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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

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**P. F. BOEHRINGER †.**

We deeply regret to announce the death of  
our Publisher, Founder, and for several years  
Editor of our Paper.

An Obituary will appear in our next issue.

rendered by Switzerland to his country, he presented an oil painting to the Swiss Government. The distinguished visitors were entertained at an official banquet, where various speeches, celebrating the good relations between the two countries were given.

A reception was held at the Turkish Legation in Berne, in honour of Monsieur Sadak, the Turkish Foreign Minister, who is at present in Switzerland. Amongst the guests were Dr. Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillors Etter and v. Steiger and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Monsieur Felix Schnyder, at present at the Swiss Legation in Moscow, has been promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

The Swiss Trade Delegation which had negotiated a commercial agreement with the Russian Government has returned from Moscow to Switzerland.

The Delegation consisted of Dr. Max Troendle, Aebi, F. Bauer and Silvio Masnata. They were accompanied by Monsieur Flückiger, Swiss Minister in Moscow.

Monsieur Horacio Blanco Fombano, Venezuelan Minister in Berne, has died suddenly at Geneva, where he was attending a Conference.

At the end of 1947 altogether 48 Foreign Diplomatic missions have been accredited to the Swiss Government, the diplomatic staff of which numbers 278.

Monsieur Saleh Mehdi, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Kingdom of Jarak, has presented his credentials to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

Minister Mehdi is the first diplomatic representative of his country in Berne.



## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has nominated Minister Daniel Secrétan to be Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Egypt, in succession to Minister Brunner who has recently been transferred to Lisbon.

Minister Secrétan was born in 1895 and hails from Lausanne. He studied at the Universities of Lausanne, Basle and Stuttgart and obtained the degree *licence ès lettres*. In 1919, he entered the Diplomatic Service as Attaché. Three years later, he was promoted to the rank of 2nd Secretary and in 1925 was advanced to 1st Secretary of Legation.

From 1921-1928 he acted as Secretary to the Swiss Delegation at the League of Nations, and for three years (1926-28) he was translator in the States Council.

After leaving the Diplomatic Service in 1928, he was appointed Secretary to the "L'Union internationale des télécommunications," and two years later was nominated General Secretary of the "Institut international de co-opération intellectuelle" in Paris.

In the year 1939 he joined again the Diplomatic Service, and was promoted in 1941 to Counsellor of Legation. Since 1946, he has been in charge of the Service for International Organisations.

On the occasion of his nomination as a member of the Swiss Delegation to UNO, he was promoted to the rank of Minister.

Count Sforza, the Italian Foreign Minister, accompanied by his wife, has arrived in Berne.

He was received by the members of the Federal Council *in corpore*. In recognition for the services

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Henry Zoller, has been appointed Swiss Consul in Nancy (France). He has been in charge of the Consulate for some time.

For the first time in 12 years, the Swiss Federal budget shows a surplus, roughly £13,000,000.

On the way to Shannon airport to meet M. de Bourg, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, the Legation car, in which were, M. Hassenstein, of the Legation staff and his wife; Mlle. Gygax, daughter of the Chancellor, M. Adolphe Gygax; and M. Guinchard, skidded at Lansdowne Bridge on the Limerick-Ennis Road and turned over on its side.

The occupants suffered from severe shock and the Limerick Fire Brigade ambulance conveyed them to Barrington's Hospital.

Miss Guinchard was not detained.

M. de Bourg, instead of waiting at the airport for the arrival of the Legation car, decided to travel to Limerick by the C.I.E. bus. When the bus approached the Lansdowne Bridge, the driver saw the car lying across the road fence. He pulled up to render what assistance he could and when M. de Bourg got out to ascertain the cause of the accident he found it was the members of the Legation which were involved.

#### Cantonal

The death has occurred in Schwyz of Dr. Karl Ebnöther (Lachen a. See).

The deceased was a well-known medical practitioner, and at one time a member of the cantonal tribunal. [A.T.S.]



The steam-ship "Rigi" in service on the lake of Lucerne, has just celebrated her centenary. She was launched in 1848, in Lucerne. The hull was built in England, and the engines and boilers originate from Antwerp. During the last 100 years she was on several occasions renovated and altered, but she remained never-the-less the "Old Rigi." [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Lucerne for 1947, show a credit-balance of 32,931.50 frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Arthur Rohn, Professor of the Technical University in Zurich, and President of the "Schweizerischen Schulrat" since 1926, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The 25 million franc loan at 3½ per cent, issued by the town of Zurich, has been fully subscribed. [A.T.S.]

Mme Sophie Hofstetter-Illi, from Mettmenstetten, has celebrated her 101st birthday anniversary in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Maria Fierz, the Founder of the "Sozialen Frauenschule," and for many years head of the "Zürcher Frauenzentrale," has celebrated her 70th birthday anniversary in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Two brothers, Karl and Walter Mattés, from Zurich, when riding a motor-bicycle, were caught by a train on a level-crossing in Adliswil (Zurich); they were killed instantaneously. [A.T.S.]

The "Zürcher Lebensversicherung A.G." "Vita," has celebrated its 25th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Mr. H. W. Jenny, Manager for the last seven years of the "Eidg. Transport Amts, Sektion für Seetransporte" in Berne, has retired from his post, which he held with great distinction. This Department has now ceased to function. [A.T.S.]

An exhibition, comprising about 100 oil-paintings, water colour paintings and sketches, from the well-known Swiss painter, Albert Anker, has been opened at Ins (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the Furniture works Gschwend in Steffisburg (Ct. Berne) caused heavy damage. [A.T.S.]

At the end of March, 1948, the town of Berne numbered 140,387 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

Oscar Römer, for many years pastor of the French speaking protestant church (Französische Kirche), has died in Berne at the age of 77. He was well-known in Swiss Church circles. [A.T.S.]

Hans Zulliger, teacher in Ittigen (Ct. Berne), has been nominated an honorary member of the "Comité national Français d'Education et d'Assistance de l'Enfance Déficiente for his publications on "Pädagogik und Psychologik." [A.T.S.]

Leon Hertling, architect, who recently died in Fribourg, has left the principal part of his fortune, which is estimated to be between 200 and 300,000.—frs., to the Daler Hospital in Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Friedrich Rintelen, has been appointed Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Basle, and

Director of the ophthalmological clinic of the University of Basle.

Dr. Rintelen, who was born in 1906, practised for many years as an oculist in Basle. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Karl Jaspers, of Heidelberg, has been nominated Professor of Philosophy at the University of Basle, in succession to Professor Paul Häberlin, who has recently resigned for reasons of health.

Professor Jaspers, who was born in 1883, enjoys an international reputation through his many works.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. phil Willi Ochsé, from Basle, lost his life when ascending the Pizzo Rotondo. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Max Thoma, engineer, and for the last 25 years, Director of the Municipal Gas and Water Works in Basle, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts of the canton of Schaffhausen for the year 1947, close with a deficit of 611,324.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The community of Stein a. Rh. (Schaffhausen) has voted a credit of 20,000.—frs. for a partial renovation of the castle Hohenklingen. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

States-Councillor Walter Ackermann, has resigned as a member of the cantonal government (Ct. Appenzell), he had held his post for the last 17 years. During nine years he was "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1947, of the canton of Appenzell J.Rh., close with a deficit of 17,577.—frs., whilst the accounts of the canton of Appenzell a.Rh. close with a balance of 264,629.86.—frs. "to the good." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Erwin Streuli, a well-known medical practitioner, and member of the "Kantonsrat" from 1931-1938, has died in Heiden at the age of 68. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Appenzell a.Rh. Heil und Pflege-Anstalt" in Herisau has become the beneficiary of a legacy amounting to 65,000.—frs. by a testator, Richard Sulz, who died in Zurich in 1933. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of St. Gall for 1947, show a credit-balance of 2,650,530.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two mountaineers, Robert Lüthi, from Schaffhausen, and Franz Buzek, from Zurich, lost their lives when climbing the Piz Saglains (Grisons). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

August Schirmer (Liberal), of Baden, has succeeded, Ernst Speiser, who recently was elected a member of the States Council. Schirmer was, until the last elections, a member of the National Council.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts of the canton of Aargau for the year 1947 close with a credit-balance of 184,000.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Vevey, of Alfred Léchair, a director of Nestlé, S.A., Vevey, at the age of 57. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The twenty-fourth Congress of Legal, Social and Industrial Medicine will be held at Lausanne, from May 21st to 23rd under the Presidency of Professor Reinbold. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Pierre Thévenaz, at present Professor at the University of Zurich, has been nominated Professor of Philosophy at the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

One of the best-known brass bands in Switzerland, the "Les Armes Réunies" in La Chaux-de-Fonds, is celebrating this year the 120th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Neuchâtel of Louis Hammerli, for a great number of years, Professor at the conservatoire in Neuchâtel, at the age of 73. The deceased also held the post of singing master at the primary school in Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The station-master of Ponts-de-Martel (Neuchâtel) has been arrested for embezzling an amount of 8,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A motor-car collided at the Quai du Monblanc with a tree. The driver, Roger Devaux, from Lausanne, and his passenger, Mme. Gilberte Bornand, from-Montreux,

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were killed, the daughter of the latter, Mlle. Odette Bornand, was taken to hospital in a serious condition.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \* Altogether 300,000 persons have visited the International Motor Exhibition at Geneva, or 50,000 more than in the previous year. [A.T.S.]

### Traffic

Mr. Walter Wachs, Chief Engineer, Second Division, Swiss Federal Railways, has been appointed Divisional Manager, Second Division, succeeding Mr. Cesare Luechini, who was recently appointed General Director (Engineering and Operating) of the Federal Railways.

\* \* \* \* \* Chief wireless operator, Paul Auberson, of the Swissair, has on his recent return flight from New York, flown the two millionth kilometer.

On landing at the Airport, Cointrin-Geneva, he was accorded a reception.

### Economics

The Swiss Federal Government has approved a new trade agreement with Russia. The treaty, which has been signed for one year but which is renewable by tacit consent, has come into force on April 1st.

While Russia undertakes to deliver during the first year 100,000 tons of wheat, certain quantities of barley, oats, and wood, raw materials for the chemical industry, and 15,000 tons of petrol, to a total of 120m. Swiss francs, Switzerland will supply mainly machines, machine-tools, dyes, artificial silk, shoes, 1,000 head of cattle, and some cheese, aggregating some 75m. francs.

\* \* \* \* \* The Swiss franc has been introduced on the Paris free foreign exchange market under the same regulations governing trade in dollars and escudos.

Exporters may sell 50 per cent. of their sales proceeds on the free market and the remainder to the Exchange Stabilisation Fund at the official rate. All imports from Switzerland will also be settled half at the free, half at the official rate.

### Humanitarian

Over 11,000 children from Italy, Austria, Hungary and Germany were brought to Switzerland during the last three months of 1947 to recuperate from the effects of war and malnutrition.

—oo—

Over 850 children from nine European countries will hold a mass choral meeting in Berne from April 23rd to 26th.

\* \* \* \* \* A man recently back from Switzerland wrote to a photographer there for copies of a picture, regretting that currency restrictions debarred him from sending money for them.

The pictures came by return of post with a note: "Pay me in heaven or in hell."

"Have I infringed the currency regulations," asks the correspondent, "by creating a credit in an area (presumably) outside the sterling area?"

No! There are places where even the Treasury's long arm does not reach. Joking apart, it would be an offence to incur a debt like this in Switzerland, but a legal view is that the photographer's reply lets the

correspondent out by implying the pictures are a gift and no payment is expected.

\* \* \* \* \* The war cost Switzerland 2,500,000,000.— francs (about £144,175,322) in damage to property, requisitioning, and losses abroad.

\* \* \* \* \* The Papal Swiss Guard celebrated the fourth centenary of its foundation last week with Mass in the Church of St. Martin and St. Sebastian, Vatican City.

The soldiers, dressed in Medieval uniforms, wearing silver breastplates and carrying halberds, heard a sermon by Fr. Burchard Wolfenschiessen, chaplain of the corps.

\* \* \* \* \* A proposal to make up the deficit on the Swiss postal services by accepting advertising over the country's radio system has been turned down by the postal authorities. Swiss organised advertising was opposed to the scheme from the start, and instead of introducing sponsored radio it has been decided to secure the necessary additional revenue by increasing postal rates.

\* \* \* \* \* War restrictions have been further relaxed in Switzerland, coal has been taken off the ration and bread cards have been abolished. The only rationed food-stuffs are flour, semolina, certain fats and rice.

\* \* \* \* \* During 1947, altogether 1,265 foreigners have obtained Swiss nationality (1946: 1,386). Eight persons have been deprived of Swiss nationality. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \* The late Mme. Elise Wellauer-Tuchschmid, in Amriswil, has left nearly 170,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \* The couple François Udrisard, in Nax, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years). [A.T.S.]

### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, April 30th, 1948.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Mrs. H. Ellison, P. A. Moehr, Mrs. Mrs. J. A. Lanz, E. R. Cottet, C. Landau, A. Bon, J. C. Nussle, A. Kunzler, J. W. Frick, A. Hinderling, G. Marchand, G. Wahl, H. Andrea.

### CITY SWISS CLUB

Members are informed that the

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place on Tuesday, 20th April, 1948, at BROWN'S HOTEL, DOVER STREET, LONDON, W.1, preceded by a Dinner at 6.30 for 7 p.m.

##### AGENDA:

Procès-verbal.  
Admissions.  
Démissions.

Rapports de l'Exercice 1947-48.  
Elections.  
Divers.

Members wishing to take part are asked to send their application in writing to the Manager, Brown's Hotel, to reach him not later than Monday, 19th April. Kindly desist from inviting guests as this is purely a Club Meeting.

THE COMMITTEE.