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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

A Yugoslav delegation headed by Deputy Minister of Industry Filipovic has arrived at Berne with a view to increasing trade between Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Parleys will also be conducted on the problem of Swiss interests affected by nationalisation in Yugoslavia.

\* \* \*

The new Swiss-Norwegian commercial treaty concluded at the end of June had to take into account the fact that the Swiss market can absorb only a small quantity of Norwegian products, and that Norway is unable to pay in gold or currency for a large part of her imports.

It is not yet possible to estimate to what extent Marshall Plan credits to Norway would allow that country to pay for these imports. The only way out of this difficulty was to reduce the rate of Swiss exports.

Another step taken in view of Norway's currency shortage, and which is not favourable to Swiss creditors, is that one instead of two overdue interest payments will be made together with current interest on municipal and industrial Norwegian loans on the Swiss market, such as Three per Cent. Oslo. Four per Cent. Societe Norvegienne de l'Azote, and Five per Cent. Det Norske Zinkkompani.

\* \* \*

Britain's exports to Switzerland, which in recent months have shown a marked upward trend and reached the monthly figure of Frs.38.5 millions at end-May, declined to Frs.32.7 millions during June.

Supplies of goods in the opposite direction, however, rose from Frs.10.4 millions to Frs.16.1 millions.

The U.K.'s favourable trade balance in June thus dropped to Frs.16.6 millions, compared with Frs.28.1 millions in the previous month.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of June 1948, amount to 39.9 million francs. The receipts for the first six months (Jan.-June) are 36.7 million francs more than during the same period of 1947.

The first diplomatic representative, Monsieur Dhirajlal Bhulabhain, of the Independent State of India, has held a Press Conference in Berne, during which he expressed the hope that the relations, both cultural and economic, between the two countries might become very close.

### Cantonal

On the 8th of this month a serious explosion occurred at the works for firework articles, Hilfiker & Cie, in Oberarth. Nine people were killed, and a number more or less seriously injured. The names of the dead are: Miss Rosa Lüösch, from Sattel (born 1932); Josef Ehrler, from Muotatal, in Walchwil (born 1918); Miss Marie Hürlimann, Walchwil (born 1924); Mrs. Emma Bürgler-Riedweg, Oberarth (born 1898); Mrs. Lydia Hurter-Graf, Oberarth (born 1909); Mrs. R. Bürgi-Kälin, Oberarth (born 1904); Mrs. Gwerder-Hürlimann Arth (born 1896); Mrs. R. Maffle-Iten, Arth (born 1906); Mrs. P. Schuler-Trütsch, Sattel (born 1917). Most of the injured persons suffer from burns and injuries to the eyes. An investigation into the cause of the disaster has been ordered by the authorities.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Government of the canton of Nidwalden has issued a decree prohibiting the wearing of bathing costumes in streets, squares and public places. Only "decent" costumes are allowed for bathing. A similar order has also been issued by the Government of the canton Obwalden. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Mlle. Anna Wagner, from Winterthur, has left an amount of 48,000.—frs. to the Municipality of Winterthur, the interest to be used for helping orphans in need. [A.T.S.]

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An eighteen-year-old lad entered a shop in the Zurich district V. to purchase some sweets. Whilst the proprietress turned her back to the youth, he hit her on the head with an iron bar. The woman, however, was able to defend herself and on her cries for help the aggressor took to his heels; he was chased by some passers by who captured him and handed him over to the police. He admitted, that he intended to rob the till. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

W. Temperli, collector of taxes of the community of Dürnten (Ct. Zurich), has been arrested for embezzlement. Investigations going back to the year 1931, have proved that amounts totalling nearly 100,000.—frs. are missing. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A tragedy, costing the lives of five persons occurred in Zurich, when a man poisoned his mother, his wife and two children and himself. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Pierre Blank has been nominated to the post of Director of the Association of Swiss watch manufacturers in Bienne (Ct. Berne) in succession to the late Dr. Clerc. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Madame Anna Nobs, wife of Federal Councillor Nobs, has died in Berne after a long illness. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor, Dr. W. H. Schopfer has been elected rector of the University of Berne for the year 1948/49. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the month of June, altogether 358 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Berne. Two hundred and eighty-one people were injured, nine cases proved fatal. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Oscar Vasella, Professor at the University of Fribourg, has been elected rector of the University for the year 1948/49. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The University of Montreal (Canada) has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon Professor Gonzague de Reynold, of the philosophical Faculty of the University of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The fifteen million francs loan issued by the canton of Fribourg at 3½ per cent. was heavily over-subscribed, and allocations had consequently to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

The twenty-first Music Festival started at St. Gall on the 11th of this month; it was attended by altogether 8,000 musicians representing 209 societies from eighteen cantons. Federal-Councillor, Dr. Etter, conveyed the greetings of the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Madame Elisabeth Sturzenegger has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary at the "Bürgerheim" in Krummenau (St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Three people were killed when a motor-car collided with an oncoming train at a level-crossing near the station Mägenwil (Ct. Aargau) on the line Wettingen-Suhr.

The names of the dead are : Bruno Birchmeier (22); his sister, Maria Theresa Birchmeier (18), children of Mr. Birchmeier, Manufacturer in Künten; and Mlle. Martha Kunzi (43). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. W. Stampfli, a former Federal-Councillor, has been elected a member of the Board of the C. F. Bally, A.G., in Schoenenwerd. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The community of Lenzburg (Ct. Aargau) has purchased the estate "Burghalde." This historical building thus becomes the property of the town of Lenzburg. [A.T.S.]


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The Federal Council has delegated Monsieur Enrico Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, to represent the Government at the "Fiera Svizzera" which will start on October the 3rd, 1948, in Lugano. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Maurice Lugeon, Professor at the University of Lausanne, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the Universities of Lyon and Toulon. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Adolphe Monod, notary in Vevey, has died at the age of 59. The deceased, was a member of the Board of the Nestlé concern; and since 1941 its Chairman. For eight years, he was a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Champex (Ct. Valais) of the well-known mountain guide, Maurice Crettex, at the age of 70. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Centenary celebrations were held throughout the canton of Neuchâtel.

At Neuchâtel a historical pageant was staged which was watched with enthusiasm by great crowds, on the official stand one noticed Monsieur Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, members of the Federal Council, amongst them Monsieur M. Petitpierre, who is a Neuchâtelois, General Guisan, representatives of the cantonal Government and of the two Federal Chambers, etc., etc. The President of the Confederation made a speech during which he gave a

historical *exposé* of the facts which brought the Republic of Neuchâtel into the Confederation.

In Le Locle the "Monument to the Republic of Neuchâtel" was inaugurated in the presence of Federal-Councillor Petitpierre, General Guisan, Army-Corps commanders de Montmollin, Borel and members of the cantonal Government.

La Chaux-de-Fonds celebrated the event with a historical play called "Pays de Neuchâtel," at which Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Federal-Councillor, and a large number of invited guests attended. [A.T.S.]

**Army** The death has occurred in Zurich, where he underwent a serious operation, of Army-Corps Commander Ruggero Dollfuss.

The deceased was born in 1876 at Milano (Italy), and was a citizen of Castagnola (Ticino) and Kiesen (Ct. Berne). He studied law and national economy at the Universities of Basle and Berlin; at the former he obtained the degree of *doctor rer pol.* He travelled extensively especially in Asia, Africa and the United States of America, and during nearly twenty years he was head of the Bank Vonwiller in Milano.

In the army, he advanced to the rank of Army-Corps Commander, after having occupied the post in 1939 of Adjudant to the General. In the year 1922, he entered Parliament as representative of the canton of Ticino.

He was buried on July 15th, at Castagnola, in the presence of Monsieur E. Celio, President of the Swiss

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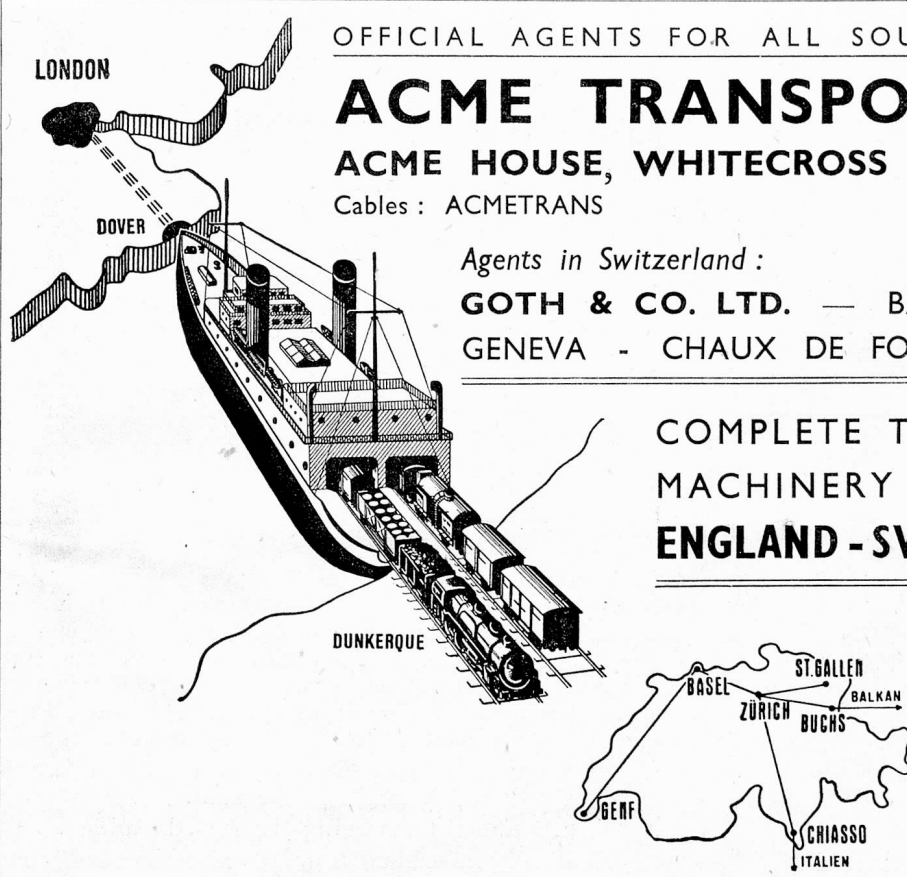
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Confederation, Federal-Councillor Kobelt, Head of the Federal Military Department, General Guisan, all Army-Corps Commanders and Division Commanders, Members of Parliament, etc., etc. [A.T.S.]

A military lorry with eighteen soldiers as passengers skidded on the Lukmanier road to Olivone and fell into the river Brenno. Corporal Lehmann and recruit Schwenk were killed. Four soldiers were seriously and twelve slightly injured. The injured ones were taken to the Hospital at Acquarossa. [A.T.S.]

A "Piper" aeroplane with two passengers, a Lieut. Walter Ziegler and private Baumgartner, both members of the Swiss Air Force, crashed on the Gries glacier (Ct. Valais), the two occupants received only slight injuries, but the machine was badly damaged. [A.T.S.]

Switzerland has extended the age limit for compulsory military service to sixty. [A.T.S.]

—oo—

The Swiss Autumn Fair, to be held in Lausanne from September 11th to 26th, will cover the country's latest accomplishments in agriculture, industry, commerce and handicrafts, displayed by 2,000 exhibitors.

Visitors to the Fair can book accommodation in Lausanne in advance by writing to the "Association Intérêts, Lausanne."

The Lake Constance steamboat service has been resumed after a nine-year lapse, with four passenger ships cruising to points on the German and Swiss shores.

The Swiss Federal Council have decided to raise rates on cables.

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. Joh. Uhlmann-Gut, in Adlikon, and Mr. and Mrs. Georges Thévenaz in Montreux.

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Hans Würth, de Coire, a réussi un vol Bière-Marseille. René Fontana, de Berne, a été le vainqueur du concours international de Dôle (Jura). Les deux Suisses Dorta et Bodmer, de Lausanne, ont remporté les premières places pour modèles de moteurs lors du concours international de modèles d'avions, à Lyon-Corbas.

Le département américain du commerce parle, dans une publication officielle, d'une façon élogieuse de nos installations touristiques. Les prix modérés, l'organisation impeccable, la chaleureuse réception dont ont été gratifiés les permissionnaires américains leur ont ménagé une heureuse transition entre la vie militaire et le retour à la vie civile.

Une conférence internationale des directeurs de villages d'enfants a eu lieu au village Pestalozzi à Trogen; elle était placée à l'enseigne de la compréhension entre les peuples pour les œuvres de paix.

## SWISS COMPETITORS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

(July 29th — August 14th, 1948.)

About 275 Swiss competitors, accompanied by nearly forty officials, are attending the Olympic Games in London.

They are competing in the following events:

Swimming, Wrestling, Athletics, Fencing, Modern Pentathlon, Field Hockey, Shooting, Yachting, Rowing, Basket Ball, Cycling, Equestrian, Gymnastics, Boxing, Weight lifting and Canoeing.

The majority of the teams are housed at the R.A.F. station at Uxbridge, which has been lent to the Olympic Games Organisation Committee. The Rifle team is stationed at Bisley, the Rowing and Canoeing teams at High Wycombe, the Yachting team at Torquay, the Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon teams are at the Royal Military College in Sandhurst. The Ladies will be accommodated at the National Training College of Domestic Subjects, Eccleston Square, S.W.1.

Most of the competitors have arrived by train and a number by Air, they have brought along their own food and a cook who will supervise the preparation of meals at the various centres.

Switzerland occupies the 4th place as to numbers of competitors.

## "FUNNY CUTS."

A city man, wishing to take his family into the country went to look at a small farm with a view of renting it. Everything was to his liking, and negotiations were about to be completed, when the question of hiring also the farmer's cow came up. It was an excellent cow the farmer declared, and even after feeding her calf she would give six quarts of milk a day.

"Six quarts a day! That is more than my whole family could use," exclaimed the man.

Then, suddenly observing the calf, he added.

"I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll hire the small cow, she's just about our size!"