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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain**

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

As reported in our last issue, the Swiss electorate, rejected a Socialist proposal for a capital levy for the financing of the armament programme. Here are the detailed results:

	Yes.	No.
Zürich . . . . .	86,645	78,363
Bern . . . . .	49,031	57,025
Luzern . . . . .	11,015	23,377
Uri . . . . .	1,470	3,670
Schwyz . . . . .	2,198	7,332
Obwalden . . . . .	438	2,658
Nidwalden . . . . .	878	2,393
Glarus . . . . .	2,711	4,459
Zug . . . . .	1,995	3,636
Fribourg . . . . .	4,295	13,034
Solothurn . . . . .	13,813	16,666
Baselstadt . . . . .	14,907	13,742
Baselland . . . . .	9,184	8,460
Schaffhausen . . . . .	7,343	6,367
Appenzell A.Rh. . . . .	3,621	6,091
Appenzell I.Rh. . . . .	345	1,420
St. Gallen . . . . .	21,062	33,736
Graubünden . . . . .	6,335	14,948
Aargau . . . . .	32,736	38,000
Thurgau . . . . .	11,118	19,405
Ticino . . . . .	10,052	7,212
Vaud . . . . .	16,407	25,977
Valais . . . . .	4,595	10,466
Neuchâtel . . . . .	9,254	11,645
Genève . . . . .	6,863	11,682
<b>Total</b>	<b>328,275</b>	<b>421,764</b>

53 per cent of the electorate went to the poll.

The two chambers of the Swiss Parliament have assembled in Berne for the summer session for the duration of three weeks.

### Cantonal

The accounts for the 600th anniversary of the entry of the canton of Zurich into the Swiss Confederation closed with a credit balance of 51,288.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The late Mr. Jean Schiesser, Factory-Manager, citizen of Linthal, has left an amount of 58,500.—frs. to various public institutions and societies. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Emil Baumgartner (Liberal), has been elected Mayor of the town of Thun with 2,917 votes. His opponent, National-Councillor W. Stünzi (Socialist), received 2,811 votes. [A.T.S.]

The recently deceased Mr. Hans Stucki, of Reutigen (Ct. Berne), Hotel Porter, has left the amount of 25,000.—frs. to the village of Reutigen towards the costs of building a new school. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton Basle Town for the year 1951, close with a credit Balance of 1.76 million francs. [A.T.S.]

A burglar smashed a window of a Jewellery firm, R. Breitenmoser, in Appenzell and got away with goods to the value of 6,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The late Mme. Elisa Feusi-Drittenbass, of St. Gall, has left legacies amounting to 44,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Raul Sommer (Democrat), has been elected President of the commune of St. Moritz. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the General Meeting of the S.A. Paillard, which took place at St. Croix, the following donations have been voted: "Gewerbeschulen" St.

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Croix and Yverdon, 20,000.—frs. and "Politechnische Hochschule", Lausanne 80,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor, Dr. W. Rohner, has been elected a member of the States Council (Ständerat). [A.T.S.]

Two members of the Tobler family in Thal (Ct. St. Gall), have made a donation amounting to 30,000.—frs. to install a new organ in the church at Thal. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1951, 686 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Grisons. Ten persons were killed and 304 injured. [A.T.S.]

Professor Paul E. Wenger, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Geneva, has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the University Sao Paulo. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered a Jewellers' shop in Geneva and decamped with goods to the value of 5,000.—frs.

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Otto Ronca, founder of the Swiss Library for blind people, in Lucerne, at the age of 71. (He himself was blind.)

Rodolphe Bolliger, a well-known painter of animals, especially horses, in Zurich, aged 74. The deceased lived in Paris from 1900-1940.

Hans Müller, Hotelier, in Lucerne, at the age of 67. Since 1943, he had managed the Hotel Diana in Lucerne.

Alfred Perrenoud, Managing-Director and a member of the Board of the watch manufacturing firm "La Champagne" and the "Kugellagerfabrik, Miniatures, S.A.", Bienne, in Bienne aged 71.

Othmar Blunsi, a former proprietor of the well-known Hotel "Zum Adler", Ennetbaden, in Ennetbaden, at the age of 93.

Professor Dr. Robert Burri, from 1907-1937, in charge of the "Eidg. Milchwirtschaftlichen & Bakteriologischen Versuchsanstalt" Liebefeld, in Berne, aged 85.

Dr. Charles La Roche, a member of the "Konjunkturforschungs" institute of the E.T.H., Zurich, at the age of 57.

Professor Antonio Bachetta for many years Director of the communal schools of Locarno, in Locarno.

André Bochud, industrialist, and from 1921-1931, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Bulle, aged 83.

Professor, Dr. med. Kurt Kottmann, from 1919-1947, Professor of medicine at the University of Berne, in Berne, at the age of 76.

Mgr. Josef, Emil Nünlist, "Päpstlicher Hausprälat & Ehrenchorherr der Abtei St. Maurice". The deceased was from 1906-1944 a priest at the "Dreifaltigkeitskirche" Berne, in Berne, aged 77.

Fritz Gerber, Captain of the M.V. "General Dufour" owned by the "Keller Shipping A.G. Basel", in Taltal (Chile), at the age of 57. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:—

Dr. L. F. Meyer (80), lawyer, of Lucerne; from 1912-1919, and again from 1931-1935, a member of the

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Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne. He sat in Parliament (National-Council) from 1931-1941. From 1920-1927, he was in command of the 12th Infantry Brigade.

Dr. Konrad von Orelli (70), for several years Professor of Theology at the University of Zurich and afterwards for 27 years Pastor at the Neumünster in Zurich.

Emil Freimann (95), for more than 40 years Chief Engineer of the firm Sulzer Bros., in Winterthur.

[A.T.S.]

The following have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60), in Switzerland:—

Mr. and Mrs. J. Rutz-Frei, of Meggen (Ct. Lucerne); Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Sieber, of Lucerne; Mr. and Mrs. Lüscher-Meyer, of Muhen (Ct. Aargau); Mr. and Mrs. R. Wildi-Richner, of Schafisheim; and Mr. and Mrs. H. Joos-Schlittler of Niederurnen (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

The Swiss rescue society has decided to form an air rescue guard and is organizing parachute squads. Already over 20 young surgeons have volunteered to undergo training for a licence.

The nationalisation of the Berne-Loetschberg-Simplon Railway is to be discussed in the next session of Parliament. It is expected that the talks will be conclusive, and that the absorption of the Loetschberg Railway by the Federal Railways will take place in a year or two. A difficulty is said to be that the Loetschberg Railway opposes the alleged wish of the Federal



Railways to take over only the main line of the Loetschberg (the Spiez-Loetschberg-Brigue section), leaving the adjoining or secondary lines to the Loetschberg and its associates. The Loetschberg Railway is said to favour only complete nationalisation, first because its main line is the only paying section of the system which, deprived of it, would be left with its non-paying lines only, and secondly, these secondary lines would lose their workshops, which are situated on the main line.

Sir William P. Hildred, Director General of the International Air Transport Association, has announced in Montreal that the annual meeting of the organisation will take place in Geneva at the Palais du Conseil Général from September 15th to 19th, 1952. Heads of 62 airlines from 40 different countries are to take part in the assembly to which many Swiss and International Organisations are to send observers. Dr. Walter Berchtold, Managing Director of Swissair, is to take over as President of I.A.T.A. for 1952/53 at the opening ceremony.

Verdi's "Le Troubadour" and the "Samson and Delilah" of Saint-Saëns will be the highlights of the "Festival of Berne, 1952" which the Swiss capital is presenting this year from June 25th—29th. International famed artists are to take part in the programme, as well as the orchestra and choir from the theatre "La Fenice" in Venice and a ballet troupe from La Scala in Milan. The acoustics of Berne's Festival Hall have been judged excellent for the presentations. Two years ago, Berne was the scene of two fine performances of Verdi's "Aida" and "La Forza del Destino" which were highly successful. Further details can be obtained from the Festival Secretariat, 41, Junkerngasse, Berne, Switzerland.

The people in the region of the Lower Engadin will celebrate this Summer the 300th anniversary of the acquisition of its freedom from Austria. The official celebration will take place at Bad Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera on June 22nd, 1952. The morning is reserved for the reception of the guests and the official ceremonial act, whereas in the afternoon the main procession "The Lower Engadin 300 years ago and to-day" with 700 participants will take place. The festival play "La Changun da la liberta" (The song of freedom) by Men Rauch will be presented on the typical Engadin village square, the "Bügl grond" in lower Schuls. The open-air display will be staged every fortnight until the end of August.

## PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La représentation du "Roi David", donnée à New York à l'occasion des 60 ans du compositeur suisse Arthur Honegger, a soulevé une tempête d'applaudissements telle qu'on en voit rarement.

Le chef suisse Ernest Ansermet a remporté un véritable triomphe à Paris à la tête de l'Orchestre de la Suisse romande, notamment dans l'exécution d'œuvres maîtresses d'Arthur Honegger et de Frank Martin.

Un nouveau cargo suisse à moteur, le "Maloja" a été lancé à Bremerhaven. On annonce la mise en chantier du "Nyon".

Une maison soleuroise a créé un nouvel appareil téléphonique sans fil pour l'armée, pesant 7kg. seulement et permettant une liaison sûre en n'importe quel terrain, sur une distance de 6 km. environ.

Un nouvel appareil de commandement pour la direction électrique des fusées, d'un poids et d'un volume réduits, peut être monté dans n'importe quel type d'avion.

Plusieurs états de l'Amérique latine ont confié aux ateliers d'art Huguenin Frères, au Locle, l'exécution de diverses médailles commémoratives et sportives.

Quatre maîtres-queux suisses ont remporté la plus haute distinction, avec médaille d'or, à l'exposition gastronomique de Munich.

## ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, 21st JUNE, 1952

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