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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Customs receipts in June 1949, amount to 41.5 million francs or 8.2 million francs less than in June 1948.

The receipts for the first six months of the present year total 225 million francs against 283 million francs for the same period in 1948, or altogether 58 million francs less than in the previous year.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Clemente Rezzonico, at present Counsellor of Legation in Paris, to the post of Chargé d'Affaires in Karachi (Pakistan).

Dr. Rezzonico was born in Pedrinato (Ct. Ticino), in 1897. He studied political economy at the University of Berne, where he obtained the doctor title. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1923, amongst the posts he occupied are London (Commercial Attaché), Rome and Paris (Counsellor of Legation).

* * *

The following details have now come to hand concerning the Polish-Swiss five-year payment and trade agreement signed in Warsaw on June 26th. The five-year trade agreement is connected with a new Polish investment plan calling for the purchase of heavy machinery and installations from Switzerland. During the first year of the agreement Poland will supply Switzerland with 325,000 tons of coal in addition to various metals, heavy chemicals, eggs, feeding stuff and other agricultural and industrial products. Swiss exports will include in addition to machinery and installation, dyes, drugs, breeding cattle and apparatus. Poland further has granted import allocations for Swiss yarns and fabrics, and smaller quotas for Swiss cheese and wines.

* * *

A treaty granting Switzerland the right to build an intercontinental airport on French territory was signed by the Swiss Foreign Minister and the French Ambassador in Berne. The site of the airport, which is to cost over £2,250,000, is near Mulhouse, in Alsace.

The road connecting the airport with the town of Basle will be considered extra-territorial by the French as far as Customs are concerned.

The Swiss Government has announced the partial lifting of the price controls set up during the war; controls remain on certain imported products and on house rents. The Government does not consider that this measure will cause any rise in prices, but if that should be the case, controls would at once be re-established.

Cantonal

The "Landrat" of the canton of Nidwalden has elected Mr. Erni (Liberal), of Hergiswil as its President, and Mr. Zumbühl (Conservative), of Wolfenschiessen, as Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. h.c. Volkmar Andrea, for many years conductor of the "Tonhalle" orchestra in Zurich, and a well-known composer, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

He was born in Berne in 1879, and is a citizen of Fleurier (Canton Neuchâtel). [A.T.S.]

Swiss National Day Celebration

AND

Annual Swiss Sports

MONDAY, 1st AUGUST, 1949

(Bank Holiday)

at

**HERNE HILL SPORTS GROUND
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The SPORTS EVENTS begin at 11 a.m. and again at 2.15 p.m. (for details see separate notice), and will be followed by the NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

The Programme includes

Patriotic Address by the
Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté
and contributions by

Swiss Male Choir Swiss Accordion Group
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The "Sanatorium Wald" (Ct. Zurich) has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. This famous clinic for tubercular diseases was founded in 1898 by voluntary subscriptions, and could accommodate 90 patients. Since its foundation, the clinic has been on several occasions enlarged and to-day can house 260 patients. [A.T.S.]

Professor, Dr. Alfred Amonn, has been elected rector of the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

On traversing the Petersgrat (Bernese Oberland) three members of a party of six fell into a crevasse. One of the tourists, by the name of Müller, from Heimiswil was extracted with a broken leg, whilst his wife and a Miss Schenk, from Gammen, lost their lives. The tour was undertaken without guides. [A.T.S.]

A chauffeur, who, through negligent driving, caused the death of a cyclist, was fined 300.—frs. plus costs (!) by the Saane District Court. [A.T.S.]

Martin Protzen, an engineer of Fribourg, has been elected General Manager of STUAG (Schweizerische Strassen- und Tiefbau Unternehmung, A.G.) in succession to the late Hans Beer. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Fichter, from 1910-1939, Professor of chemistry at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. Professor Fichter enjoys a great reputation as a scientist and is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich (E.H.T.). He is the founder, and for many years Editor of the publication "Helvetica Chimica Acta." [A.T.S.]

Dr. R. Küng (Soc.), and Dr. A. Buser (Lib.), have been elected Presidents of the District Court Arlesheim (Ct. Basle-County). [A.T.S.]

Ernst Homberger, President of the Board of the Georg Fischer, A.G., in Schaffhausen, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The Greek Minister in Berne, Monsieur Philon Al Philon, has paid a visit to the Pestalozzi village in Trogen (Ct. Appenzell a.Rh.).

The "Zofingia" Association of the "Kantonschule" in St. Gall has celebrated the 125th anniversary of its foundation.

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The festivities started with a solemn "Festakt" at the Municipal Theatre at which Professor, Dr. Naef, of the University of Berne, addressed the numerous participants, which was followed by a torchlight procession through the town. [A.T.S.]

Fräulein Elisabeth Sturzenegger, an inmate of the "Bürgerheim" Krummenau (Ct. St. Gall), has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the Segantini Commemoration Exhibition, held at St. Moritz, Federal-Councillor, Dr. Celio, made a speech in which he eulogised the work of the famous painter. [A.T.S.]

The "A.G. Brown, Boveri & Cie", of Baden, has made a donation of 150,000.—frs. towards the foundation of a theatre in Baden. [A.T.S.]

Nearly fifty years ago, the Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III, presented the castle of Arenenberg to the canton of Thurgau, in remembrance of her stay in their canton.

The museum and castle have since been visited by thousands of visitors from all over the world. In grateful memory of the generous donor the Government of the canton of Thurgau held an exhibition at the castle dedicated to Napoleon III. The exhibition was opened by Dr. W. Stahelin, member of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

The Municipal brass band of Chiasso has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation, on which occasion a musical festival was held at Chiasso, at which fifteen bands totalling 700 members took part. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A privately owned aeroplane, piloted by Gustave Vallant, Garage proprietor of Porrentruy, crashed near Biaufond, and caught fire. The pilot, aged 39, married and father of two children, was burnt to death, his passenger, a customs official by the name of Mertenat, from Porrentruy, jumped out of the machine shortly before the crash, and received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Burglars entered the premises of the Watch Manufacturing firm Exactus, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, and got away with gold watches valued at 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Neuchâtel, was inaugurated at Le Locle on the 4th of this month by M. Leuba, President of the cantonal government. The monument is the work of the sculptor, Hubert Quéloz. [A.T.S.]

* * *

François Faessler (Nat. Progr. Party), has been elected Mayor of the town Le Locle (Ct. Neuchâtel) in succession to the socialist Fallet, who recently resigned from his post through reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The population of the canton of Geneva on June 30th, 1949, numbered 204,365 persons of which 170,504 persons live in the town of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

Army

Colonels Karl Schmid (Romanshorn) and Kurt Wierss (Liestal) have been nominated deputy chief of arms of infantry. These posts have recently been newly created. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the death of Oscar Bieder, founder and chief pilot of the Swiss Aviation Corps, a service was held at his grave in Langenbruck (Ct. Berne). Colonel of division Rihner, and Colonel Karnbach, Commander of the Swiss Flying Force referred to the eminent services the deceased had rendered both to military and civil aviation. [A.T.S.]

—oo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Willy Bourgeois, from 1919-1947 Editor of the "Feuille d'Avis de Vevey", in Vevey, at the age of 57.

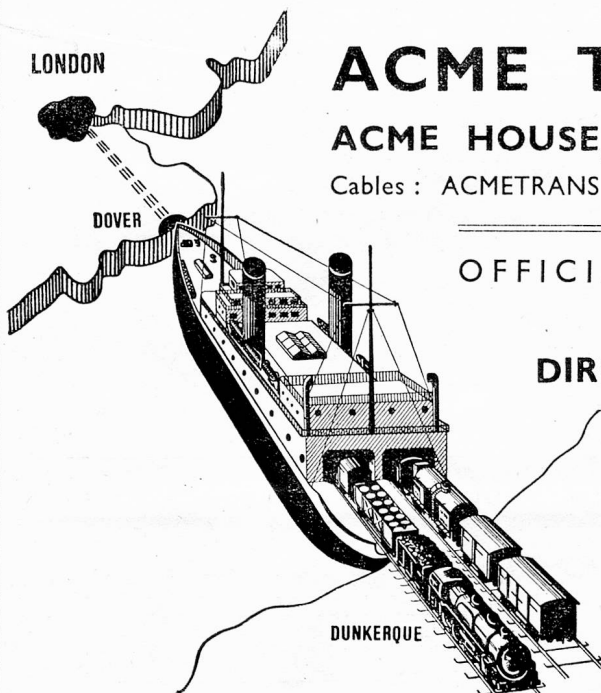
Otto Kappeler, well-known sculptor, in Zurich, aged 65.

Wilhelm Schindler, founder of the "Schraubenfabrik Weber & Schindler," in Solothurn, at the age of 66.

Adolf Walser-Höhener, Proprietor of the Brewery Stocken, in St. Gall, aged 76.

Dr. Raoul Viollier, lecturer of chemistry at the University of Basle, in Basle at the age of 64.

Hans Beer, since 1913, General Manager of STUAG (Schweiz. Strassen- und Tiefbau Unternehmung, A.G.) in Berne, at the age of 74.



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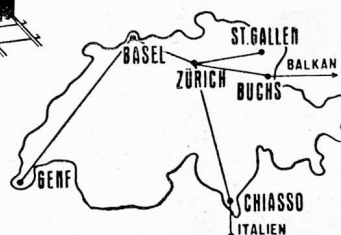
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Colonel Walter Hediger-Rychner, former chief of the recruiting service, in Aarau, at the age of 74. Colonel Hediger was for many years a member of the Federal Instruction Corps.

Dr. Ernst Winterstein, for many years Professor of Chemistry at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, aged 85.

Dr. Oscar Fischer, rector of the commercial section of the "Töcherschule" of the town of Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 64. The deceased was born in 1885 and was for some years a teacher at the "Städtischen Gymnasiums" in Berne and lecturer at the University Berne, he had been since 1926 rector of the "Töcherschule."

Cäsar von Arx, writer and dramatist, in Nieder-Erlinsbach (Ct. Aargau) aged 54. He was born in Basle and studied at the University of that town. Amongst his best known works are: "General Sutter"; "Vogel friss oder stirb"; "Der Verrat von Navarra" and "Land ohne Himmel."

Dr. Marcel Godet, former Director of the "Schweiz. Landesbibliothek," in Neuchâtel, owing to a motor accident.

The deceased was born in 1877 in Neuchâtel, and was for several years in charge of the library of King Carol I in Bucarest. In 1909, the Federal Council appointed him Director of the Swiss Federal Library in Berne, which post he had held for 37 years.

[A.T.S.]

It is reported that the following members of the Swiss Himalaya expedition have made an ascent of the Pyramid Peak (7,132 m.): Alfred Sutter, René Dittert and Jakob Pargäzti (guide). [A.T.S.]

This year's 1st of August badge depicts two young people (a youth and a girl) and symbolises the reason of the collection which is earmarked for apprentices of both sexes, who are without means. [A.T.S.]

Work has recently been started for the erection of a new Swiss centre (Swiss House) in Milan. The building will accommodate the offices of the Swiss Consulate, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Swiss Club. The plans for the building were made by architect Meili, Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Thirty Swiss bakers will visit Great Britain next month for a course in confectionery.

It is reported from Antwerp that the Swiss Shipping Company, Ltd., Basle, has opened under the name Alpina Line a monthly service between Antwerp and Central America, employing the new motorship *Cristallina* and *Carona*. The principal ports served are: Fort de France, Port au Prince, Ciudad Trujillo, Santiago (Cuba) and Havana. The *Cristallina* (built by William Gray & Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool), which has just run trials, is the second of the pair to be completed. She carries 3,000 tons d.w. on a draught of 18ft. 9in. and has been designed to carry general and fruit cargoes. Space for about 4,080cu. ft. of refrigerated cargo is provided in the after 'tween decks. The propelling machinery consists of a Sulzer diesel engine of 2,140 b.h.p. at 165 r.p.m., supplied by Sulzer Bros., Ltd., Winterthur. The vessel attained a speed of over 14 knots on trials. The Antwerp agents for the line are Alpina, Transport et Affrètements, S.A.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semain Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Une lutte menée avec vigueur contre les sauterelles et la malaria a presque totalement libéré la Sardaigne de cette maladie. Ce succès est dû aux produits DDT de l'industrie chimique suisse.

Il vient de se fonder à Stockholm une "Association Suède-Suisse" dont le président est M. Erik Wettergren, surintendant du Musée national suédois, avec le général Dyrssen à la vice-Présidence. Le but de cette association est de resserrer les liens culturels, économiques et d'amitié entre les deux pays.

L'écrivain bernois Werner Zimmermann a été nommé docteur honoris causa de l'Université nationale du Canada, en hommage à son œuvre littéraire.

La Société anonyme Brown-Boveri et Cie, à Baden, a reçu commande de 4 grandes installations pour des émetteurs de radio en Belgique. Cette maison suisse a battu tous ses concurrents, aussi bien dans le domaine technique qu'en ce qui concerne les prix.

La nouvelle station d'émission de Beromünster est l'œuvre commune des PTT, des Constructions fédérales, de BBC Baden et d'autres maisons suisses; c'est, à l'heure actuelle, la station la plus moderne d'Europe.

La "VOLG" de Winterthur a eu l'idée de vendre des cerises dénoyautées préparées par une nouvelle machine qui traite 36,000 kg. par jour, tandis que la fabrique de conserves de Stalden a fait adapter aux besoins suisses de puissantes machines à écosser les pois.

L'astrophysicien Prof. Fr. Zwicky, de Glaris, a reçu du Président Truman la grande médaille du mérite. Il est le premier ressortissant d'un pays neutre à recevoir cette distinction.

Des spécialistes suisses installeront les trois plus grands hôtels nouvellement construits à Tel Aviv, Jérusalem et Haïfa.

Au cours des 5 dernières années, les maisons d'édition suisses ont imprimé plus de 19,000 œuvres diverses.

L'exposition du Livre suisse à Hambourg a reçu un nombre extraordinaire de visiteurs qui ont exprimé leur enthousiasme pour les livres exposés.

Le Prof. A. Fleisch, de l'Université de Lausanne, a été élu membre correspondant de l'Académie de

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médecine de Paris. — Le Prof. A. von Zeerleder (EPF Zurich) a été nommé *docteur honoris causa* de l'Ecole supérieure des mines de Leoben (Autriche).

Le pianiste bernois Adrien Aeschbacher, après une tournée triomphale au Brésil, est arrivé à Buenos-Ayres où il a donné quatre concerts au théâtre Colon, la plus grande scène de l'Amérique du Sud.

Le "Petit chœur de Delémont" a remporté un premier prix, en première catégorie, dans un concours de chant en Hollande.

Le véritable "Nostrano" tessinois des vignobles de Bellinzona et du Mendrisiotto est maintenant une "appellation contrôlée." Ces vins soutiennent facilement la comparaison avec d'excellents vins rouges étrangers.

L'école suisse d'alpinisme de Rosenlaui, fondée il y a 9 ans, est maintenant bien connue en Suisse et à l'étranger. Elle a étendu son activité de la vallée du Hasli et de l'Oberland bernois à d'autres régions de la Suisse et même à l'étranger. Les cours comprennent, au choix : la technique fondamentale, des semaines de varappe, des tournées sur les glaciers ou dans la neige.

Une trentaine d'anciens élèves de l'école textile de Zurich, qui occupent des places éminentes dans d'importantes entreprises des U.S.A. ont invité M. R. Honold à faire un séjour aux Etats-Unis. M. Honold, directeur de l'école précitée, prend sa retraite et ses anciens élèves tiennent à lui témoigner, de cette façon, leur reconnaissance.

Un contrat vient d'être signé à la Nouvelle Dehli entre la fabrique de machines-outils d'Oerlikon et une association hindoue pour le montage d'une fabrique de machines-outils aux Indes. Les frais de construction sont devisés à 120 millions de roupies (102 millions de francs suisses) et la production annuelle doit s'élever à 80 millions de roupies (68 millions de francs).

L'Ecole suisse du Caire vient de fêter le 20^e anniversaire de sa fondation.

Un aviateur suisse et un pilote de planeur égyptien domicilié en Suisse viennent de réaliser la liaison Paris-Alexandrie en planeur remorqué, couvrant 2,300 km. en 30 heures de vol effectif, par un temps souvent très défavorable.

On procède actuellement en grand au remplacement des cépages des vignobles tessinois par des plants de Merlot rouge. Ce plant donne des vins de bouteille de qualité qui ont le droit de porter la marque déposée "VITI."

Une fabrique d'horlogerie de Granges vient d'innover dans le domaine des montres à remontage automatique : la masse oscillante est désormais montée sur roulements à billes. Ces roulements sont incassables et travaillent pratiquement sans frottement. Les billes ont un diamètre de 65 centièmes de millimètre ; il en faut un millier pour faire un gramme.

L'Université belge de Liège a nommé docteur honoris causa le Prof. P. Niggli de Zurich. Mgr Charrière, évêque de Lausanne, Genève et Fribourg, a été nommé chanoine honoraire de la cathédrale de Valence (France). — La Société de chimie de France a décerné la médaille Lavoisier au professeur bernois R. Signer.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 12th, 1949.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription : M. Wintch, W. Eichenberger, Ch. G. Steyer, J. Obrist, J. L. Veil, C. H. Hartnell, G. Engesser, W. O. Gasche.



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