [A.T.S.]

The "Fabbrica Tabacci" in Brisago has celebrated its 100th anniversary. The management, to celebrate this event, made a number of bequests to charitable institutions in the canton of Ticino. [A.T.S.]

Sister Julie Hofmann, who, in 1899, founded the institution Eben Ezer, and since managed it, has celebrated her 80th birthday; she is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Marcel Caproz, at present President of the District Court of Aigle, has been appointed President of the District Court of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Lenis Jmesch, one of the best-known historians of the canton of Valais, has died at Sitten at the age of 79. [A.T.S.]

Maurice Troillet has been nominated head of the cantonal Government of Valais [A.T.S.]

Camille Ulysse Perret, an inhabitant of La Sagne (Neuchâtel) has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Théophile Bringolph, Sub-Manager of the cantonal bank in Neuchâtel, and René Gugger, Manager of the cantonal bank in La Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle, have been appointed Managers of the head office in Neuchâtel, in succession of Hans Sildau who is entering the central management of the cantonal bank in Berne. [A.T.S.]

Colonel Mamin, since 1940 commander of the fortress St. Maurice, has died at the age of 54 at Bex. He was a prominent member of the Swiss officer's corps and a keen alpinist. [A.T.S.]

Traffic

Work on the Zurich-Kloten air-port is now well advanced and it is hoped that it will be inaugurated by the end of May as Zurich's principal terminal.

Although the present buildings are of a temporary type, it is hoped that the three runways in construction and the permanent buildings will be ready by the end of 1949. The first two runways are about finished, but work on the third one started only last February.

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For the first time the Swissair has sent a goods plane carrying two tons of saccharin to Tangier. The return journey was carried out as a non-stop flight and took five hours and forty minutes. (Distance 1,800km.) [A.T.S.]

On May 2nd the four-engine machine Douglas HB.—I.L.L., belonging to Swissair has left the air-port of Cointrin (Geneva) on her maiden voyage to New York.

Amongst the passengers were: Professor Amstutz, of the Federal Air Office, Colonel Clerc, of the Air Office, Dr. S. Frey, Director of the Agence Telegr. Suisse, A. Ehinger, member of the Board of Swissair, E. Groh, Manager of Swissair, H. Nicole, Manager for U.K. of Swissair. [A.T.S.]

Humanitarian

Four-hundred and fifty Austrian children from Kärnten and the Steiermark have arrived at Buchs under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross. They will be placed with various Swiss families throughout the country.

A first batch of British war invalides have arrived at Lausanne for a five week's stay on the lake of Geneva. They are the guests of the Swiss Red Cross.

May Day celebrations took place in all the principal towns throughout Switzerland without any disturbance.

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Federal-Councillor Nobs broadcasted a message, through the Swiss Radio, to the working classes.

Dr. h.c. H. Walther, a former National Councillor and member of the government of the canton of Lucerne, has tendered his resignation from the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways. He is succeeded by National Councillor Dr. Vinzenz Winiker in Lucerne.

Werner Wegmann, since 1933 a wireless operator employed by the Swissair, has flown altogether two million kilometers, and thus becomes a "double air millionaire."

DELEGATES FROM THE SWISS ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES ENTERTAINED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

The following members of the Swiss Academy of Medical Science, who are visiting Great Britain as the guests of the Royal Society of Medicine and the British Council to see medical institutions in London, Oxford and Cambridge, were entertained by the British Council, on Monday, May 5th, 1947, at 74, Brook Street, W.1:—

Professor Carl Wegelin, Pathologist; President, Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Ernst Rothlin, Pharmacologist; Deputy Director of Sandoz & Co.

Professor Louis Michaud, Professor of Clinical Medicine at Lausanne; Vice-President of Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor A. Werthemann, Professor of Pathology at Basle.

Professor Otto Schurch, Surgeon; Director, Kanton Hospital at Winterthur.

Professor Adolphe Franceschetti, Professor of Ophthalmology at Geneva.

Professor Alfred Fleisch, Physiologist; Director Swiss Vitamins Institute.

Dr. A. L. Vischer, Physiologist; Medical Superintendent at the Old Age Institute of the City of Basle.

Professor Albert Rene Jentzer, Professor of Clinical Surgery, Geneva.

Professor H. Mooser, Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology, Zurich University.

A large number of eminent personalities in the English medical world attended.

From the Swiss Colony were present:—

Monsieur Paul Ruegger, Swiss Minister; Monsieur A. Escher, Counsellor of Legation; Monsieur A. R. Lindt, Press Attaché; E. Bircher, Attaché; Dr. H. Rast, Swiss Press; Dr. H. W. Egli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung); Th. Haller (Agence Telegr. Suisse); A. Stauffer (Swiss Observer).

The Swiss Minister and Madame Ruegger held a reception at the Dorchester Hotel on Saturday, May 10th, on the occasion of the visit of the delegation.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, May 30th, 1947.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation: Mrs. G. Ellison, A. Paris, J. Obrist, J. J. Eberli, O. Worth, A. Aubonney, L. Schobinger.