

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: - (1949)
Heft: 1126

Rubrik: News at random

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

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

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 32. No. 1126.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16th, 1949.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Hans Gremminger, at present Chargé d'Affaires in Uruguay to the post of Consul-General in San Francisco, in succession to the late Consul-General Hürzeler.

Consul-General Emil Fontanel, at present head of the Swiss Consulate in Barcelona, will succeed Monsieur Gremminger as Chargé d'Affaires in Uruguay.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during the month of October 1949, altogether 18.16 million passengers or 24,400 more than in October 1948. The receipts from passengers traffic increased by 32,800.—frs. and totalled 24.53 million francs.

Goods traffic decreased by 126,453 tons and amounted to 1.50 million tons. The receipts declined by 2.52 million francs and totalled 27.55 million francs.

The Federal Council has appointed the following to District Managers of the Swiss Federal Railways: Charles Baumann (District: Geneva), and Arthur Cuendet (District: Lausanne).

The National Council has elected Mr. Jacques Schmid (Socialist) as its President for 1950.

Jacques Schmid was born on the 2nd of April 1882, in Altstetten, and is a citizen of Urdorf (Ct. Zurich). He studied in Paris, and for twelve years was a composer in Germany and France.

Schmid then became for twenty years an Editor of various Socialist papers, amongst them the "Volksrecht" Zurich, and the "Volk" Olten. He entered the "Kantonsrat" of Solothurn in 1912, and has been since 1931 a member of the government of the canton of Solothurn. He has been a member of Parliament since 1917 (National Council).

Dr. Paul Haefelin (Radical), has been elected President of the States Council (Ständerat).

Paul Haefelin was born on the 18th of May, 1889, in Solothurn. He studied juris prudence at the Universities of Lausanne, Berne, Munich and Leipzig.

From 1916-1917 he was President of the Tribunal Solothurn-Lebern. For three years (1918-1921) he occupied the post of secretary of the watch industry of the canton of Solothurn, and from 1921-1923 he was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of the canton of Solothurn.

He was elected a member of the "Kantonsrat" in 1925 and since 1933 he has been "Stadtammann" of Solothurn.

Dr. Haefelin entered Parliament (States Council) in 1939, in the army he reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel (Infantry).

* * *

Dr. Gotthold Egli (Cath-Cons.) has been elected Vice-President of the States Council. He was born on the 6th of December, 1884, and studied law at the Universities of Munich, Berlin, Vienna and Berne. From 1913-1935 he practised as an advocate in Lucerne, after which he entered the government of the canton of Lucerne. Dr. Egli, was elected a Member of Parliament in 1935.

Cantonal

Dr. Emil Stauber, the well-known historian, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Zurich-Wollishofen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The theological faculty of the University of Mainz (Germany) has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon Dr. Eduard Schweizer, Professor at the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Ernst Heiniger, of Eriswil (Ct. Berne), has been appointed Manager of the Municipal Tramways in Zurich, he was formerly traffic chief of the District III of the Swiss Federal Railways. [A.T.S.]

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The late Mme. Emilie Raths-Bosshard, of Pfäffikon (Ct. Zurich), has left an amount of 12,000.—frs. to a number of charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

During the month of October, 1949, 615 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Zurich. 279 persons were injured and 9 people lost their lives. [A.T.S.]

The 34,000,000.—frs. loan at 3 per cent. issued by the canton of Berne, met with a complete success. The loan was heavily over subscribed and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

The premises of the firm, Gebrüder Jost (Furniture Manufacturers), in Nidau (Ct. Berne), have been partly destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to exceed 500,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Luigi Musy, son of the former Federal Councillor, Jean-Marie Musy, has been elected Manager of the "Greizer Kreditbank." [A.T.S.]

The Senate of the University of Fribourg has, on the occasion of the *Dies Academicus*, bestowed the degrees of *doctor honoris causa* on the following: Joseph Escher, Brigue, President of the National Council and Father Fry of Truns (Ct. Grisons). [A.T.S.]

Max Kaufmann, a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Basle County, has been elected a member of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

The heirs of the late Ernst Zuberbühler, judge of Trogen (Ct. Appenzell a/Rh.) have given an amount of 18,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions in the community of Trogen. [A.T.S.]

Ulrich Vetsch, of Grabs, Department Chief at the Brown-Boveri concern in Baden, has been appointed Manager of the "St. Gallisch-Appenzellischen Kraftwerke, A.G." [A.T.S.]

The firm Heer & Co., "Seidenstoffweberei" in Thalwil has given an amount of 150,000.—frs. for welfare purposes of their staff. [A.T.S.]

The community of Illnau has received a legacy of 25,000.—frs. from the late Mlle. Anna Ochsner, of Uster, to be used for the education of poor children in the community. [A.T.S.]

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The proprietor of the firm Cottinelli (Wine Merchants), in Chur, has been condemned to six months imprisonment (conditional) and a fine of 50,000.—frs. for having sold inferior wines, in addition he has to pay Court charges amounting to 10,000.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

Gaudenz von Planta, the well-known author, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Fürstenu (Ct. Grisons). Amongst his best known works are the drama "Jenatsch und Lucretia," his book of sonnets "Rätisch Sonnenland" and a religious study "Zwischen Gott und Welt." The "Jubilar" was also for some time a member of the Grand Council of the canton Grisons. [A.T.S.]

Colonel Oskar Zumbrunn, for many years Chief of the police force of the canton of Aargau, has resigned from his post. The cantonal government has expressed their thanks for the services he has rendered.

[A.T.S.]

The premises of the firm Gianola Gogliani (Furniture Manufacturers), in Biasca, have been totally destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to be considerable. [A.T.S.]

The elections for the Communal Council of Lausanne show the following results: Socialists 22 seats (2 losses); Communists 23 seats (16 losses); Christian Socialists 7 seats; Radicals 34 seats (11 gains); and Liberals 14 seats (8 gains). [A.T.S.]

Professor Fleisch, Director of the Physiological Institute of the University of Lausanne, has been awarded the Monthyon Prize for medicine and surgery by the "Institut de France." [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Eduard Gubler, has celebrated his 50th Jubilee as a journalist in Lausanne, he was for many years connected with the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Louis Ali Richard, a former watchmaker, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary in La Brévine (Ct. Neuchâtel). He served in the army during the frontier occupation 1870/71 and witnessed the surrender of General Bourbaki to the Federal Forces.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Georges Perrenoud, Manager of a watch accessory factory in Le Locle (Ct. Neuchâtel), has celebrated his 50th anniversary in the watch industry. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Martin Näf, a former member of the government of the canton of Geneva, and member of Parliament (States Council), has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

Economics

The Canton of Tessin (Ticino) is raising a Three per Cent. Loan of Frs.6m. Purpose of the loan is to redeem the Three and a-Half per Cent. Conversion Loan of 1893 of which Frs.5.4m. is still outstanding.

Issue price is 100 per cent. plus 0.6 per cent. Federal stamp duty. Repayment is to be effected in 1969 at the latest.

* * *

The Cantonal Bank of Zurich is raising a Three per Cent. Loan of Frs.20m. for a period of 20 years, with the right of repayment after 15 years. The issue price is 100.25 per cent., plus 0.6 per cent. Federal stamp duty.

Proceeds of the loan are to be utilised for the conversion or repayment of the bank's Three and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1941, amounting to Frs.20m., due for redemption on January 15th, 1950.

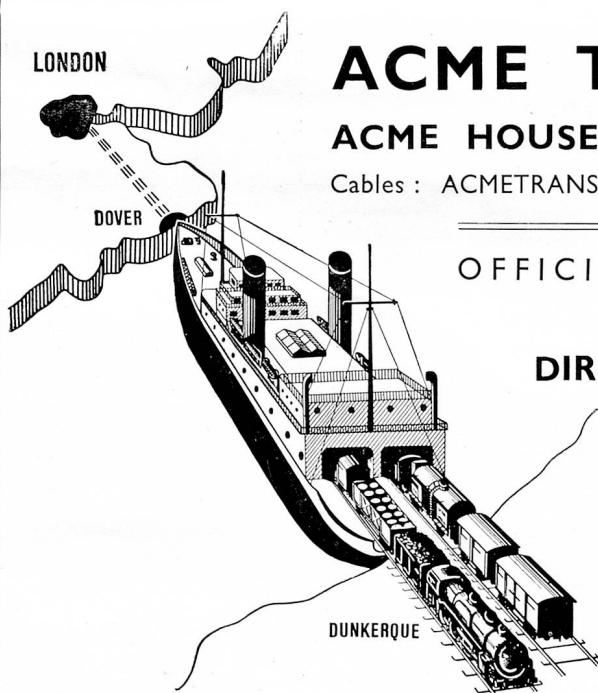
The terms of the instant loan are similar to those of the recent loan of the Canton of Berne, amounting to Frs.34m., which was oversubscribed.

* * *

The Swiss National Bank has intimated to organisations of the watch and jewellery industries that it will have to suspend the sale of gold to those members who buy more of the metal than they require for professional purposes. In addition, the Bank has stated that it will stop completely sales of gold if abuse of the existing purchasing arrangements does not cease.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Court has awarded the Amalgamated Metal Corporation as purchase price for 6,120 shares in Metallgesellschaft, £300,000 payable by the Société Suisse pour Valeurs de Métaux of Basle. Payment is to be made shortly. A bonus issue of Metallgesellschaft shares in 1942 increased the Corporation's holding to 9,180 shares, but the judgment concerns 6,120 shares only.



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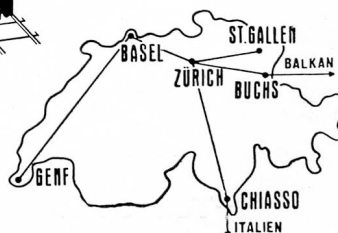
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The following deaths are announced from Switzerland:

Dr. Louis-Marcel Sandoz, in Basle, at the age of 42.

Dr. August Hotz, surgeon-in-chief at the Childrens' hospital in Zurich and the childrens' section of the "Schweiz. Pflegerinnenschule" in Zurich. The deceased, was since 1923 Professor at the University of Zurich.

Charles Fuchs, Publisher and Administrator of the "Gazette de Lausanne" in Lausanne, aged 71. Fuchs was for 56 years in the service of the paper; and for 20 years held the post of President of the Vaudois section of the Swiss Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

Dr. Fritz Meyer-Griffits, since 1936 Manager of the firm Gebrüder Sulzer, A.G., in Winterthur, at the age of 51.

Bernard Pierrehumbert, industrialist in Le Locle, aged 67.

Mme. Marie Winkler-Leu, a noted author, in Lucerne, at the age of 76.

Philippe Cabrol, Manager of the electricity works of Bois Noir, due to an accident, in St. Maurice (Ct. Valais).

Dr. Hans Oettinger-Burckhardt, since 1932 President of the Criminal Court of the canton of Basle and for 32 years in the service of the Tribunal, in Basle, at the age of 66.

Dr. Johann, Carl Engeler, from 1932-1936 a member of the Federal Court in Lausanne, in St. Gall, at the age of 86. Previous to his election as a Federal

Judge, the deceased was for 22 years a member of the Tribunal of the canton of St. Gall. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel.

Gustave Volet-Volet, for thirty years President of the community of Corseaux (Ct. Vaud), and from 1929-1937 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Corseaux, aged 74.

Dr. Daniele Pometta, formerly surgeon-in-chief of the SUVA in Lucerne; he was one of the founders of the District hospital in Brigue, in Sirmach, at the age of 80.

Paul Berret, industrialist, in Moutier, aged 61.

Sepp Stocker, leader of the well-known "Ländler-Kapelle", due to an accident, in Zurich, aged 51.

Johannes Klaus, from 1927-1934 Director of the Postal District 9, in Acladira, at the age of 82. The deceased had been in the service of the Federal Post for 48 years.

Caspar Latour, a former "Regierungsstatthalter" of the canton of Grisons, and member of the Board of the "Graubündner Kantonalbank," in Brigels, aged 88.

Pastor Walter Staub, for 17 years a preacher in Wetzikon (Ct. Zurich), at the age of 81. The deceased was for many years Secretary of the Church Council of the canton of Zurich.

René Bonnard, architect, in Lausanne at the age of 67. Bonnard, was for 24 years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. During the last war he was "Platzkommandant" of the town of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

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The management of the "Jungfrau" railway has decided to keep the service open during the whole winter. [A.T.S.]

* * *

For the past nine years the Swiss Red Cross relief for children has done spectacular work in taking 160,000 children to Switzerland from devastated areas and placing them with foster parents. It cost the Swiss Red Cross 50 million francs to carry out the plan, and at its peak working period a staff of 160 people were engaged on it all over Switzerland. This is not surprising when one hears that each child's name has to be written about fifty times in connection with the completion of labels, and forms for travel.

A representative of the Swiss Red Cross states that this work will now be concentrated on the refugee children in Germany and Austria, whom, she said, "have urgent need of it."

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