

**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:** 1108

**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. 1108.

FRIDAY MARCH 11th, 1949.

PRICE 6d.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Field-Marshal, Lord Montgomery, was the guest of the Swiss-British Society at a Banquet which took place at the "Congresshaus" in Zurich, on February 21st.

The President of the Society, Professor, Dr. H. Straumann, welcomed the distinguished guest, amongst those who attended the function were: Dr. A. Lüchinger, Mayor of Zurich, Miss Mary L. Kingsmill-Jones, Lord Mayor of Manchester, T. M. Snow, British Minister in Berne, A. N. W. Napier, British General-Consul, and representatives of the town of Zurich and the two Universities. Addressing the distinguished gathering Lord Montgomery said, amongst other things: "To-day, unpreparedness and unreadiness for war is merely to place a high trump card, possibly the highest, in the hands of a potential enemy. The two essential cards to hold are: National Security and Economic Stability. These are interdependent. Without them, a nation is certain, sooner or later, to have to sacrifice its principles, independence, freedom and traditional way of life — or else face defeat in war and be overrun by the enemy. We are supposed to be at peace, but it is a very uneasy peace which broods over the world."

Lord Montgomery said that the vital attributes of a military leader, without which he would fail were decision in action and calmness in crisis. "Some people are inclined to summon the psychiatrist to their aid when selecting leaders," he said. "I consider this practice to be wrong; you cannot select leaders in that way."

Other comments by the Field-Marshal were: "A soft army is useless. The soldier must be hard and tough and be trained to fight and to kill."

The human factor: "A man must dominate the events that surround him. Once a man lets events get the better of him, he is useless as a leader. Character is a spiritual quality."

Previous to the dinner, Lord Montgomery drove through the principal streets of the town, followed by a visit to the "Stadthaus" where he was received by

the Mayor of the town of Zurich, Dr. A. Lüchinger, who presented him with a memento of the town.

The distinguished guest also paid a visit to the University of Zurich where he addressed the students.

On the following day, Lord Montgomery travelled to Berne, where he was received by the President of the government of the canton Berne, at the "Rathaus", where several speeches were made. In the afternoon he drove through the town of Berne and visited a Chocolate Factory.

On Wednesday, February 23rd, Lord Montgomery was the guest of the Swiss Government at a Luncheon, and in the afternoon he made a trip to Bienne where he visited various factories. On Thursday he left our country to return home. Everywhere the distinguished guest went, he received a hearty ovation by the population.

\* \* \*

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Mary Kingsmill-Jones, arrived in Zurich by Swissair, on the 20th of last month. She was welcomed at Kloten air-

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port by the Mayor of Zurich, Dr. A. Lühinger, who was accompanied by the British Consul, Mr. Napier.

A banquet was held for the civic party at the Muraltengut, during which Dr. Lühinger toasted the Lord Mayor and the prosperity of Manchester and the future of the airline (Swissair) which linked it with Zurich. He presented to the Lord Mayor and illustrated book of the history of the town of Zurich.

The Lord Mayor in return presented to the Mayor of Zurich a tray made from wood taken from Manchester's bombed Free Trade Hall. She spoke touchingly of the debts Britain owes to the Swiss, for their work for British prisoners of war and the International Red Cross.

Other speakers were, Mr. W. Caller, President of the Zurich Chamber of Commerce and Mr. E. A. Carpenter, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the latter brought the greetings of his organisation to "the cleanest town in the world."

On the following day the Lord Mayor spent a 12 hour day of official visits and sightseeing in the town.

The tour began at 9 a.m. with a visit to the "Rathaus" where she watched a session of the Cantonal Parliament. Afterwards she visited two public libraries and the historic old town. The greater part of the day was devoted to visits to the city's housing estates, schools, Universities and the municipal children's home at Höngg.

The Lord Mayor also attended the luncheon given by the British-Swiss Society in honour of Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery.

During the month of January, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.41 million passengers, or 1.53 million less than in January 1948. The receipts from passenger traffic amounted to 19.81 million francs, or 1 million francs less than at the same period in the previous year.

Goods traffic declined by 277,399 tons and amounted to 1.19 million tons. Receipts for same are given as 23.51 million francs, or 4.42 million francs less than in January 1948.

Switzerland is now officially a member of Unesco, following the signing by the Swiss Minister in London of the Constitution of Unesco and the simultaneous deposit of the instrument of acceptance of the Constitution by the Swiss Federal Council, this country has become the forty-sixth Member State.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate have approved the payment of £2,651,750 to Switzerland as compensation for war damage.

The claim was made in respect of air crashes and bombings of Swiss territory.

An Austro-Swiss agreement on the export of timber from Austria to Switzerland will shortly be ratified by the Austrian authorities. Austria is to export 20,000 cubic metres of timber by the end of 1949 under this agreement.

According to the return of the Swiss National Bank for the week to February 15th, the gold influx still shows no signs of abating. Gold stocks rose by Frs.5.6m. to Frs.5,839m., foreign exchange holdings by Frs.1.7m. to Frs.259m.

Notes in circulation fell by Frs.63m. to Frs.4,160m.

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Switzerland is preparing for a great influx of refugees from countries beyond the Iron Curtain. Within the last few months 3,000 people, mostly Roman Catholics, from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Jugoslavia have found asylum in Switzerland.

### Cantonal

The accounts for the year 1948, of the canton of Uri, show a deficit of 268,605.64.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Th. Schönbächler, who was connected with the District Court of Einsiedeln for over 50 years of which 25 years he presided, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

During the month of January altogether 359 (1948:391) traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich. 114 (1948:150) persons were injured and 4 (1948:9) were killed. [A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. Werner Kägi (Zurich), has been appointed Professor of political economy at the University of Zurich in succession to Professor Schindler. [A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. Hans Burger, head of the "Eidg. Forstlichen Versuchsanstalt" in Zurich, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

On this occasion the University of Munich has honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Max Rappold, advocate, of Zurich, has been arrested. He is under suspicion of having embezzled



monies in connection with a "Liebesgabenfirma" of which he was an employee. [A.T.S.]

Eugène Anfranc, a former watch-maker, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary in Orvin (Ct. Berne). He will be presented with the traditional easy chair by the government of the canton of Berne. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the tobacco works Burrus in Boncourt (Ct. Berne), caused damage amounting to 200,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The village of Köniz, near Berne, which enjoys the reputation of being the largest village in Switzerland (18,000 inhabitants) is celebrating this summer its 1,000 years jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The late Ernst Tschanz, President of the community of Leubringen, near Bienne, has left an amount of 70,000.—frs. to the clinic of Heiligenschwendli, a clinic for tubercular diseases. [A.T.S.]

Alfred Maret, Vice-Director of the Federal Alcohol Administration in Berne, has resigned from his post on reaching the age limit. He was born in 1883, and is a citizen of Gorgier (Neuchâtel). He entered the Federal Alcohol Administration in 1913, and in 1928 was promoted to the post of Vice-Director. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Heinrich Reese, a well-known botanist and explorer, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Basle.

Dr. H. Debrunner, Professor of Orthopædy at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Born at Frauenfeld (Ct. Thurgau) he was formerly a lecturer at the Universities of Berlin and Zurich.

Professor Carl Ludwig, formerly a member of the government of the canton of Basle, and now occupying

a leading position in a Chemical Products firm in Basle, has celebrated his 60 birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The late Jakob Graf, Judge, in Wolfhalden (Ct. Appenzell) has left an amount of 39,000.—frs. to the community of Wolfhalden to be used for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

Dr. h.c. A. Nizzola, formerly Managing-Director and President of the Board of the Motor-Columbus A.G. in Baden, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. On retiring from his post in 1942, he was made a honorary citizen of the town of Baden and the Motor-Columbus nominated him its Honorary President. [A.T.S.]

The Technical University of Karlsruhe, has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon Theodor Boveri, a member of the Board of the A.G. Brown, Boveri & Cie, in Baden. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1948, altogether 1,050 traffic accidents have occurred (1947:839), in the canton of Ticino. 650 persons were injured, and 23 persons lost their lives. [A.T.S.]

Agostino Bernasconi (cath. cons.), has been elected President of the government of the canton of Ticino for the period of 1949/50. [A.T.S.]

The 35 million francs loan at 3½%, issued by the town of Lausanne, has been oversubscribed and allocations had to be reduced. The money is to be used for the financing of the power station of Lavey and for erecting dwelling houses. [A.T.S.]

The banking firm, Crédit du Léman, which was founded in 1871 at Vevey (Ct. Vaud), is in difficulties, and has been taken over by the Cantonal Bank of Vaud.

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Pastor Jean de Saussure, a former preacher at the St. Pierre Church in Geneva, and since 1945, Professor at the theological faculty of the University of Lausanne, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Neuchâtel for the year 1948, close with a credit balance of 2,483,013.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Colonel of division Grosselin, formerly commander of the 1st division, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Geneva.

A banquet was held in his honour at which the following personalities were present: Army-Corps Commander Montmollin, Chief of the General Staff, Colonel of Division Montfort, Colonel Privat, and M. Duboule, President of the Government of the canton of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

### Army

Two Morane aeroplanes, of the "Fliegerstaffel 3", collided in mid-air during exercises near the town of Rougemont. The two pilots, lieutenant André Bernoulli (21), a lawyer in Neuchâtel, and non-commissioned officer, Paul Gottreux from Areuse were killed. The Federal Military Department has ordered an investigation as to the cause of the accident.

[A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Mgr. Anasthase Cottier, for 53 years a preacher of the Roman-Catholic community of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 85.

Jakob Scheuber, a former member of the government of the canton of Schwyz, in Ennetmoos, aged 85.

Dr. Carl Brunner (Winterthur), who was for many years connected with the "Eidg. Fremdenpolizei" in Berne, at the age of 65.

Albert Stucki, President of the community of Thalwil, in Thalwil, aged 59. The deceased was a member of the Board of the "Seidenstoffweberei Heer & Cie, A.G.", in Thalwil. In the army he reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Albert de Coulon, Chief of Staff of the 2nd Division, at Boudry, at the age of 46. During the last war he was Commander of the Field Battery 9 and later Chief of Staff of the Frontier Brigade 2.

Stefan Jeger, President of the Supreme Court of the Canton Solothurn, in Solothurn, at the age of 68.

Ludwig Jäger, a well-known painter of church stained-glass windows in St. Gall, aged 72.

Victor Beck, "Domherr" and formerly head of the Priests seminary in Sitten, in Sitten, at the age of 75.

Charles Muriset, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, and Town Councillor of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 82.

Mlle. Josephine Lany, in Dullier, aged 101.

Dominic Feuerstein, Editor of the "Bündner Jägerzeitung" and author of a number of well-known novels, in Schuls Tarasp, at the age of 49.

Captain Hans Richard, Music instructor of the Swiss Army, and for many years Conductor of the "Berner Bereitermusik" in Berne, aged 43.

Pater Jules Comerson, a well-known missionary, in Fribourg at the age of 70. The deceased was a doctor of philosophy and theology.

Dr. Hans Gervais, Manager of the "Schweiz. Unfallversicherungsanstalt" of Lucerne since 1942, in Lucerne.

Albert Rehfuß, the well-known violinist, and honorary Director of the Geneva Academy of Music, in Geneva, at the age of 81.

Eduard Walser, a former member of the government of the canton of Grisons, and for 25 years a member of parliament (National Council) in Chur, aged 86.

Jean-Louis Benoît, a former teacher and author of a number of plays at Chavannes-sur-Renens, at the age of 84.

Gottfried Stähli-Bachofner, of the "Bundesamt für Spezialversicherung" in Berne, at the age of 43.

[A.T.S.]

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1948:

Schweiz. Hypothekenbank Solothurn: 5 per cent.; Gewerbe Bank, Zurich: 5 per cent. (1947:5%).

Fourteen Swiss Journalists have flown by Swissair to Egypt, where they are the guests of the Egyptian Government.

The following couple have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. J. Künzler-Kellenberger, Walzenhausen (Ct. Appenzell).

Mr. Karl Baumann, Swiss born, but naturalised Englishman, who has been awarded the 1948 James Clayton prize of £1,350 for his contributions of the advancement of mechanical engineering science, is chief mechanical engineer and a director of Metropolitan Vicker's Ltd., Manchester.

The award sets the seal on a lifetime of important research and valuable inventions. The largest steam turbine in Europe — the 105,000kw. turbo generator in the Battersea power station — the jet engine which made the world record climbing speed, and the Metro-Vick gas turbines were all designed or developed under his direction.

The award is an annual one, made on the recommendation of the Council of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. A previous award was made to Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, for his invention of the jet propulsion gas turbine.

Mr. Baumann was born and educated at Zurich, and joined Metropolitan-Vickers in 1909.

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Only once, during the winter of 1857-58, was the level of the Rhine lower than now. That, and the heavy drain on the artificial lakes — some of which are half empty — justifies new restrictions on electricity consumption which will be enforced in Switzerland. Space and water heating, shop window lighting, and flood-lighting are almost completely banned. Street lighting and lighting in homes are to be reduced by one-third, and industry is to halve last year's already curtailed consumption.

The situation will be reviewed before March 15th, when further drastic curtailments may be enforced — for example, a substantial reduction in the train services — if rain does not fall in abundance before that date.

—oOo—

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En concurrence avec trois maisons américaines, la maison Brown, Boveri et Cie à Baden, a reçu une commande de la ville de Cleveland (USA), pour des turbo-générateurs, du montant de 1,14 millions de dollars.

A Chester (Pennsylvanie, USA) vient d'être lancé un super-pétrolier de 26.000 tonnes, baptisé "Esso-Zurich."

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La mission suisse de gymnastes qui a visité en automne 1947 l'Union Sud africaine y a déclenché un tel enthousiasme pour la gymnastique qu'il a dépassé de loin toutes les prévisions du département de l'instruction de l'Union.

En Suisse romande prospère une association de jeunes ornithologues et protecteurs de la nature. A une époque où l'on se lamente sur le mauvais emploi que fait la jeunesse de ses loisirs, l'idéal élevé de ce groupement est hautement réjouissant et digne d'éloges.

La Suède va déléguer un spécialiste en Suisse pour y étudier les méthodes les plus récentes de la cartographie (établissement de cartes topographiques). La Suède sait — déclare la presse de ce pays — que la Suisse peut donner dans ce domaine de précieuses leçons.

La station de recherches du Jungfraujoch vient de se révéler comme l'endroit le mieux placé en Europe pour l'étude scientifique des rayons cosmiques. Elle est devenue un centre de la physique atomique moderne. A la Conférence internationale de l'UNESCO pour l'étude des hautes altitudes le Jungfraujoch a été reconnu à l'unanimité comme la station la mieux équipée dans ce but et la plus moderne au monde.

Les archives suisses de la poste aérienne, à Berne, sont une institution unique en son genre; on y donne une documentation extraordinaire sur le développement de la poste aérienne.

L'orchestre de la Suisse romande a été invité à participer, sous la direction de son chef Ernest Ansermet, à la fête de musique d'Edimbourg.

Le commissaire de police Louis Käppeli, originaire de Lucerne, a été nommé citoyen d'honneur de la Nouvelle Orléans et officier du département de police de cette ville. Le vice-consul suisse St. Luisoni a également reçu un diplôme de citoyen d'honneur.

Madame Stirlin-Vallon, de Lausanne, a donné en Egypte un série de récitals au programme desquels figurent, en bonne place, des œuvres de compositeurs suisses.

Au début de mars s'ouvrira à Amsterdam une exposition suisse du livre. On projette d'en organiser plus tard une semblable à Francfort.

On vient d'assister, à Berne, aux premières de "Barbara" d'Heinrich Künzi et de la comédie "Victoria à Hollywood" de Max Werner Lenz. Le



Théâtre municipal de St. Gall a donné en première représentation l'Opéra "Notturmo" de R. B. Matzig et Max Haefelin et "L'araignée noire" d'Albert Roesler et Heinrich Sutermeister.

Une œuvre suisse vient d'être fondée à Berne en faveur de l'entente entre les Etats.

De sa fondation, en 1931, jusqu'à la fin de 1948, la Swissair a transporté plus d'un demi million de passagers. Les nouveaux appareils Convair sont les meilleurs avions de transport du monde.

Le journal "Berlingske Tidende" de Copenhague écrit que le ministre du commerce et le directeur de la Banque nationale du Danemark seraient d'un coup hissés sur le pavois s'ils accordaient à leurs concitoyens les moyens de faire des voyages en Suisse.

Le président de l'Etat d'Israël a invité le professeur de chimie Reichstein de Bâle, à visiter les instituts de recherches de son pays. Le conseil fédéral a mis 100.000 francs à disposition pour l'achat de médicaments en faveur des réfugiés de Palestine.

La province canadienne d'Ontario vient de faire don à la Suisse de 100,000 œufs de truites lacustres.

Le champion suisse de ski Otto von Allmen est à la tête des instructeurs de l'école de ski de Snow Ridge à Turin, dans l'Etat de New-York. Walter Prager dirige l'entraînement de l'équipe nationale de ski des Etats-Unis. Mario Gabriel, de St. Moritz, a été nommé directeur de l'école de ski de Mont Tremblant au Canada.

Cinq photographes suisses, amateurs ou professionnels, placent notre pays au 2e rang après le Canada par la qualité et leurs envois à un cours mondial de photographie organisé à New-York.

### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, March 25th, 1949.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscriptions: O. Roethlisberger, E. Bachofen, E. F. Richard, A. Wettstein, P. Bucher, A. Burkhalter, Mrs. A. Rietmann, A. Maeder, Mrs. B. C. Hossack.

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