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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 Swiss Parliament has voted to establish Legations in Israel and Jordan. Hitherto, Switzerland has maintained only a Consul-General in Jerusalem, but trade relations have now so developed with Israel to warrant the creation of a full Legation.

During 1949, Switzerland exported to Israel 9,600,000 francs worth of goods, receiving in return only 714,000.—francs, thus giving Switzerland an extremely favourable trade balance.

Customs receipts during the month of September, 1950, reached the sum of 57.2 million francs, an increase of 15.2 million francs, on the figures of September, 1949.

During the first nine months of the current year, 420 million francs for customs duties were collected, which is 69 million francs more than during the same period in 1949.

Circles close to the Federal Government deny that there is any possibility of a large-scale gold transfer from Russia to Switzerland.

They admit that there have been limited transfers from the East to balance trade payments and also a small amount of smuggling, "but nothing on the scale recently alleged in the British Press." Such reports they describe as "completely devoid of foundation."

Federal-Councillor, Dr. J. Escher, has assumed his post as Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department.

### Cantonal

Mme. Schmid-Roost, who recently died in Oerlikon, has left an amount of 22,000.—frs. to the Children's Home at Oerlikon (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

Lieutenant-Colonel William Werdenberg, Director of the Electricity Works of the town of Winterthur, has resigned from his post, he is joining a private concern. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eugen Vadnai, Editor of the "Schweiz. Verkehrs-und Tarif Zeitung", Zurich, is vacating his post, which he had held for the last 25 years. He is succeeded by Mr. A. P. Held, who since 1949, has been a member of the editorial staff. [A.T.S.]

The fourth member of the gang who robbed the "Bankhaus Winterstein" in Zurich, last month, and decamped with 400,000.—frs., has been arrested in Vienna. Of the sum stolen only 6,000.—frs. has so far been recovered. [A.T.S.]

The firm of "Robert Hotz, Söhne" of Bubikon (Ct. Zurich), has donated an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the "Bürger & Altersheim" in Bubikon. [A.T.S.]

"Der Bund", organ of the Liberal Party of the canton of Berne, has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation, on which occasion the paper published a special number comprising 144 pages. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Erich Blumer, Head-Cashier of the Swiss National Bank in Berne, has recently completed 40 years service with this Bank. His appointment as chief-cashier dates from 1936. [A.T.S.]

The "Radio Berne" has celebrated its 25th anniversary. [A.T.S.]

According to the figures published, 483 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Berne during the month of September. (September, 1949: 428); 362 persons (1949: 336) were injured of whom 9 (1949: 8) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Music Publishing firm, "Müller & Schade, A.G." (formerly Müller-Gyr) in Berne, has celebrated its 100th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

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Twenty-eight people were injured — one seriously — when two passenger trains were in collision at Zollikofen (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

81 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Fribourg, during the month of September. Four persons were killed and 29 persons injured. [A.T.S.]

The Balois painter, Rolf Vollé, a member of the "Akademie der bildenden Künste" in Vienna, has received the title "Professor" by the President of the Austrian Republic. [A.T.S.]

Professor Rudolf Massini, the eminent surgeon and Professor at the University of Basle, is 70 years old. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Friedrich Schmid, a well-known astronomer, has celebrated his 80th birthday in St. Gall. Dr. Schmid, who is the author of a number of scientific publications received in 1917, the degree of *doctor honoris causa* from the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Mr. J. J. Gabathuler, a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall, has announced his retirement to take effect shortly. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Leuch, Engineer and Director of the Electricity works of the town of St. Gall and the "Sernf-Niederbach" works, tendered his resignation. He has been appointed Secretary of the "Elektrotechnischen Vereins" in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Arnold Theuss, Secretary of the "Bündner Bauernverband" for the last twelve years, has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Grisons. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 100th Jubilee of the "Bündner Bauernverband" a "Festschrift" containing 200 pages and entitled "100 Jahre Bündner Bauernverband" has been issued.

To celebrate this event a Banquet was held at Chur at which 270 persons were present. The following have been elected honorary members of this Association: former National-Councillor, von Moos, Mistral Friberg (Brigels), Dr. H. Thomann (Landquart), Dr. Arnold Theuss (Chur) and former National-Councillor Christian Foppa (Vigens). [A.T.S.]

Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolf Herzig, Director of the Aerodrome Altenrhein (Ct. Thurgau), has retired from his post, which he has held since 1933. [A.T.S.]

A bust to the memory of James Vibert, eminent sculptor of Geneva, was recently unveiled in Carouge. The monument is the work of Gérard Vuérchoz, a former pupil of Vibert, and is erected on the "Place d'Armes." [A.T.S.]

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In the month of September, 1950, 65 Traffic Accidents occurred in the canton of Thurgau. Four persons were killed and 56 persons received injuries. [A.T.S.]

M. Georges Pantillon, for a great number of years a Music teacher and composer in La Chaux-de-Fonds (Neuchâtel) is 80 years old. [A.T.S.]

Judges sitting at the Criminal Court in Neuchâtel will in future wear black robes whilst sitting on the Bench. [A.T.S.]

The President of the Geneva section of the Swiss Aero-Club, M. Noel Weber, has presented M. François Durafour, with the golden badge of the Aero-Club, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of having obtained his pilot's certificate. [A.T.S.]

M. Edmond Gilliard, formerly a Professor at the "Gymnase", in Lausanne, and founder of the "Cahiers Vaudois", is 75 years old. [A.T.S.]

M. Paul Nerfin, since 1946, a member of the government of the canton of Vaud, in which he held the post of head of the Finance Department, has been elected Manager of the Cantonal Bank of Vaud, in succession to the late M. Gustave Curchod. M. Nerfin was a member of Parliament (National-Council from 1943-1946. [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Vaud has appointed Dr. Edouard Jéquier-Doge, to the post of Professor of Medicine at the University of Lausanne and

Director of the University clinic, in succession to Professor Vanottis. [A.T.S.]

### Army

General Helge Jung, Swedish Army-Commander-in-Chief, is the guest of the Swiss army; on his arrival in Berne he was received in special audience by M. Kobelt, Head of the Federal Military Department. General Jung is attending the manoeuvres of the 3rd Army Corps which have recently started under the direction of Army-Corps Commander Constam. The distinguished visitor has paid a courtesy visit to General H. Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army during the last war. [A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Emile Heller-Siegrist, in Eglisau (Ct. Zurich), at the age of 90. The deceased was from 1898-1919, President of the commune of Eglisau; from 1894-1917, a member of the "Kantonsrat" of the canton of Zurich and from 1928-1935, he sat in Parliament (National Council) as representative of the Peasant party.

Frédéric Pochon-Jent, in Berne, aged 75. He was born in 1875 at Cortaillod, and studied at the University of Berne; for a number of years he held the post of Vice-Chancellor at the Swiss Legation in Paris. In the year 1900, he entered the firm of H. Jent & Co., Publishers of "Der Bund" in Berne, of which concern he became its head. He was a prominent member of the "Schweiz. Zeitungsverlegerverband." From 1915-1945, Frédéric Pochon was a member of the Board

of the "Agence Télégraphique Suisse" over which he presided from 1926-1943.

Franz Regli, in Andermatt, at the age of 78. The deceased was at one time "Gemeinde und Schulpräsident" of Andermatt, and a member of the "Landrat". For a great number of years he held the post of President of the Tribunal of Urseren.

Wilhelm Brandenberger, in Berne, aged 66. W. Brandenberger was Commercial Manager of the "A.G. Hasler" in Berne.

William Martin, well-known Engineer of Lausanne, at the age of 88.

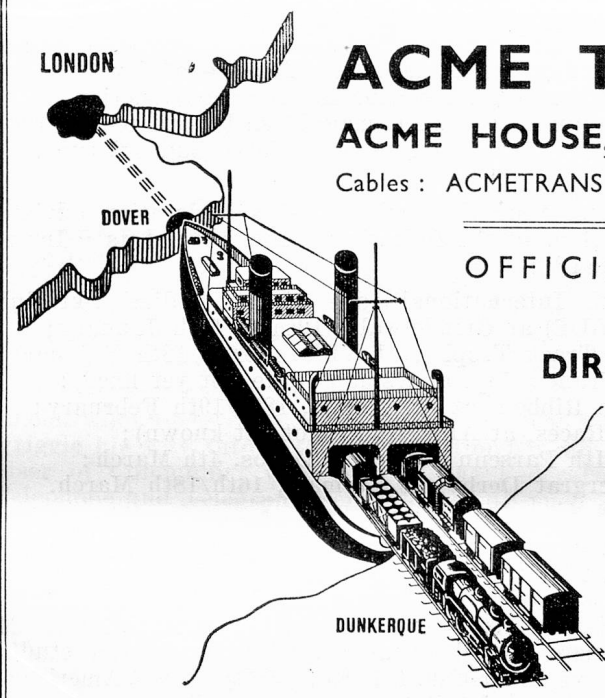
Henry Golay-Chovel, Secretary-General of the International Peace Bureau, and formerly President of the "Cercle romand" in Berne, in Geneva, aged 84.

Dr. Hans Koegler, a former custodian of the "Basler Kupferstichkabinetts", in Basle, at the age of 75.

Walter Gressly, a former President of the "Obergericht" of the canton of Berne, in Fribourg, aged 79.

Dr. Johann Ulrich Duerst, a former Professor of Zoology at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and the University of Berne, in Ins, at the age of 74.

Dr. Marius Nicollier, from 1897-1912 a teacher of natural science at the Secondary School at Montreux; from 1913-1925, President of the Commune of Châtelard-Montreux, and from 1917-1925 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, he was for 13 years a teacher at the "College et Ecole supérieur" in Vevey, in Montreux, aged 78.



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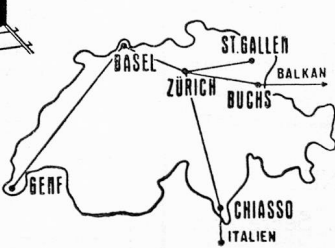
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Professor, Dr. Rudolf Themmen, formerly Professor of History at the University of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 91.

Jean Rubattel, Editor of the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne" in Lausanne, at the age of 48.

[A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond-wedding (60) anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Wahrenberger-Fässler of Gais (Ct. Appenzel A.Rh.); Mr. and Mrs. K. Egger-Grob, of Degersheim (Ct. St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. H. Knobel, of Schwändi (Ct. Glarus).

The couple Mr. and Mrs. E. Grob-Wisser, of Unterwasser (Ct. St. Gall), have celebrated their Iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

The next Federal Shooting Competition will be held in 1954, in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Switzerland has a new claim to "hotel" fame — a luxury residence for horses on a hill farm not far from Zurich. The farm is for city horses in particular.

The idea originated from the action of a Zurich carter who asked his employers to allow him to take his horse with him into the country for a summer holiday. The request was granted and experts to whom the carter spoke agreed that the holiday had done the horse more good than any amount of first-class stabling in the city.

Within a few months a veterinary surgeon opened the unique horse "hotel."

The average stay at the hotel is two weeks and on arrival every horse is treated as a patient weighed and vetted. They are then turned out on perfect grazing land and, if they show a liking for any particular food, are given as much of it as they can eat. Finally, before they return to work, they are vetted and weighed again.

The grandstand of the Bienne, football club has been destroyed by fire.

All Swiss towns of 1,000 inhabitants and over must build air raid shelters, according to a Bill submitted to Parliament by the Federal Council.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, November 7th, 1950, 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m., at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1.**

The dinner will be followed by a game of Jass or Bridge.

Members wishing to attend should send their cards to The Manager, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, November 6th, 1950.

C. E. SEINET,

Hon. Secretary.

During the conference of branch managers of the Swiss Central Tourist Office, which meets every year, in September, at Zurich in the first instance and then in regions which are selected with a view to favouring contacts, Mr. Siegfried Bittel, director of the national tourist publicity organisation warmly congratulated the new Manager of the Commercial Department (passenger section) of the Directorate-General of the Federal Railways in Berne — Dr. Fallet, who has just succeeded Dr. Fischer, recently appointed Director of the third arrondissement of S.F.R., Zurich, and was formerly his deputy. The spontaneous tribute of the director of the S.N.T.O. was also given to Mr. Josef Diener, who has just taken over the management of the information section at the Postal Directorate-General, also in Berne.

The Foreign Press Association of Switzerland after holding its general meeting sent the following telegram to Mr. Max Petitpierre, President of the Confederation and head of the Political Department: "The Foreign Press Association in Switzerland meeting in general assembly at the Municipio in Lugano has decided unanimously and by acclamation to confer upon you the quality of honorary member as a token of sincere esteem and gratitude."

The construction of the aerial cableway from Stalden to Staldenried (Valais) has been completed. The cableway will operate visionally and regular services will commence shortly. Starting from the railway station at Stalden of the Brig-Visp-Zermatt railway, it passes over the deep gorge of the Visp and ascends direct to 1057 metres to the village of Staldenried (nearby the hamlet Zur Tannen) which dominates from a great height the confluence of the Saas Visp and the Zermatt Visp. Over a length of 1150 metres the cableway negotiates a difference of level of 400 metres. A second section is under construction, from Zur Tannen to Gspon, magnificently situated at 1900 metres and the starting point for grand ski runs.

Last year the Swiss Ski-ing Federation advised the F.I.S. of the following events classed as "International":

XIIIth International race of the Ladies' Ski-Club (SDS) at Grindelwald, 12th to 14th January;  
Four Track Trophy, at Villars, 16th/18th February;  
Air France Cup, at Gstaad (date not yet fixed);  
White Ribbon, at St. Moritz, 18th/19th February;  
SAS Races, at Arosa (date not yet known);  
XXVIth Parsenn Derby, at Davos, 4th March;  
Gornergrat Derby, at Zermatt, 16th/18th March.

According to a report published in the periodical "Les Alpes", the review of the Swiss Alpine Club, the observatory of the Jungfrauoch received in 1949 the visit of 126 scientists as against 154 in 1948. 34 foreigners stayed to undertake research and study, including 18 British, 6 French, 5 Belgian, 3 American, 1 Egyptian and 1 Polish scientists. The proportion of foreigners was only 27% as against 51% the previous year, because English and French scientists postponed their visits to 1950.

The principal activity was research into cosmic rays, 28 stays were devoted to medicinal and veterinary research, 11 to glacier movements.