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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

Customs receipts for the month of March, 1949, amounted to 38.5 million francs. During the first quarter of 1949, the receipts are given as 107.4 million francs or 18 million less than for the same period in 1948.

Monsieur Carl Bruggmann, Swiss Minister in Washington since 1939, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

The British Parliament has extended an invitation to members of the Swiss Parliament. The Swiss delegation, which will arrive on May 4th, consists of the following members: Escher (cath. cons., Valais), President of the National Council; Pini (rad. Ticino), National Councillor; Grütter (soc., Berne), National Councillor; de Senarclens (lib., Geneva), National Councillor; Wenk, (soc., Basle-Town), President of the States Council; Jten (cath. cons., Zug), States Councillor; Speiser (rad., Aargau), States Councillor, and Wahlen (B.G.B., Zurich), States Councillor.

The Federal Council has appointed Colonel Eduard Steinrisser to the post of Military Attaché in Rome.

Colonel Steinrisser, was born in 1898, and hails from Celerina (Grisons) he has been since 1923 a member of the Instruction Corps, until recently he was on the Staff of the 3rd army-corps.

The Swiss Institute in Rome, has recently been opened by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur de Weck.

The President of the Swiss Confederation, on behalf of the Federal Council, has sent a telegram of congratulation to Pope Pius XII, on the 50th anniversary of his entry into the priesthood.

During the Swiss Radical-Democratic Congress, which took place at Lausanne, Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, mentioned, that 4,600 million Swiss francs worth of Swiss assets had been de-

blocked in the United States since the war; this sum being equivalent to practically all Swiss assets in the United States.

The Swiss Parliament discussed recently the country's 64 years old ban on the Jesuits. Discussion was adjourned, to give time to all parties to collect more information.

The act in the constitution says: "The Order of Jesuits and societies affiliated to it may not be received in any part of Switzerland and any activity in church or school is forbidden to its members."

Monsieur Carl, J. Burckhardt, since 1945 Swiss Minister in Paris, has asked the Federal Council to relieve him from his post, which he, at the time took over for a limited time. His successor has not yet been appointed.

Minister Burckhardt has been elected to the Board of CIBA, chemical manufacturers.

The President of the Italian Republic, Monsieur Einaudi, has arrived in Zurich on a private visit.

### Cantonal

The heirs of the Art Publisher, Ambroise Vollard (1867-1939) Paris, have made a donation to the "Kunstmuseum" Winterthur, consisting of a large number of etchings and books. [A.T.S.]

Mr. W. Trüb, for 30 years Manager of the electric power station of the town of Zurich, has retired from

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his post. In 1943, he was elected a member of Parliament (National Council) as a representative of the "Landesring" Party. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Leo Weber, at present head of the cantonal "Lehrerbildungsanstalt," Solothurn, has been appointed Professor of pedagogy at the University of Zurich, in succession to Professor Stettbacher, who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ludwig Forrer (Winterthur), since 1932 a lecturer at the University of Zurich, has been elected Director of the "Zentralbibliothek" in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

An Anglo-American book exhibition under the motto "Die Anglo-Amerikanische Welt in Büchern" has recently been opened at the Congress Haus in Zurich; altogether 3,000 books are on view. [A.T.S.]

The "Stadtrat" of the town of Zurich has suspended E. Woog from its membership, after having received a sentence of six months imprisonment for embezzlement. Woog is a member of the Communist Party. [A.T.S.]

The "Winterthur Lebensversicherungs Gesellschaft" has celebrated its 25th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

On the 12th of this month a hundred years ago, Professor Albert Heim, the well-known geologist was born. Albert Heim studied at the Universities of Zurich and Berlin, and at the early age of 22 became a lecturer of Geology at the University of Zurich and shortly afterwards was nominated Professor at the Technical University of Zurich. He made a name for himself with his books "Untersuchungen über den Mechanismus der Gebirgsbildung" and "Geologie der Schweiz."

Professor Heim was an enthusiastic mountaineer, he died in 1937, in his home town Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1948 of the canton Obwalden, close with a credit balance of 13,087.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Hans Stähli, since 1931, a member of the government of the canton of Berne, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Stähli entered Parliament (National-Council) in 1919 as representative of the Peasant Party, he presided over the National Council in 1939/40. On the 1st of May, he is assuming his new post as President of the "Kantonalbank" in Berne. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the furniture manufacturing firm "Bienna" in Madretsch (Ct. Berne), caused damage amounting to 200,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

At the home of a certain Dobler a family quarrel took place, and threats being uttered police protection was requested. When two policemen arrived Dobler fired two shots killing one policeman, Pierre Richen, instantaneously and seriously wounding the other.

On the arrival of reinforcement who besieged the house, Dobler kept on firing, the house was then taken by storm, and the murderer was arrested, he was seriously injured and later on, after having been taken to hospital, succumbed to his injuries. [A.T.S.]

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Dr. med. E. Mende, for the last twenty years President of the Swiss Automobile Club, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Berne. [A.T.S.]

A Bücker-Jungman aeroplane of the "Sportflieger Schule" of the Bernese Aero-Club crashed in the neighbourhood of Wengen. The Pilot, Alois Keller (22), from Wabern, was seriously injured and was taken to the District Hospital in Interlaken. A passenger, Jakob Keller (26), brother of the pilot, was killed. [A.T.S.]

In order to improve traffic conditions on the road from Basle to the Hauenstein, it has been decided to replace the small Birs bridge at St. Jakob by two new bridges, one to be used for tramway and the other for motor and foot passenger traffic. [A.T.S.]

The well-known geologist, Professor Arnold Heim, of Basle, has been made a honorary member of the National Academy of Sciences of India. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor, Dr. Albert Oeri, has retired from his post as editor-in-chief of the "Basler Nachrichten," he will, however, still remain a member of the editorial staff (Foreign News). Peter Durrenmatt has been appointed editor-in-chief. [A.T.S.]

The Zoological Gardens in Basle has celebrated its 75th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The well-known "Gasthaus zur Maienburg" in Hallau (Ct. Schaffhausen) was destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to exceed 150,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Alfred Zuberbühler, since 1942, a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Appenzell a.Rh., has retired from his office. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The community of the town of St. Gall has received the following legacies : 71,000. frs. from the late Mme. Veuve Möck-Rohner, of St. Gall ; 10,000.—frs. from Dr. Claire Everstey-Grütter ; and 23,000.—frs. from the Spar & Leihkasse Kirchberg (St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

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During the month of March, 35 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Thurgau, causing the death of one man, whilst nine persons were seriously and fourteen slightly injured. These accidents, it is said, were principally caused through speeding. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The " Stadtrat " of Frauenfeld consisting of five members has been confirmed in their office, the following were re-elected : Herrmann (soc.) ; Huwiler (soc.) ; Dr. Ammann, (lib.) ; Dr. Wuest (lib.), and E. Rupper (christ. soc.). [A.T.S.]

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The accounts of the canton of Ticino for 1948 close with a deficit of 324,404.—fre. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The authorities of the canton of Neuchâtel have condemned 150,000 litres of white wine as not fit for consumption, and have ordered that the wine should be emptied into the lake. The wine originates from the cellars of the " Raisin d'Or, S.A. " in Chez-le-Bart, a firm which is in liquidation. [A.T.S.]

General de Lattre de Tassigny, commander-in-chief of the Western Union forces, gave a lecture at the Victoria Hall in Geneva, entitled " From the isle of Elba to the Rhine and Donau."

Amongst the numerous audience were General Guisan, and army-corps commander de Montmollin, Chief of the General Staff, and Colonel of Division, Montfort, Commander of the First Division. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts of the canton of Geneva for the year 1948, show a credit-balance of 6,767,907.—frs. [A.T.S.]

**Army**

Lieutenant, André Perrin (born 1923), driver of a Jeep, was killed when passing a level crossing at an excessive speed on the road Estavayer-Payerne. Three soldiers who travelled on the Jeep were injured. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

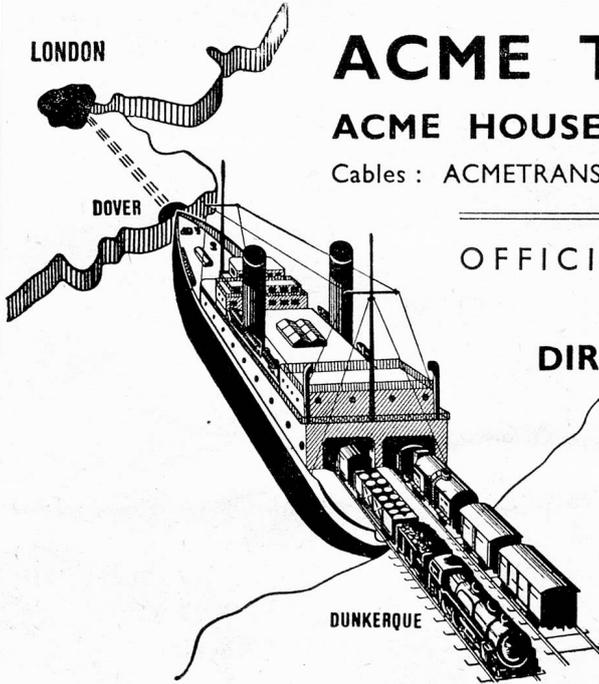
Major-General Kalwantsingh, Chief of the General Staff of the Indian Army, accompanied by a number of high Indian officers, has arrived in Switzerland. He was received by Federal-Councillor Kobelt, head of the Federal Military Department, and army-corps commanders Frick and Montmollin.

During his stay in Switzerland he has visited various military institutions and units. [A.T.S.]

—oo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland :—

André Ehrler, in Geneva, at the age of 49. The deceased was in 1933 elected a member of Parliament (National Council) where he sat as a socialist ; he



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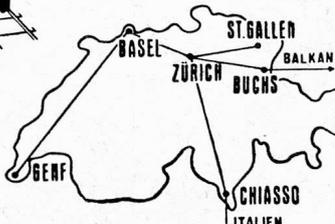
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occupied his seat for only a few months. He entered the government of the canton of Geneva which he left to become a member of the communist party. Since 1947, he was a member of the Council of the community of Carouge.

Ulrich Schoch-Meier, "Förster" and oldest inhabitant of the town of Herisau, in Herisau (Ct. Appenzell a.Rh.) aged 97.

Ulrich Steinmann, President of the Board of the "Maschinenfabrik Ulrich Steinmann A.G.", of St. Gall-Winkeln, in St. Gall, at the age of 63.

Caspar Cotti, for 30 years proprietor of the "Berghaus" on the Julier Pass.

Madame Veuve Margaretha Bieser-Benz, in Kreuzlingen, aged 100 years and three months.

Dr. Carl Rüttimann, advocate, and former member of the "Kantonsrat" Zug, in Zug, aged 69.

Dr. André Guisan, a well-known medical practitioner in Yverdon and later on in Lausanne, head of the clinic "Source" and author of a number of works on medical science, in Lausanne, at the age of 77.

Johann Angehrn, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and an expert on agricultural developments, in St. Gall, aged 82.

Fritz Eymann, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 69. The deceased was a member of the National Council from 1919-1935, and the States Council since 1945. He was a member of the socialist party and since 1912, Manager of the "Cooperatives réunis."

Dr. Albert Mylius-Passavant, President of the board of the I. R. Geigy, A.G., of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 75. The deceased reached the rank of Colonel in the army and was formerly in command of a cavalry brigade.

Colonel Fritz Stahelt, for many years Instructor of the former 6th Division, in St. Gall, aged 82. In the

first world war he served as chief of staff of the 7th Division.

Joseph, Anton Liner, formerly President of the "Verbandes Schweiz. Darlehenskassen, System Raffeisen" and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, in Gossau at the age of 79.

Gustave Chuard, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, member of the board of the States Bank of Fribourg, in Nuvilly, aged 70.

Pastor Eugène Choisy, President of the Protestant Church Association and Professor of theology at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 83.

Charles Gos, author of a number of books, amongst them: "Près des névés et des glaciers," "Sous les drapeaux," "Ce quis de frontière" "Soldat et citoyen," etc., in Martigny, aged 64.

[A.T.S.]

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The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Weber-Kilchenmann, of Brittnau (Ct. Aargau); Mr. and Mrs. E. Sonderegger-Schmidle, of Rehetobel (Ct. Appenzell); Mr. and Mrs. A. Jornayvaz, of Lausanne, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Bruppacher-Forster, of Küsnacht (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government denounced their trade agreement with the Anglo-U.S. zone of Germany because the Allies will not allow them to work off a £7 million balance which German exporters have built up.



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### GENERAL MEETING

Presentation of Balance Sheet  
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Saturday, April 30th, 1949 at 4 p.m. sharp.

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Increased shipments of Canadian cereals, flour, aluminium, copper, upper leather, rubber tyres, sewing machines, drugs and chemicals to Switzerland last year boosted Canada's exports to that country by 43,000,000 francs over the 1947 total. A considerable number of new products was added to the list of Canadian exports to Switzerland, among which linseed oils and synthetic resins are prominent. Swiss sales to Canada decreased by 20,000,000 francs in the same period.

Over 160,000 child victims of the war, including 1,716 from Britain, have been cared for by Swiss foster families since 1940.

The Swiss Army would destroy all roads, railways and factories if the country were invaded, before retreating into the inner defence lines in the Alps, said Dr. Kobelt, Swiss Defence Minister.

The Berne Government of Switzerland, where women have neither franchise nor the right to hold public office, is to form a voluntary Swiss A.T.S., whose duties will include A.A. service.

Switzerland imported nearly ten times as many British cars in 1948 as in 1938.

A new Swiss gliding record for height above starting-point in a two-seat sailplane is claimed by Hans Wietlispach. At Berne, on April 1st, in a Kranich, he reached a height of 10,830ft. The previous record, of 9,807ft., was held by Alwin Kuhn and Max Ritter.

The Centre for Continued Studies, Birmingham University, has arranged an expedition to Switzerland for June 11th-25th, first to the Vaud and then to the Valais, for the collection of alpine flowers.

According to the latest return of the Swiss National Bank for the week to April 7th, the gold influx has virtually come to a standstill, the gold reserve having risen by only Frs.0.6m. to Frs.5.912m., against a total increase of Frs.58m. during the previous fortnight. Foreign exchange holdings advanced by Frs.5.6m. to Frs.322m. during the first week of April.

The first two of the 75 de Havilland Vampire jet fighters ordered by the Swiss Air Force two years ago have been delivered. They flew from an undisclosed

British airport to Emmen, near Lucerne, in just under an hour. Their average speed is estimated at over 500 m.p.h.

The construction of a tunnel over eight miles long beneath Mont Blanc will start shortly. The tunnel will form a new link between Italy, Switzerland and France and will carry a two-way auto-road.

The cost, estimated at Swiss Frs.60m., will be shared by the three countries. The new tunnel will be built by Italians working from both ends and will be finished in three years.

Geography lessons in mid-air is the latest offered to the pupils of the main secondary school at Basle — and they love it!

The idea came to the geography master when one of his boys who until then had shown himself indifferent to his country's geography suddenly was full of enthusiasm and eagerness after a short excursion trip by air which his father had offered him as a birthday present.

With maps and copybooks on their laps the boys and girls sit in luxury seats and peer through the windows while the master explains the landscape, rivers, hills and towns 5,000 feet below.

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*"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).*

Le professeur Albert Einstein, l'un des plus grands physiciens de tous les temps, a fréquenté en son temps l'école cantonale d'Aarau puis a acquis la nationalité suisse. Dans une autobiographie, il déclare tenir en grande estime les universités suisses, tout particulièrement l'école polytechnique fédérale. Comparativement au système américain, on laisse à l'étudiant, en Suisse, beaucoup plus de liberté et de temps pour s'occuper du domaine qui l'intéresse particulièrement et le véritable zèle scientifique n'est pas tué par un enseignement trop rigide. Einstein écrit qu'il a reçu à l'école polytechnique fédérale un enseignement excellent.

L'écrivain genevois Robert de Traz a reçu la rosette d'officier de la Légion d'honneur.

Le guide bernois Arthur Spöhel a gravi tout seul le plus haut sommet de l'Afrique, la Pointe de l'Empereur Guillaume dans le massif du Kilimandjaro (6010 m.).

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