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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

The Indian Prime-Minister and Foreign Minister, Pandit Neru, arrived in Switzerland on the 3rd of May on an official visit, the main object of which was the exchanging of the instruments of ratification of the Indo-Swiss treaty of friendship—the first concluded by India with a European country.

On landing at the air port of Kloten, he was welcomed by Minister Zehnder and the Indian Minister in Berne. Afterwards he travelled by car to the "Lohn" near Kehrsatz (Ct. Berne) where he was the guest of the Swiss government. On his arrival, he was greeted by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. In the afternoon, he was received by the Federal Council *in corpore* at the Federal Palais, and in the evening a Banquet was held in honour of the distinguished guest, at which Monsieur E. Nobs, President of the Swiss Confederation extended to Pandit Neru the welcome of the Swiss Federal Council and the Swiss population.

The following day, he undertook a flight in a military machine over the alps, and in the evening a reception was held at the Indian Legation in Berne, which was attended by members of the government, representatives of the army, high civil functionaries and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

On Thursday, May 5th, the Indian Prime Minister offered a luncheon to the members of the Federal Council after which he took leave of his guests in order to travel to Geneva; on this journey he was accompanied by Federal Councillor Petitpierre, the Indian Minister, and the *chef de protocole*, André Boissier.

A short halt was made at Lausanne, where Pandit Neru was officially received by the government of the canton of Vaud. Previous to his departure from Geneva, he was the guest of the President of the International Red Cross, Minister and Madame Paul Ruegger.

In the evening the Indian Prime Minister left Switzerland by air to fly direct to Bombay, he was seen off at the Cointrin air port by Federal Councillor Petitpierre and the Indian Minister in Berne.

Dr. Malan, the South African Prime Minister, paid a private visit to Geneva at the beginning of this month. Before leaving Switzerland, Dr. Malan made a visit to the house at Montreux where Paul Krüger, first President of the South African Republic, died in 1904.

A delegation of American Journalists, who are on a visit to our country, were received by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Monsieur E. Nobs.

The House of Representatives in Washington has approved payment of £4,000,000 to the Swiss Government in settlement of war damage claims.

A Spanish-Swiss Commercial Agreement was signed recently.

According to an official communique the new agreement makes important modifications in the commercial and financial agreements at present in force between the two countries and permits the development of commercial exchanges between them in accordance with the principles now governing Spain's trade with foreign countries.

Swiss held sterling balances, according to official figures just published were Frs.273m. at end-February, compared with Frs.255m. a month previously. Under the Anglo-Swiss payments agreement sums in excess of the Frs.260m. (£15m.) ceiling have to be paid in gold.

The Federal Council has decided to change the Consular Agency in Tel Aviv into a Consulate General and Paul Ritter, at present Counsellor of Legation in Rome, has been appointed Consul General.

Paul Ritter, who is a citizen of Basle, was born in 1898 and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1920.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

followed by a **JASS AND BRIDGE EVENING** will be held on **Tuesday, June 7th, 1949**, at **Brown's Hotel, London, W.1**, at **6.30 p.m.** Dinner starting at **7 p.m.**

Those wishing to take part should send their application in writing to the Manager, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, to reach him not later than the 6.6.49.

P. A. MOEHR,

President.

Amongst the posts which he has held were: Swiss Legation London, Consul General, Munich, Counsellor of Legation, Bucharest, Chargé d'Affaires, Brussels, and since 1946, 1st Counsellor of Legation in Rome.

The Federal Council has appointed Hans, Rudolf Blau, to the post of Consul General in Panama.

In a referendum the Swiss electorate rejected by roughly 612,000 votes against 210,000 a new federal law to combat tuberculosis. The main features of the law were State organization and control of anti-tuberculosis measures, compulsory X-raying of all inhabitants, and the possibility of enforcing compulsory State insurance against disease. The adverse vote may be ascribed on the one hand to opposition to any State controls, and consequently bureaucracy, and on the other hand to the inefficiency of X-raying at too-distant periods.

### Cantonal

Jakob Kägi (soc.), has been elected President of the government of the canton of Zurich for the period of May 1st, 1949/50; Dr. Ernst Vaterlaus (lib.), has been elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

Damage reaching nearly 1 million francs was caused, by a fire which broke out at the Shoe works in Brütisellen (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

The "Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft" of the Canton of Glarus has received the following legacies: 14,000.—frs. from the late Mme. Verena Kundert, of Mitlödi, and 10,000.—frs. from the late Kaspar Elmer-Prato, of Schwanden. [A.T.S.]

The rector of the "Progymnasium", in Bienne, Hans Bleuer, has retired from his post on reaching the age limit. He has been a teacher for 49 years of which 45 were spent at the "Progymnasium" and where he had been rector since 1917.

Erwin Sutter (Mühlethal, Aargau) a teacher at the same school, has been appointed rector, he had been for twelve years a teacher at the secondary school in Grosshöchstetten (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

The delegates meeting of the "Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Vereins" has taken place in Bienne, under the chairmanship of Fritz Stähli, rector of the "Kaufmännischen Berufsschule" in Bienne. National-Councillor Schmid-Ruedin, was congratulated on having reached the age of 60; he was presented with a bouquet of flowers. [A.T.S.]

Alcide Grimaitre, Honorary President of the national "Marché-Concours" in Saignelégier and founder of the paper "Le Franc Montagnard", has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Steinmann (lib.), has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and W. Stünzi (soc.), and Otto Steiger (BGB), were nominated Vice-Presidents. [A.T.S.]

The castle of "Le Petit-Viry", on the borders of the "Saane" near Barbarèche (Ct. Fribourg), was bought at an auction for 20,000.—frs. by an antiquarian of Berne. The castle was the property of the French Count de Rouvroy, and was built in the twelfth century. [A.T.S.]

## VINS DU VALAIS

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Two youths, aged 20 and 22 years respectively from Payerne, hired a motor-car to travel to Fribourg, where they spent a few hours at a dancing bar, on their return journey at 2 a.m. they travelled at an excessive speed, with the result that the car skidded and turned over on taking a corner too sharply. Heavy damage was caused to a wooden fence and to the car, and the passenger was seriously injured. The reckless driver has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

Alois Bärswyl, a member of the government of the canton of Fribourg since 1936, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Bärswyl is President of the Board of the "Freiburger Nachrichten." [A.T.S.]

Adolf Schild-Behnisch, a well-known industrialist, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Grenchen. [A.T.S.]

The "Swissair" has opened a new Air Travel Office at the S.B.B. railway station in Basle. Dr. Speich, President of the Board of the "Swissair", conducted the opening ceremony. [A.T.S.]

The thirty-third annual Swiss Industries Fair was opened at Basle on the 7th of this month by Dr. Th. Brogle, Manager of the Fair.

Amongst the speakers were M. E. Nobs, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. P. Zschokke, President of the government of the canton of Basle-Town. Many well-known personalities in all walks of life attended the opening ceremony, amongst them General Guisan, Army-Corps Commander de Montmollin, and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

[A.T.S.]

Professor L. V. Furlan, Commercial Editor of the "Basler Nachrichten", received a presentation on the occasion of a special meeting held at the "Aula des Völkerkunde Museums" in Basle, in the presence of members of the cantonal government, representatives of the University and various Banking and Industrial concerns.

Professor Furlan has been, for the last 35 years, first a lecturer and afterwards Professor at the University of Basle. [A.T.S.]

August Steinmann, a member of the editorial staff of the "St. Galler Tagblatt", has celebrated his 40th jubilee with this paper. [A.T.S.]

The Italian Minister in Berne, Monsieur E. Reale, has paid an official visit to the canton of Grisons. A Banquet offered by the cantonal government was held at Davos, during which several speeches were made testifying to the cordial relations which exist between Italy and the canton of Grisons. [A.T.S.]

States-Councillor, Paul Brodbeck, has celebrated his 25th jubilee as mayor of the town of Liestal. [A.T.S.]

Professor Hautecoeur, Conservator of the Geneva Art Gallery and a teacher at the University of Geneva, has retired from his post to take up another appointment in Paris. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of a jewellery firm at the Passage des Lions in Geneva, and got away with goods valued from 10 to 12,000.—frs. It is the fourth time that these premises have been burgled. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Pater Friedrich Schefold von Beckenried, in Schwyz, at the age of 73. The deceased, who was in his 49th year of priesthood, was an authority on music and wrote several books on church music.

Professor, Dr. Jean-Jaques Hess-von Wyss, for many years Professor of oriental languages at the University of Fribourg, and from 1918-1936 Professor at the University of Zurich. The deceased had travelled extensively in Egypt and Arabia, he was for some time in the service of the Egyptian government. He died in Zurich at the age of 83.

Constant Schaufelberger, Journalist and Author, in Geneva, at the age of 67. The deceased was, at one time, tutor to Prince Boris of Bulgaria.

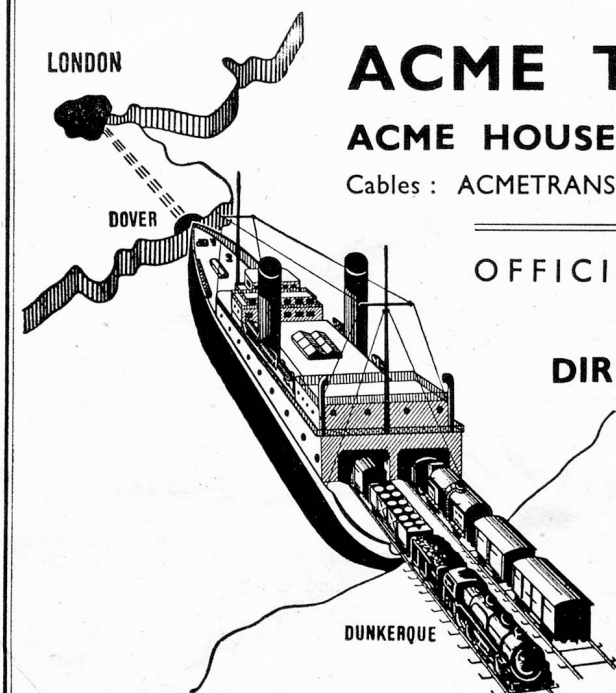
Pastor Hans Kambli, for thirty years preacher at the "Theodorskirche" in Basle, in Basle at the age of 79. He was also for many years President of the "Basler Pestalozzi Gesellschaft."

Robert Zemp-Steiner, head of the well-known furniture manufacturing firm Robert Zemp & Co., A.G., of Reussbühl (Ct. Lucerne), in Reussbühl, at the age of 80.

Felix van Baerle, at one time Managing-Director and later on President of the Board of the "Chemischen & Seifenfabrik van Baerle & Co. A.G.", of Münchenstein, in Basle aged 75.

Walter Kaufmann, Manager of the "Magazine zur Rheinbrücke, A.G., of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 57.

Henri Cléménçon, formerly Swiss Consul in the Belgian Congo, in Berne, aged 58.



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Paul Budry, author and art critic in Lens. The deceased was born in Cully in 1883, having studied Theology and Philosophy, he obtained in 1902 a post as French language teacher at the "Ecole Supérieur" in Lausanne. In 1914, he founded together with Edmond Gilliard and C. F. Ramuz, the "Cahiers Vaudois." The Rambert Prize was bestowed on him in 1929. Budry was art critic to the "Gazette de Lausanne." From 1934-1946 he was Director of the "Verkehrszentrale" in Lausanne.

Johann Enz, teacher of mathematics and physics at the "Kantonsschule" Solothurn from 1886-1932, and rector of the school from 1901-1921, in Solothurn, at the age of 92.

Paul Straub, for 17 years a notary in Arbon, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau and the District Court, in Arbon, at the age of 83.

Oscar Ullmann, from 1911-1935 a member of the National Council, and for many years Proprietor of the "Kur-Anstalt Mammern," in Mammern, at the age of 87. [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in Switzerland (60): Mr. and Mrs. E. Weber-Schück, in Zurich, and Mr. and Mrs. J. César Rossel, in Tramelan. [A.T.S.]

The Pope received in a solemn mass audience, the Swiss Guard, in commemoration of the Sack of Rome in 1527 when the entire Swiss Guard of 147 men was wiped out in saving the life of Pope Clement VII besieged by the troops of Charles V of Spain.

Shortly before the audience, 24 new recruits were sworn in. The corps numbers 136 men.

The Swiss Federal Railways decided recently to place an order for 5,000 tonnes of metal sleepers with French firms. A credit of Swiss francs 2,450,000 has been earmarked.

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La commune de Granges (Soleure) décernera dès 1950 un "prix du rédacteur et du journaliste" qui récompensera ceux qui ont consacré leur vie au service de la publication.

Le Pavillon suisse à la foire internationale de Milan a été très visité. Le président de la République italienne a particulièrement admiré l'exposition de montres suisses, où figure la plus petite montre du monde, une montre-bracelet pour dame.

On prépare en Finlande une exposition d'affiches, de livres et d'autres produits des arts graphiques suisses. Il y aura en outre une "Journée suisse" avec conférences et musique suisses.

Les principaux horticulteurs suisses munissent les roses et les œillets cultivés dans les serres de notre pays d'une bague de contrôle, attestant l'origine de ces produits.

La Colonie suisse de Beyrouth vient d'inaugurer un Cercle suisse où pourront se réunir tous nos compatriotes du Liban. Celle de Los Angeles se propose de réaliser sous peu un "Swiss Park," pôle d'attraction des Suisses de Californie.

### HEIMATFERIEN FUER JUNGE AUSLANDSCHWEIZER.

Das Auslandschweizerwerk der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft in Berne organisiert in Zusammenarbeit mit der Stiftung Schweizerhilfe und der Pro Juventute auch dieses Jahr wieder Heimatferien für junge Landsleute im Ausland.

Das XIX. Heimatlager für junge Auslandschweizer findet für Mädchen in der Zeit vom 20. Juli bis 9. August, für Burschen vom 9.—29. August in Schanf, einem schmucken Bündnerdörfchen im Engadin, statt. Teilnahmeberechtigt sind Schweizerbürger und Doppelbürger im Alter von 15 bis 24 Jahren.

Junge Schweizer aus England haben die Möglichkeit, ihren Aufenthalt auf sechs Wochen zu verlängern. Der Teilnehmerbeitrag für die ordentlichen drei Lagerwochen beträgt Fr.100.—, worin Unterkunft und Verpflegung, Versicherung sowie Reisepesen für Ausflüge ab Lagerort inbegriffen sind. Die Reisekosten vom Wohnort zum Lagerort und zurück gehen zu Lasten der Teilnehmer.

Eltern! lasst Eure Söhne und Töchter am Heimatlager teilnehmen. Zusammen mit Kameraden aus andern Ländern verleben sie in der gesunden und einzigartigen Gegend des schweizerischen Nationalparks eine frohe und von schweizerischem Geiste getragene Lagerzeit. Euer Konsulat und Euer Schweizerverein ist über das Heimatlager orientiert und gibt Euch gerne Auskunft. Er verfügt auch über die notwendigen Anmeldeformulare. Auch der Jugenddienst des Auslandschweizerwerkes der NHG, Wallgasse 2, Bern, ist zu jeder Auskunft und zur Zustellung der Anmeldeschein gerne bereit.

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