

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1950)

Heft: 1129

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 33. No. 1129.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 1950.

PRICE 6d.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Minister Albert Huber, the recently appointed chief of the Swiss Diplomatic Mission to the Allied Commission in Germany, has been received in audience by the President of the Western German Republic, Professor, Dr. Heuss and by the German Chancellor, Herr Adenauer.

Monsieur Jean Merminod, of the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne, has been appointed 1st Councillor of Legation in Paris, in succession to Dr. Clemente Rezzonico, who has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan.

Monsieur Merminod was born in 1903, in St. Gall. He studied jurisprudence at the Universities of Geneva and Berlin. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1928, and eight years later (1936) was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

The Swiss Government has decided to give *de jure* recognition to the Chinese Communist Government.

The former Minister of the National Government, Monsieur Nan-Ju Wu, and his Counsellor of Legation, Monsieur Chia Hong Wang, have expressed their wish to remain as private persons in Switzerland. Two Secretaries and two Attachés of the former Chinese (National) Legation are leaving Switzerland for Hongkong.

The diplomatic representatives of the Chinese Communist Government in Berne and the representative of the Swiss Confederation in Peking have not yet been appointed.

Monsieur Oscar Aneto Astengo, the newly appointed Minister of the Argentine Republic, has presented his credentials to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Cantonal

In the canton of Lucerne — the town of Lucerne not included — 484 Traffic accidents have occurred during the year 1949. 17 persons lost their lives, 142 persons were seriously and 212 persons slightly injured. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Lucerne, during 1949, has increased from 61,380 to 61,477. [A.T.S.]

Recently two robberies occurred at the Post Offices in Pratteln and Rapperswil, when the personnel of the respective offices were threatened with revolvers and made to hand over the keys of the safes. Considerable amounts of money were stolen.

The Police of the canton of Zurich has arrested a man, by the name of Schnyder, who, after a lengthy interrogation admitted to the robbery at the Post Office in Rapperswil. He gave the name of Boller as his accomplice, this man was later on found dead in a stolen motor-car between Sellenbüren and Stallikon, having committed suicide. The wife of the latter has been arrested; she admitted that she and her husband took also part in the robbery of the Post Office in Pratteln. [A.T.S.]

The town of Zurich has, during the last year increased its population by 2,336 persons, and numbered at the end of December, 1949, 385,276. (Dec. 1948: 382,940.) [A.T.S.]

During the month of December, 1949, 554 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Zurich. 214 persons were injured nine of whom later succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

A reception and banquet was held at the Government building in Zug, in honour of Professor Walter, Rudolf Hess, the eminent brain specialist and a citizen of the town of Zug, who was recently awarded the Medicine Prize at the Nobel Prize awards in Stockholm. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Hans Hefti of Schwanden, has been appointed President of the Board of the "Landis & Gyr, A.G." of Zug, in succession to the late Mr. Schmutziger. [A.T.S.]

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