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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

On the 24th of this month an agreement has come into force between the United Kingdom and Switzerland for the reciprocal abolition of visas for Swiss citizens travelling from any place whatever to the United Kingdom and British subjects travelling from any place whatever to Switzerland.

Permission to reside and take employment continues to be subject to the laws and regulations of the two countries relating to aliens.

The values of Swiss imports for the first quarter of 1947 was 1,032.7 millions francs and the value of exports 771.9 million francs. The import surplus was thus 260.8 million francs compared with 93.6 million francs for the corresponding period 1938.

The Federal Finance Department announced that the export and import, sale and purchase, of American dollar notes and Italian banknotes are not subject to any more restrictions.

The French Minister of Education, M. Naegelen, who is at present on holidays in Switzerland, has paid a courtesy visit to Federal-President Etter, he was entertained to Luncheon at the "de Wattenwyl Haus" in Berne.

The customs receipts during the month of May amount to 38.4 million francs (May 1946: 22.1 million francs). During the first five months of the current year the receipts returned from the Federal Customs office amount to 155.7 million francs or 50.7 million francs more than during the same period in 1946.

The Archduchess Charlotte of Luxembourg accompanied by her husband Prince-Consort Felix has arrived in Berne on a State visit, in order to thank the Federal Council and the Swiss people for the help given to their people during and after the war. They were received when crossing the frontier at Basle by

Federal Councillor Petitpierre, the Swiss Foreign Minister and by the municipal authorities of Basle.

They travelled by special train to the Federal Capital, where they took up residence at the Lohn, in Kehrsatz. The Swiss Government have offered them an official Banquet at the "de Wattenwyl Haus" in Berne, at which the Diplomatic Corps and high officials were present. Cordial speeches were exchanged by the Archduchess and President of the Swiss Confederation; the former also spoke on the Radio to the Swiss people.

Archduchess Charlotte, who is holding the following titles: Duchess of Nassau, Princess of Bourbon-Parma, Countess "der Rheinpfalz," was born in 1896, the daughter of the Grand Duke Wilhelm IV, and Maria-Anna of Braganza of Portugal. She is the mother of six children, two sons and four daughters.

Lord Stansgate, President of the Inter Parliamentary Delegation, at present on a visit in Switzerland, was received by the President of the Swiss

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 27th July, 1947

2.30 to 5.30 p.m. (Doors open 1.45 p.m.)

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Refreshments will be served.

Confederation, Dr. Ph. Etter. He was entertained to dinner by the Federal Council.

The National-Council has voted a credit of 905,000.—francs for the enlargement of the Post Office in Zug, and 1,240,000.—francs for the enlargement of the buildings of the Radio station at Sottens.

Cantonal

The "Landrat" of the canton of Uri has elected Johann Muheim as its President and Anton Müller (Fluelen) as Vice-President for the ensuing year. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Pater Konrad Lienert, Dean of the cloister of Einsiedeln has died at Einsiedeln at the age of 79. [A.T.S.]

For the second time within four years a fire broke out at the Palace Hotel in Lucerne, causing damage to the roof. [A.T.S.]

Level-crossing accidents in Switzerland have taken on alarming dimensions. A cart, drawn by two horses, collided with a train near Gross-Andelfingen, (Zurich). The driver, Emil Weidmann (18) and the horses were killed instantaneously. The mother of the driver, who sat in the rear of the vehicle escaped injuries. [A.T.S.]

Eleven Finnish University professors and headmasters have arrived in Zurich, they are visiting a number of educational institutions in our country. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Zurich of Augusto Giacometti, well-known as a painter throughout the country, at the age of 70. Giacometti, who originated from Stampa (Bergell) made his studies in Zurich, Paris and Florence, and since 1915 had been living in Zurich. The deceased was since 1939 President of the Swiss Arts commission. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Walter Burckhardt, lecturer at the medical faculty of the University of Zurich, and Dr. René König, lecturer at the philosophical faculty of the University of Zurich, have been nominated titular professors. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Carl Jäger, a former Judge of the Federal Tribunal from 1900-1940, has died in Zurich at the age of 79. The deceased was the author of several works dealing with the laws on insurance. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Dr. W. Pfaendler, Professor of English Literature and Language, and Dr. A. Schmid, Professor of Agriculture at the Federal Technical University in Zurich. The thanks of the Government have been expressed to them for their services rendered. [A.T.S.]

The Rev. Albert Kilchsberger, formerly rector at Dielsdorf (Ct. Zurich) was killed when traversing a level crossing between Niederhasli and Oberglatt. [A.T.S.]

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On the occasion of the opening of the French Art Exhibition at the "Petit Palais" in Zurich, the mayor of Paris, M. Henri Vergnolles, accompanied by the French Ambassador, M. Hoppenot, and the Swiss Minister in Paris, Dr. C. Burckhardt, arrived in Zurich. They were officially received by the municipal authorities of Zurich at the "Muraltengut." [A.T.S.]

Dr. M. Baumann-Naef, for many years Chairman of the "Schweiz. Wagons & Aufzüge Fabrik, A.G. Schlieren," has retired from his post. In consideration for valuable services he had rendered, he was elected Honorary Chairman. Dr. Max Bodmer, a banker in Zurich has been appointed as his successor. [A.T.S.]

A shed belonging to the work-shop of the firm Edward King, A.G. in Zurich-Seebach caught fire. A large number of barrels containing benzine exploded causing considerable damage. [A.T.S.]

Three young men, on a mountain excursion to the "Vrenelisgrätli" (Glarus), were caught in a snow storm, and had to remain during the night near the summit. As they failed to return, a rescue party was sent out to search for them. They were found on the summit of the "Vrenelisgärtli" frozen to death. The names of the victims are: Willy Schmid (22), Hans Wyss (17) and Hansjörg Tschannen (17) all from Schwanden (Glarus). [A.T.S.]

The "Burggemeinde" of the town of Berne has unanimously elected, Dr. Richard Feller, Professor at the university of Berne, a honorary citizen of the town of Berne, in recognition of his many works dealing with the history of the town. [A.T.S.]

The death occurred in Berne of Rudolf Schneider, formerly station-master of Murten and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, at the age of 53. He was well-known in Swiss Gymnastic circles. [A.T.S.]

A cyclist, on his way home was attacked between Lützelflüh and Ramsen (Ct. Berne) by two young men. He was knocked off his bicycle, and left unconscious on the ground after the attackers had gone through his pockets. The police have arrested two young men from Lützelflüh who have confessed, their victim is still at the hospital suffering from scalp wounds. [A.T.S.]

The following prizes for Literature have been awarded by the town of Berne for the year 1946:

Peter Bratschi and Professor R. Feller (Berne) 1000.—francs each; Dr. Helene von Lerber (Berne) and Helene Wirth (Lützelflüh), Dr. Alfred Fankhauser (Wabern) and Dr. J. F. Vuilleumier (Renan, Jura Bernois) 750.—francs each. [A.T.S.]

The "Grand Prix" race for motor-cars and motor-cycles which was held in Berne at the beginning of this month was marred by a regrettable accident, when one of the racing cars drove into a group of spectators, killing three of them. The names of the victims are: Marcel Thibaud, aged 25, living at Essert-Pittet (Vaud), Toni Jaberg, aged 11, from Bümpliz (Berne) and Ernst Wenger, aged 37, from Zollikofen (Berne). [A.T.S.]

James Smith, Professor at the University of Cambridge, has been nominated Professor of Philosophy at the University of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

Pierre Barras, late "Regierungsstatthalter" in Bulle (Fribourg) has been appointed editor of the paper "Liberté." [A.T.S.]

On boarding a train in motion a railway-guard, Robert Hostettler, from Olten slipped and fell under the wheels, he received serious injuries from which he died later on. He was 57 years of age, and leaves a widow and two sons. [A.T.S.]

Reckless driving caused the death of two motorcyclists, Ernst Schwaller (driver) and Paul Zürcher (pillion rider) both from Luterbach (Solothurn), when the machine collided with a telegraph post. [A.T.S.]

A fire, which spread rapidly, destroyed a number of buildings belonging to the "Pflegeanstalt Rosegg" at Solothurn. The damage caused by the fire and water is considered to be heavy.

G. Rebass, the well-known architect has died in Basle at the age of 63. The new Bethesda Hospital in Basle was built after his plans. [A.T.S.]

A "Piper" sports machine crashed at the Sternenfeld Aerodrome in Birsfelden-Basel and burst into flames. The pilot escaped unhurt, but his passenger received serious injuries, and had to be taken to hospital. [A.T.S.]

A cork manufacturing factory at Klein-Basel was completely destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to be between 800,000 to 1 million francs. [A.T.S.]

The University of Basle has conferred the title of Professor on Dr. L. Furlan, commercial editor of the "Basler Nachrichten." [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Stein a. Rh. of Mr. Lieb, a former cantonal judge and senior partner of the "Teigwarenfabrik Lieb, Sigrist & Cie," at the age of 77. The deceased held the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army. [A.T.S.]

A fifty-four year old dentist from Herisau (Appenzell a/A), Emil Tobler, was killed when his motorcycle ran into a rock between Urnäsch and Schwägalp. [A.T.S.]

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The 1,000th Anniversary of the town of Rorschach was celebrated on the 9th of this month at Rorschach (St. Gall). Processions and special historical plays were held. The Federal Council was represented by M. Kobelt, a member of the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Erich Tilgenkamp, the well-known Swiss balloonist, started from Arosa (Grisons) on a flight over the Alps to Italy. He landed near the mouth of the river Oglio.

Owing to the prevailing darkness and the large crowd of people who assembled it was impossible to keep a close watch on the balloon and its contents. It was discovered later on, that a number of valuable instruments were missing. The loss is considered to amount to over 2,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

A big forest fire which raged for several days in the neighbourhood of the community of Schleines (Grisons) has caused extensive damage. [A.T.S.]

A railway tank containing 12,000 litres of wine was demolished at the station of Wohlen (Aargau) when a train coming from Goldau collided with it. The driver of the engine was hurt. [A.T.S.]

Near Unterkulm (Aargau) a motor-car occupied by three adults and one child, was caught on a level-

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crossing by a train of the Wientalbahnhof. The car was smashed and its occupant had to be taken to hospital suffering from injuries and shock. [A.T.S.]

Dr. O. Bucher-Trümpfer, head of the Institute for Tuberculosis at Seen (Aargau) and his wife, were killed near Marrakescht (Morocco) when on a flight from Geneva to Africa in an Italian machine.

Dr. Bucher was a well-known specialist for tubercular diseases; he was fifty years old. [A.T.S.]

The station-master of Steinbrunn (Thurgau) was attacked by a swarm of bees and so badly stung, that he died within a short time. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Frauenfeld (Thurgau) of Conrad Eisenhut, a veterinary surgeon, at the age of 65, he was, for the last twenty years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Government will be represented at the coming "Fiera Svizzera" in Lugano by Federal Councillor Kobelt. [A.T.S.]

The Administration of the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Holding Co., Ltd., has made a donation to the communities of Vevey and La Tour-de-Peilz amounting to 50,000.— francs each. The money is to be divided amongst charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

Federal Councillor Celio will represent the Federal Government at the next "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the General Meeting of the "Société des encaveurs de vins Suisses," which took place at Lausanne, under the Presidency of National Councillor Henri Cottier, a resolution was unanimously passed protesting vigorously against the proposed increase of tax on wine and spirits. [A.T.S.]

Owing to the dry weather experienced during the last few weeks, forest fires are reported from different parts of the country. The last extensive fire is signalled in the neighbourhood of Raron (Valais). [A.T.S.]

The death has been announced from La Chaux-de-Fonds of Mr. Edmond Ditesheim, for many years head of the Watch Manufacturing works Movoda, at the age of 69. [A.T.S.]

André Corswant, Editor of the "Voix Ouvrière" in Neuchâtel, has been condemned to a fine of 150.— francs and costs, by the Police Court at La Chaux-de-Fonds, for slanderous statements made against National Councillor Tell Perrin, in his paper. [A.T.S.]

A bust in memory of the Neuchâtel painter, Charles L'Eplattenier was unveiled at the castle of Colombier. L'Eplattenier died on May 7th, 1946, at the age of 72, following an accident during an excursion in the "Cotes du Doubs." He had studied in Hungary, England, Belgium, Germany and Italy, and was a much sought after expert in matters of art; since 1912 he had been a member of the Federal Art commission. [A.T.S.]

Damage, amounting to 50,000.— francs has been caused through fire which broke out at a furniture factory in the Rue Carouge in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

The Hotel Metropole in Geneva, which is owned by the municipality, re-opened its doors on the 15th of this month. During the last war the building was occupied by the International Red Cross Committee. [A.T.S.]

Professor Jean Veyrassat, Director of the surgical clinic of the University of Geneva since 1910, has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss-Portuguese medical congress, which took place at Geneva, has come to a close. Over 200 doctors attended the deliberations. [A.T.S.]

Professor Eugène Pittard, formerly rector of the University of Geneva and Director of the ethnographical museum has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. Professor Pittard enjoys an international reputation. [A.T.S.]

The proprietress of the Café "Cercle maconique" in the Rue Points-de-Saint Pierre at Geneva, Mme. E. Truppen, aged 54, was found dead after having been stabbed with a knife.

The police have arrested a young man, in the person of a certain Ethenoz, a cousin of the victim, who has since confessed to the crime. [A.T.S.]

Army

The Federal Council has asked the Swiss Parliament for a credit of 2,570,000.— francs for acquiring and improving the "Waffenplatz" in Chur. [A.T.S.]

Colonel of Division, Rudolf Probst, from Waltbach, has been appointed Military Attaché in Stockholm. [A.T.S.]

Corporal Hösli Alfred (Glarus) a pupil of military Flying School I/47 in Interlaken was killed when his machine crashed near the airfield. [A.T.S.]

Economics

Under the heading "Swiss Prefer Goods to Dollars," the Continental "Daily Mail," writes in their issue of the 10th June:—

"While Britain intends to disband the Sterling Areas's dollar pool by July 15th, British officials doubt whether Britain will then be able to disband the Sterling Area's pool of Swiss francs.

Under an agreement signed in March, 1946, and running until March 1949, Britain is responsible for the Sterling area's pooled requirements of Swiss francs.

Switzerland could hold Britain to it because, although the Anglo-American Loan Agreement was negotiated in December, 1945, it was not ratified until July, 1946, and in international law if there is conflict between any two agreements, the earlier prevails.

This is a difficult case, as Swiss francs are an even harder currency than dollars. Switzerland is

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reluctant to accept dollars or even gold. She wants goods.

She granted Britain (representing the whole Sterling Area) a credit of 15 million sterling to cover the whole period until March, 1949, but this has already been used.

Trade between Switzerland and the Sterling Area is now just about in the balance.

Britain's favourable trade balance with Switzerland is bigger than the British tourist expenditure there, but the difference is taken by other sterling countries, particularly South Africa and India, which have been buying much more from Switzerland than they sell her.

After July 15th, Britain would have no control over India's or South Africa's spending in Switzerland but might still have responsibility for it.

South Africa is her own judge of her requirements of any hard currency. India, like any other country, would be entitled to spend her expendable sterling in any currency area — the Swiss as well as the dollar one.

There is possibility that Britain will cut the tourist allowance of £75 for all countries, following Switzerland's decision to limit British tourists' expenditure to £50 worth of Swiss francs per head annually.

Apart from financial considerations, British officials feel that if they cut allowances for some countries only, they would virtually be directing tourists where to spend their holidays abroad.

A new rule to prevent the control of sections of the industry passing to foreign companies has been adopted by the Swiss Cinematograph Association.

The Articles of the Association have been amended to prevent the "trustifying" or monopoly control of the Swiss film industry, and to forbid financial operations which might achieve the result under camouflage.

Breach of the new rule will involve the offender with the danger of being excluded from the Association and prevented from getting a supply of films.

Humanitarian

The first group of British war invalides who have spent five weeks' holiday in Switzerland (Lake of Geneva) have returned to London fit and well. A new group of twenty soldiers have arrived at Lausanne.

A detachment of forty War invalides are at present in Weggis (Lake of Lucerne). [A.T.S.]

The Basle section of the Swiss Red Cross recently arranged a Bazaar to acquire new materials. More than 200,000.—francs have thus been collected. A similar event, which took place in 1946 brought in 190,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

A batch of 650 children from Darmstadt and Karlsruhe have arrived in Basle.

The "Schweizerspende" has dispatched 58 tons of powdered milk to Rumania, or enough to feed 25,000 children for one month. In addition a large quantity of bandaging material and medicaments to the value of 158,000.—francs are shortly being sent to Rumania. [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

Heavy sentences have been passed on Swiss Nazis', members of the "League of Swiss citizens in Greater Germany" who were charged with plotting against the security of our country, by a special tribunal which was held at Zug.

The following of the accused received sentences: Hans Frei, 15 years penal servitude, Otto Lienhard, 10 years penal servitude, Alfred Zahnder, 11 years penal servitude, Hans Oehler, 2 years penal servitude, Heinrich Wechlin, 6 years penal servitude, Fritz Bichsel, 6 years penal servitude, Alfred Cheodera, 3 years penal servitude, Karl Karsch, 3 years penal servitude, Robert Bossuge, 2½ years penal servitude, Friedrich Müller, 2 years imprisonment; a number of the accused received smaller sentences. Walter Matter and Ferdinand Metzler were acquitted. [A.T.S.]

A number of gymnastic societies from Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg and Portugal will compete at the Federal Gymnastic Festival, which will take place in Berne in the month of July. [A.T.S.]

Switzerland is developing a £500,000 scheme for promoting physical fitness among the youth of the country. The money will come from football pools run by a privately owned company on English and Swiss matches. Forty-five per cent. of the pools' profit goes to the State.

The camp, which is under construction, is at Magglingen, near Bienne, and will contain running tracks, swimming pools, football pitches, etc.; it covers an area three miles long and three quarters of a mile wide.

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