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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur Walter Hofer, Counsellor of Legation, has been appointed Swiss Minister to Bulgaria, in succession to Minister Ch. de Jenner, who has been transferred to China.

Minister Hofer was born in 1901 in Berne. After having qualified as an advocate, he entered the Federal Military Department (Insurance Section) and in 1929, was transferred to the Political Department where he occupied various important offices.

The budget of the Federal Railways for 1949, recently approved by the board of administration, envisages working receipts totalling fr. 671,700,000, and working expenditure amounting to fr. 500,500,000. The resulting working surplus of fr. 171,200,000 is fr. 41,900,000 less than that for 1947. The increase in the working expenditure derives, in the main, from a larger staff, increased cost-of-living allowances, and greater construction expenditure not comprised within the building budget. An expenditure of fr. 137,000,000 in respect of new rolling stock is envisaged. Of this amount, fr. 32,200,000 is a charge to the working budget. The profit and loss account for 1949 is expected to close with a credit balance of fr. 2,300,000 after allowing for all statutory commitments.

The new Three and a Quarter per Cent. Federal loan of Frs. 300 millions, running for ten years and issued at par, has not been fully subscribed, the Confederation having had to take over one-fifth of the loan to serve as investment for Government institutions.

Financial circles are not unduly worried at this result at a time when issues are being arranged at 3½ per cent. and when this rate is even being offered by banks for short-term cash bonds.

### Cantonal

The late Max Müller-Koller, President of the Board of the firm "Emar, Seidenstoffe, A.G." in Oberarth, has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to be divided amongst the members of the staff. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the town of Lucerne, Mme. Adelheid von Segesser-Peyer, has celebrated her 99th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death has occurred in Richterswil of Hans Gattiker-Eschmann, at the age of 76. The deceased was, from 1908-1920 a member of the "Zürcher Kantonsrat" (Liberal) and for six years (1919-25) "Gemeindepräsident."

In 1908, he founded the "Verband der Verkehrsvereine am Zürichsee & Umgebung" of which he was its President for 10 years. He was a member of the Board of the "Zürcher Dampfbootgesellschaft" for 25 years. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

"The Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon" has declared a dividend of 6 per cent. for 1947/48 (1946/47: 5 per cent.).

\* \* \*

Josef Wiss-Stäheli, known as the author of a number of childrens' books, amongst them "Der blaue Spatz," "Der gelbe Geyer," etc., has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Küsnacht (Ct. Zurich) of Professor August Linder, from 1903-1941 teacher of Music at the "Seminar" in Küsnacht, at the age of 77. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Damage estimated to reach the amount of 250,000.—frs. has been caused through fire at the "Lack & Farbenfabrik, Rupf & Co., in Glattbrugg (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A commemorative tablet was inaugurated in honour of the Liberal Statesman and champion of the Swiss Confederation, "Landammann" and National-Councillor Georg, Josef Sidler (1782-1861) at his birth-

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place in Zug. Having been a member for 23 years of the "Eidgenössische Tagsatzung," he presided in 1848 over the first meeting of the National Council. [A.T.S.]

Professor Pierre Moreau, for fourteen years, Professor of French Literature at the University of Fribourg has been appointed a teacher at the Sorbonne in Paris. [A.T.S.]

On October 24th, 1648, the Westphalian Peace Treaty was signed in Münster-Osnabrück, which assured the independence of Switzerland, thanks to the eminent services rendered by the diplomatic representative of Switzerland, Joh. Rud. Wettstein, Mayor of the town of Basle.

To commemorate the 300th anniversary of this event, members of the "Rebleuten" guild, of which Wettstein was Master, placed flowers on his grave at the Minster. [A.T.S.]

The Nobel Prize for medicine has been awarded to Dr. Paul Müller, of Basle, for his discovery of the effects as an insecticide of D.D.T. (The Prize is valued at about £11,000.)

Dr. Müller was born in Olten in 1899, and hails from Lenzburg. Already as a young man he was an ardent student of chemistry and in 1925 obtained the degree of doctor phil. *summa cum laude*. Leaving the University he entered the firm I. R. Geigy, A.G., in Basle. When in the early '30's, Geigy became interested in systematic research into synthetic insecticides, it was Dr. Müller who established the basic result that

dichloro-diphenyl-trichlorethane possessed insect-killing properties.

In 1942 the first insecticides based on D.D.T. were marketed, and were soon fighting typhus in Naples, waging war on the African tsetse fly and the bollweevil — and even protecting the Headingly wicket from the attacks of leather jackets. (In 1909, the Nobel Prize for medicine was awarded to the famous Bernese surgeon, Professor Theodor Kocher.) [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Waldenburg (Basle-County) of Dr. Herman Straumann, medical practitioner, at the age of 87. The deceased was for 42 years a member of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-County. He sat in Parliament (National-Council) from 1911-1919. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel (Army-Medical-Corps). [A.T.S.]

The late manufacturer, Johannes Eisenhut-Schaefer, of Gais (Ct. Appenzell a-Rh.), has left an amount of 15,600.—frs. to several charitable institutions in Gais, Trogen and St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

On Sunday, October 30th, the boat traffic between Germany and Switzerland on the "Bodensee" was opened for the first time, since the war started. 3,700 German passengers landed at Romanshorn (Thurgau) and 1,200 at Rorschach (St. Gall), all were taken back again in the evening. They were allowed to bring ten marks each, which they could exchange for two Swiss francs. [A.T.S.]

The heirs of the late A. Habisreutinger, manufacturer in Flawil (St. Gall), have paid various legacies

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### DINNER AND BALL

Friday, December 3rd, 1948 — 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, the Swiss Minister, will perform the official opening at 7 p.m.

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Saturday, December, 4th from 7 to 12 p.m.

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No special dinner, but meals will be provided in the Restaurant. Book your table early.

Sunday, December 5th, from 8 to 11 p.m.

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Saturday, December 11th :

FILM SHOW of the Swiss film "Marie Louise"

at 3 p.m. for children 1/-

„ adults 2/6 (incl. Tea).

Evening 7 p.m. with DANCE to follow. (Entrance 6/-)



amounting to 290,000.—frs.; of this amount 220,000.—frs. have been paid to the relief fund of the firm "Habis-Textil, A.G." and 50,000.—frs to the "Evangelisches Altersheim" in Flawil. [A.T.S.]

A unique jubilee is reported from Wiesen (Grisons) where Hanspeter Bernhard has played the organ at the church for the last 50 years. His grandfather occupied this post for 20 years, and his mother for 37 years, thus the post as organist has been in the same family for 108 years. [A.T.S.]

The "Kaufmaennische Verein" Chur celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation, in the presence of "Zentralpräsident" Karl Strickler, and "Zentralsekretär," Ph. Schmid-Ruedin. [A.T.S.]

From Davos comes the news of the death of the late "Landammann," Salomon Prader, at the age of 73. The deceased, was from 1925-1945 "Kreispräsident" of Davos and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons. [A.T.S.]

According to the Annual report of the Co-operative Society of Arbon and surrounding districts, a loss of 150,000.—frs is shown, due to misappropriation by four of their branch managers.

Criminal proceedings have been taken against one man and three women, all branch managers. [A.T.S.]

The death occurred at Faido (Ct. Ticino) of Francesco Cattaneo, a lawyer and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino since 1921. The deceased, was one of the founders of the Peasant Party,

and was for ten years President of the community of Faido. [A.T.S.]

On Sunday, October 31st, the inauguration of the enlarged monument erected in memory of the 185 soldiers of the canton of Ticino, who died during the Frontier occupation from 1939-1945, took place at Bellinzona.

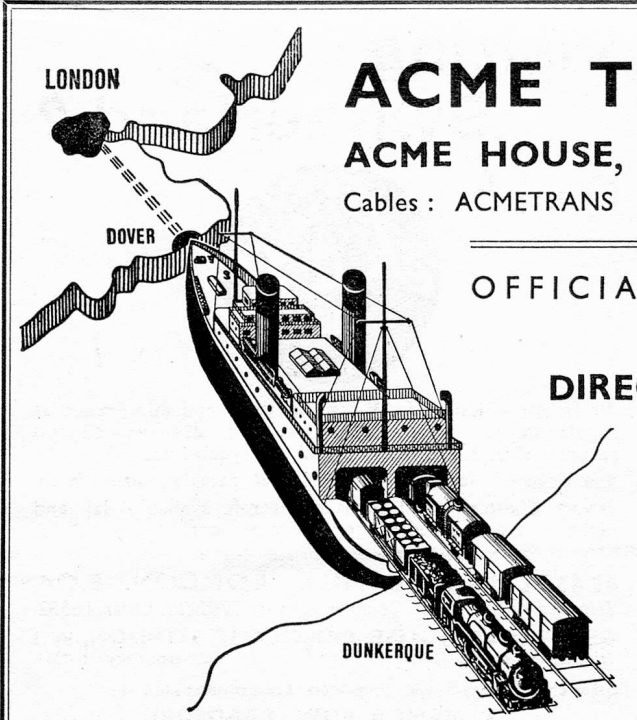
Monsieur Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation addressed the large gathering which numbered several thousands. The army, was represented by army-corps commanders Constam and Lardelli, and division-commanders Gonard and Gugger. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Florian Cosandey, Professor of Botany at the University of Lausanne, has been elected rector of the University for the next two years in succession to Professor Henri Meylan. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Paul Montandon-Roussel, has died at the age of 98. [A.T.S.]

The Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Neuchâtel, René Gugger, has resigned from his post, in order to enter the services of a firm of private bankers in Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

The Secretary of the Geneva Office of the "Protestant Children's Help" Marthe Béguin, and an accomplice, René Schaer, have been arrested for embezzlement in connection with this institution. As far as can be ascertained at present an amount exceeding 80,000.—frs. is unaccounted for. [A.T.S.]



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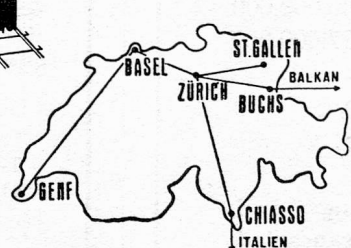
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**Army**

The military court of the 3rd Division, which has sat in Berne for nearly three weeks, has passed sentence in a case where several suppliers to the army during the period of 1938-1945 were charged with fraudulent practice.

Captain Guggisberg, by profession a builder, has been sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, degradation and expulsion from the army. In addition he has to pay a fine of 5,000.—frs.

First-Lieutenant K  pfer has been sentenced to three months imprisonment (On probation for two years).

H. D. Schmid, an employee of Guggisberg since 1940, received a sentence of four months imprisonment (On probation for three years) and a fine of 500.—frs.

Colonel Hauwirth, a former member of the Instruction Corps has been sentenced to 30 days imprisonment (On probation for 3 years). Colonel Hauwirth and Captain Guggisberg will appeal against their sentences. [A.T.S.]

Swiss troops and defence workers are to be trained to deal with attacks by radio-active "death clouds" caused by atom bombs.

Special shelters with stone walls at least two feet thick and specially ventilated, will be built. [A.T.S.]

—oO—

There hardly passes a week without the news of some serious motoring accidents.

A motor-car with four passengers skidded on the St. Gallerstrasse in Herisau (Appenzel A.Rh.) and ran into a wall with full force. Three people were killed instantaneously, whilst the fourth has been taken to hospital in a critical condition. The names of the dead are: Franz Anton Knechtle, farmer, aged 57, his wife, Marie Rosa Knechtle, aged 53, and the driver of the car Alfred Frehner, aged 33, all living in Winkeln (St. Gall). The wife of the driver, Mme. Frehner was injured. [A.T.S.]

On the road between Ricken and Gebertingen a motor-car carrying four people collided with a tree. One of the occupants, Theophil Hildebrand, from Wernetshausen, near Hinwil, was killed, whilst the other three passengers had to be taken to hospital at Uznach. [A.T.S.]

In Etzgen (Aargau) a car driven by forty-one year old mechanic, Eichenberger from Birr, at an excessive speed ran into a wall. The driver, father of two

children, was killed, and two of his passengers were taken to hospital in a serious condition. The car was totally wrecked. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car in trying to over-take another car on the Tiefenastrasse, in Berne, collided with a pavement stone and turned a somersault. The driver of the car, Mrs. Lina Ulmer, from Zurich was killed and three of the passengers injured. [A.T.S.]

A car driven by Emile Rigataux of Geneva, collided at a level-crossing at Eysins (line Nyon-Crassier) with a train. The driver of the car was killed. [A.T.S.]

The King of Siam, who met with a motoring accident in Morges, where he received serious injuries, has left the clinic in Lausanne for his home at Chamblades (Ct. Vaud). [A.T.S.]

According to figures published by the Federal Statistical Office, twenty-five per cent. less English tourists, than in 1947, have visited Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

General Henri Guisan has been made an honorary citizen of the town of St. Gingolph (France). [A.T.S.]

Alltogether 1,022 "Auslandschweizerkinder" from France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Holland, England, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania have, during the months of September and October returned to their homes after a stay of two months in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

The next "Federal Shooting Competition" has been fixed to take place in Chur in 1949. [A.T.S.]

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Twenty-seven cowboys and girls, have been deported from Switzerland. "The Scotsman" (issue 28th October) writes under the heading "Horse Play" the following amusing account of the happening which led to the expulsion:—

"When fighting breaks out in happy Switzerland the world indeed must be in a sorry mess. Yet from Geneva, where doves of peace have nested amid immemorial olive branches, comes news of mortal combat, of man belabouring man in savage fray. What makes the story even more poignant is that the instigators like those attacked were federalists. They and a horse named "Income Tax" were jointly responsible for a threat, even if a minor one, to the peace. A company of cowboys and cowgirls from the United States had been demonstrating the Wild West way of life to the inhabitants of Geneva, and among other things had challenged any member of the audience to straddle a bucking bronco named "Income Tax." Thereupon one of the locals — if one may so call a native of Geneva — rode with perfect composure round the ring. This feat angered the cowboys and the cowgirls, who speedily reached the opinion that the horse was an impostor, impersonating "Income Tax." One thing led to another, and soon the Wild Westerners and the Swiss mountaineers were shooting it out with petrol tins and iron bars. Eventually the rodeo troupe were taken into custody by the police, and later, as a result of diplomatic pressure, were released. So bitter were the feelings and passions aroused, however, that a young cowgirl, fresh from the cattle country around Chicago, announced that she was finished with Europe, that she would not set foot in it again for a million dollars.

There is a discouraging element about the story. The imagination recoils from the thought that a handful of policemen were able to round up twenty-one cow hands. One always thinks of a cowboy as a match, any day, for twenty-one policemen. According to all precedents the cowboys ought to have leapt into the saddle and pursued the dastardly police along the crests of Alpine peaks, shooting extravagantly at them from behind their horses' flanks, until they were all slaughtered. On the other hand, the incident couldn't have happened in a better place. Geneva must be full of experts on the problem of preserving unity among the nations. What happened must be a challenge to their rusting powers of analysis. If they have any sense they will hold a post-mortem in one of the disused palaces of peace and, with this perfect example before them, they may be able to reach some notable

conclusions on the origins of strife. At all events it is clear that one ought not to take a horse called "Income Tax" to Europe at this moment in history. It would probably not be wise to transfer any investigation to Paris. As yet the Security Council is hardly experienced enough in the art of reconciliation to issue a useful ruling. No good, for instance, would come from a resolution declaring that the belligerent cowboys ought to have been apprehended by an international police force instead of a Swiss one. As things are it looks as though the whole business could be settled amicably by a conference of Ambassadors."

The firm Messrs. Geo. Fischer, Ltd., of Schaffhausen, has borne the cost of sending a food parcel to every employee of its associated company in England, the Britannia Iron and Steel Works, Bedford, and also to every employee of Britannia's selling agents, the Le Bas Tube Co., Ltd., in various parts of the country. Altogether, over 850 parcels are now being distributed, of which about 700 are for the Bedford firm's employees.

The parcels, which contain tinned meat, honey, milk, dripping, hot-pot, pastry, and sweets, have been flown to this country from Australia through the Australian "Express Gift Parcel" scheme, the arrangements for which were made on behalf of Messrs. Fischer's by a firm in Sydney. The weight of the parcels is about 6lb.

Frederick Baumgartner (36), of Basle, Switzerland, was fined £1,000 (or six months' imprisonment) at

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

### OPEN MEETING

on Tuesday, November 16th, 7 p.m.

at the Vienna Café,

Berkeley Arcade, Opposite Baker St. Station.

The Swiss Minister, Mons. Henry de Torrenté, will speak in French on "The Role of the Swiss Abroad" — a Discussion to follow.

All Swiss and Friends are heartily invited.

(Supper and Refreshments available before and after the Meeting)

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Uxbridge for attempting to evade payment of Customs duty and purchase-tax on 63 watches.

He reversed his plea from not guilty to guilty.

It was said that when he was searched following his arrival at Northolt airport the watches were found in various parts of his clothing. The watches were valued at £229.

Before Baumgartner changed his plea he said that someone in Switzerland gave him packages without his knowing what was in them.

The chairman said to him: "It is quite evident you knew what you were doing."

\* \* \*

The number of air connections between Switzerland and England has been raised considerably in comparison with the winter half-year 1947/48. Whereas during the last winter only 19 flights were operated weekly from Switzerland to England, this number will be raised to 48 for winter 1948/49. In order to allow readers to make a comparison, we give the relative details below:—

	Winter 1948/49 Weekly.	Winter 1947/48 Weekly.
Basle—London :	7 x (Swissair)	3 x (Swissair)
Geneva—London :	7 x (Swissair)	2 x (Swissair)
	7 x (BEA)	7 x (BEA)
Zurich—London :	11 x (Swissair)	7 x (Swissair)
(from 17.12.48)	14 x (BEA)	
Zurich—Manchester :	2 x (Swissair)	—
(from 11.12.48)		
	48	19



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For early reservations please get in touch with Mr. Pfister, Manager of the "ALBEINA," Klosters-Village, Grisons, Switzerland.

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(From the 18th of December, Klosters-Village can be reached in 24 hours: London, Victoria Station dep. 1.30 p.m. — Klosters-Village arr. 1.30 p.m.)

## ARRETE DU CONSEIL FEDERAL concernant l'obligation des Suisses à l'étranger de rejoindre leur corps en cas de mobilisation de guerre. (Du 10 septembre 1948).

Le Conseil fédéral suisse, vu les articles 198 et 200 de l'organisation militaire, arrête :

### Article premier

En cas de mobilisation de guerre partielle, les hommes astreints au service et le personnel des services complémentaires en congé n'ont pas à se présenter s'ils sont à l'étranger.

### Art. 2

En cas de mobilisation de guerre générale, les hommes astreints au service qui sont en congé à l'étranger ont l'obligation d'entrer au service, cette obligation durant jusqu'à la fin de l'année dans laquelle ils atteignent l'âge de quarante ans.

Le département militaire fédéral désigne les pays où cette obligation existe pour les militaires suisses.

### Art. 3

Sont en toute circonstance tenus de se présenter, dès qu'est mise sur pied l'unité (état-major) dans laquelle ils sont incorporés ou détachés, les hommes astreints au service et le personnel des services complémentaires :

- Qui se sont rendus à l'étranger sans congé et auxquels l'autorité en Suisse n'en a pas accordé ultérieurement;
- Qui sont au bénéfice d'un congé, mais se trouvent en Suisse.

### Art. 4

La mise de piquet ou la mobilisation de guerre générale sera portée immédiatement à la connaissance des représentations suisses (légalions et consulats) dans l'arrondissement consulaire desquelles les hommes en congé, tenus de se présenter, sont touchés par l'ordre de piquet ou de mobilisation.

Les représentations suisses en sont informées par le Département politique, à la demande du Département militaire.

### Art. 5

En cas de mobilisation de guerre générale, les militaires en congé à l'étranger qui doivent se présenter conformément à l'arrêté de mobilisation ou sur ordre spécial rentreront en Suisse par la voie la plus rapide. Ils se présenteront à l'autorité militaire du canton d'incorporation ou, dans l'impossibilité, au commandant territorial le plus proche, qui les fait rééquiper.

### Art. 6

Les militaires en congé à l'étranger qui entrent

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