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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur Hans Zurlinden, since 1948, Swiss Minister in Moscow, has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council. Failing health is the reason given. Minister Zurlinden has already left the Russian capital.

The Swiss Government have banned foreign "political extremists" from speaking in Switzerland. They noted that the Swiss Communist party had recently been inviting an increasing number of foreign speakers to address Meetings.

Customs receipts during February, 1950, amounted to 35.3 million francs or 1 million francs more than in the same month the previous year. In the first two months of the current year, 68.9 million francs were collected, against 68.8 during the same period in 1949.

During January, 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.19 million passengers, or 250,000 less than in January 1949. The receipts from passenger traffic have declined by 287,000.—frs. and amounted to 19.77 million francs.

Goods traffic has declined by 131,000 tons and amounted to 1.06 million tons, the receipts of which totalled 20.51 million francs, which is 3.08 million francs less than during January 1949.

The German Vice-Chancellor, Herr Franz Blücher, paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Council in Berne. In Zurich, he gave a conference on current problems in Germany to-day.

Switzerland finished the financial year 1949 with a surplus of 12,000,000.—frs. Receipts for the year amounted to frs. 1,564 m., against an expenditure of frs. 1,552 m.

### Cantonal

Dr. Dominik Auf der Maur (Conservative), President of the cantonal Tribunal of Schwyz, has been elected a member of the States Council (Ständerat) with 8,618 votes. His opponent Joachim Weber (Liberal) received 7,050 votes. [A.T.S.]

Hans Zürcher, a well-known painter, and former teacher at the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in Lucerne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

According to figures published by the Statistical Office of the canton of Zurich, the population of the canton since 1900 has increased from 431,000 to 751,000 persons. The population of the town of Zurich alone has increased from 168,000 to 385,000 and is 51 per cent. of the population of the canton. The population of the town of Winterthur during the same time has increased from 40,000 to 65,000 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Albert Meyer, a former Federal Councillor, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Zurich.

Dr. Meyer is a citizen of Fällanden and Zurich. He studied jurisprudence at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin, and obtained in 1895 the degrees of *doctor juris utriusque* and *doctor publici et rerum cameralium* at the University of Zurich. For two years he occupied the post of Financial Secretary of the town of Zurich, and in 1897, Dr. Meyer was appointed to the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung"; of which paper he became Editor-in-Chief in 1915.

In 1907, he was elected a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" of Zurich, over which he presided in 1912. Three years later (1915) he was elected a member of Parliament (National Council). On December 12th, 1929, he entered the Federal Government in succession to Dr. Robert Haab. Nine years later (1938) he retired from his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Franz Tank, Professor of Physics at the Federal Technical University (ETH) in Zurich has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Leo Wehrli, the well-known geologist, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Zurich. He

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