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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has elected Dr. Viktor Kühne, to the post of Vice-Director of the Federal Alcohol Administration in Berne.

Dr. Kühne, who is an advocate, was born in 1912 in Rieden (St. Gall), he entered the administration in 1938.

The Swiss Minister in Nanking has informed the Federal Political Department in Berne, that all Swiss Nationals are safe.

Dr. Azcarate and his staff have arrived in Switzerland to prepare for the discussions between Israel and the Arab States under the United Nations conciliation commission. The Swiss Federal Government has agreed that the meeting shall take place at Ouchy.

The Swiss cost-of-living index declined by 0.4 per cent. from the February level of 222 at the end of March in the series based on June 1914 equalling 100, and to 161.8 in that based on August 1939 = 100. These figures compare with 22.9 and 162.5 respectively in March 1948.

A Latin American Chamber of Commerce, with its seat in Basle, has been established in Berne. Seventeen Latin American countries are taking part, whilst the remaining three countries are expected to join the Chamber shortly. The new Chamber is to serve as an information centre on finance, commerce and industry, with the aim of furthering the trade relations between the Latin Americas and Switzerland.

The gold stocks of the Swiss National Bank, which during the first two weeks of April had only shown an insignificant rise, advanced by Frs.32.7m. to Frs.5,947m. during the week to April 23rd. This increase is attributed to transfers from foreign central banks under payments agreements. Foreign exchange holdings rose by Frs.31m. to Frs.363m. Notes in circulation show a substantial decline of Frs.42m. to Frs.4,186m.

### Cantonal

Two thousand five hundred voters attended the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Obwalden, which took place in Sarnen on the 24th of last month. Arnold Ming, (Lungern) was elected "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

At the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden, which took place in Stans, "Landesstatthalter" Wymann, was elected "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

Mme. Veuve Lisette Eichenberger-Häuselmann, of Triengen (Lucerne), has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

John Finnerty, the 16 years old Mayor of the childrens' village in Dobbs Ferry (U.S.A.) has paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of the town of Zurich, he later on visited the "Pestalozzi Dorf" in Trogen. [A.T.S.]

The traditional "Sechseläuten" took place in Zurich on Sunday, April 25th. The procession of the various guilds was witnessed by a large number of spectators. [A.T.S.]

Fritz Hürlimann (42), from Zurich-Wollishofen, lost his life on an ascent of the Leistkamm (Toggenburg). [A.T.S.]

States-Councillor, Dr. F. T. Wahlen, who sits in Parliament as representative of the Peasant Party,

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is resigning his seat shortly. Dr. Wahlen, who rendered eminent services to our country during the last war, when he was in charge of food provisioning, has been offered a leading position in the administration of an agricultural concern in the United States of America. [A.T.S.]

According to figures published by the "Finanzamt" of the town of Zurich for the year 1948, 404 (1947:385) persons have paid taxes on fortunes exceeding 1 million francs and 664 (1947:641) on exceeding half a million francs. [A.T.S.]

Two youths, Anton Brander and Hans Spörri, both from Wettingen near Baden, were drowned when boating on the lake of Zurich near Rapperswil. When changing seats, they lost their balance and fell into the water. [A.T.S.]

A twenty years old motorist who tried to overtake another car in Küssnacht (Zurich) at a speed of 90 kms., skidded and ran into a group of women. Ruth Vergoel (19), from Zurich, was killed outright. Three other women received serious injuries. The reckless motorist has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

States-Councillor Melchior Hefti in Hätzingen (Ct. Glarus), has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Hefti was, from 1920-1947 a member of the government of the canton of Glarus, and from 1932-1938 held the post of "Landammann." He entered Parliament (States-Council) in 1938. [A.T.S.]

A serious accident, costing the lives of four persons, occurred at a level crossing between the railway stations Wynigen and Rietwil (Ct. Berne), when a passenger train ran into a motor-car. It is stated, that the guard at the level-crossing omitted to close the barrier.

The names of the dead are: Will Aeschlimann (born 1916), architect in Zurich; Miss Mini Zahnd (born 1924), Zurich, fiancée of Aeschlimann, Roger Martin (born 1918), Retoucheur, Zurich; and Marguerite Martin, wife of the former. [A.T.S.]

In the autumn of this year, the University of Fribourg will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

Joseph Greiner (24), an inmate of the Central prison in Fribourg, attacked one of the prison guard with a broom stick; being badly beaten the guard made use of his gun wounding the prisoner who later suc-

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cumbed to his injuries. Greiner, who had threatened the Governor of the prison and guards, previous to smashing his way out of his cell, had been sentenced before on various occasions. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Fritz Ebi, since 1935 a member of the government of the canton of Basle Town, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1948, of the canton of Basle County, show a credit balance of 250,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell A.-Rh. took place on Sunday, April 24th, at Hundwil. About 9,000 voters attended the open air Parliament.

Amongst the guests were the Indian Minister in Berne, former Federal Councillor Baumann and members of the government of the canton of St. Gall. "Landammann" Bruderer was confirmed in his office. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell I.-Rh. took place on the same day in Appenzell. National-Councillor, Dr. A. Brager, was elected as "Landammann." [A.T.S.]

Dr. Alfred Hofstetter, a member of the National Council from 1921-1931, and a member of the government of the canton Appenzell A.-Rh. from 1910-1919, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Gais. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Grisons for 1948, close with a deficit of 544,404.—frs. [A.T.S.]

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Dr. Paul Buchli (Versan), has been elected Manager of the "Rhätischen" railways, he was formerly sectional chief at the Federal Traffic Office in Berne.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Johann Bossi, a former National-Councillor and well-known politician, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary in Chur.

[A.T.S.]

The heirs of the late Leo Gidion, cattle dealer in Weinfelden, have given an amount of 20,000.—frs. to charitable institutions in remembrance of the deceased.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Paul Hausherr (Cons.), has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau. J. Wernli (Soc.), has been elected Vice-President.

[A.T.S.]

Cheubino Darani, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the paper "Popolo e Libertà," which is published in Bellinzona, in succession to Constantino Porette.

[A.T.S.]

The first prize for Literature "Libera Stampa" amounting to 1,000.—frs. has been awarded to Signorina Minelli (Bologna) for her book "Il racconto della vecchiaia." Further awards have been made to two Swiss authors, Adolfo Jenni (Berne) and Raimondo Scazziga (Giubiasco).

[A.T.S.]

The Society of German geologists, has awarded the "Gustav Steinmann Medaille" which was created in memory of the famous scientist, to Dr. Maurice Lugeon, Professor at the University of Lausanne. It is the first time that this medal has gone to a Swiss national.

[A.T.S.]

The elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel took place on the 24th of last month. The following parties are represented in the new Council: Radicals 35 (7 gains); Liberals 22 (3 gains); National Progressive Party 12 (gains 3); "Sammlung" Party 1 (loss 1); Communists 3, (loss 11).

[A.T.S.]

## Army

During army manœuvres of the 7th Division, a military plane of the type C-36, crashed in the neighbourhood of Sirmach. Lieutenant Frickhardt, aged 33, of Zofingen and sergeant

Hans Uniker, aged 26, were killed. Lieutenant Frickhardt was married and leaves a widow and two children.

[A.T.S.]

A military plane taking photographs of army rockets in flight, crashed in Lake Neuchâtel. After a long search the body of Major Läderach was found embedded in the wreck of the machine.

[A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Josef Zueger, since 1937, Manager of the Zurich municipal tramways, in Zurich at the age of 59. The deceased was also Manager of the "Zürcher Dampfboot Gesellschaft" and the "Sernftalbahn."

Albert Wyss, for many years a member of the District Court Zurich, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" in Zurich, aged 72.

Adolf Manz, well-known Swiss actor, who for many years played leading parts at theatres in Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Cologne and Berlin. He returned to Switzerland in 1941, and has since played in a number of Swiss films. He died in Zurich at the age of 64.

Paul A. Mayer, for many years head of a large Swiss commercial concern in Manila, in Lucerne, at the age of 75. He was born in Bütschwil (Toggenburg), and educated at St. Gall. The deceased, was nominated eight times to the post of President of the American-Phillipine Chamber of Commerce.

August Durrer-Rothlin, from 1914-1939 Manager of the Stanserhorn railway at Stans, aged 72.

Paul Tribolet-Wächter, President of the "Verbands-Molkerei Berne" in Berne, at the age of 63.

Colonel Waldo Gerber, in Zurich, aged 69, for many years President of the Swiss Aero Club. He was a well-known aeronaut having taken part in three Gordon-Bennett balloon races.

Dr. Théodore Delachaux, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 70.

Alexandre Jaques, during 27 years a missionary and head of the teacher's seminary in Louis-Trichard (Transvaal) in Lausanne, aged 54.

Professor, Dr. Wilhelm Ehrenzeller, a former teacher at the "Kantonschule" St. Gall, and at one time a member of the Grand Council, in St. Gall, at the age of 62.

[A.T.S.]



The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years), in Switzerland:

Mr. & Mrs. F. Pfister-Pfahler in Erlenbach (Ct. Zurich); Mr. & Mrs. M. Speck-Gunz, in Zug; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Magnin, in Neuchâtel. [A..s.]

The monks of St. Bernard from the Swiss Alps — they are Canons of St. Augustine — are building a hostel for travellers on a trade route that crosses the Eastern Himalayas near the China-Burma border.

The hostel is rising on the 12,500ft. high Mount Latsa, between the Mekong and Salween rivers.

Idea of the hostel came from Archbishop de Guebriant, former general of the Paris Foreign Missions.

On his missionary tours among the mountains he saw the perils and rigours endured by the travelling merchants and their workers.

"Porters, in endless files, climb through the mountain range under crushing burdens and over snow-covered trails," he reported.

"After exhausting days they have only a crude lean-to, open to the icy wind, for their night's rest."

Fr. Peter Coquoz, a St. Bernard monk, prospected the hostel's site last winter.

The monks — all expert skiers and trained rescue workers — staff a mission district in the Himalaya area.

A contract to build a £9 million machine-tool factory in India has gone to a Swiss firm.

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

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L'un des plus longs funiculaires d'Europe vient d'être mis en service à Barèges (Pyrénées). L'installation a été faite par la fabrique de machines Théodore Bell & Cie à Kriens-Lucerne. La longueur est de 1850 m., avec une différence d'altitude de 770 m., la plus grande pente est de 59%. Les voitures peuvent transporter 70-80 personnes, ou 5 tonnes de marchandises.

Selon une déclaration du sous-secrétaire au ministère égyptien des finances, l'Egypte désire vivement conserver le marché suisse, ce qui lui permet d'importer de notre pays des produits de première importance pour l'Egypte.

Le Dr. M. U. Schoop, le savant de renommée mondiale qui a découvert les procédés de la fonte d'alu-

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minimum et du métal injecté, vient de fêter son 80ème anniversaire.

L'architecte suisse Le Corbusier vient d'être chargé de préparer les plans de reconstruction des quartiers détruits de Marseille.

Une participante au concours de rédaction sur la Suisse, qui a eu lieu dans les classes du degré moyen aux U.S.A., a déclaré qu'elle est décidée à connaître la Suisse autrement que par les livres et que toute sa famille l'accompagnera dans notre pays.

L'émetteur de radio de New-York a diffusé pour la première fois en Amérique des œuvres d'Othmar Schoeck, Ed. Moser, Frank Martin et Ernest Bloch.

L'administration fédérale des postes fête cette année son centième anniversaire.

L'œuvre "Zurich aide Vienne" a expédié 171 wagons, chargés de 2139 tonnes de marchandises diverses, d'une valeur totale de plus d'un million de francs.

A l'occasion de la Semaine musicale d'Ascona a eu lieu une exposition réunissant 150 instruments à cordes, œuvres sorties des mains des luthiers suisses au cours de ces trois derniers siècles. Le maître-luthier König, directeur de l'Ecole suisse de lutherie de Brienz était présent lors de l'inauguration.

A Prague, vient de s'ouvrir une exposition d'affiches suisses.

L'observatoire du Jungfraujoch a reçu la visite de 18 étudiants techniciens de Suède.

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