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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

The Swiss electorate has accepted the Government's proposals re "Contingentement du tabac" but passed a negative vote with regard to Constructions of Air Raid Shelters.

Here are the particulars of the voting:

|                 | Contingentement |         | Construction |         |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
|                 | du tabac        | d'abris | Yes          | No      |
| Zurich          | 88,655          | 70,288  | 29,398       | 129,658 |
| Bern            | 74,328          | 27,486  | 17,258       | 82,237  |
| Luzern          | 22,836          | 9,721   | 4,562        | 27,464  |
| Uri             | 3,370           | 1,354   | 355          | 4,286   |
| Schwyz          | 5,839           | 2,616   | 897          | 7,479   |
| Obwalden        | 1,474           | 734     | 460          | 1,705   |
| Nidwalden       | 2,023           | 992     | 388          | 2,641   |
| Glarus          | 4,866           | 1,507   | 870          | 5,490   |
| Zug             | 3,960           | 1,890   | 751          | 5,054   |
| Fribourg        | 120,065         | 3,892   | 2,997        | 11,998  |
| Solothurn       | 21,296          | 8,018   | 3,336        | 24,451  |
| Baselstadt      | 17,394          | 12,207  | 3,139        | 26,619  |
| Baselland       | 13,046          | 6,084   | 2,393        | 16,757  |
| Schaffhausen    | 8,851           | 4,521   | 2,867        | 10,486  |
| Appenzell A.Rh. | 4,435           | 4,593   | 1,081        | 7,945   |
| Appenzell I.Rh. | 1,012           | 599     | 302          | 1,288   |
| St. Gallen      | 37,873          | 18,661  | 7,378        | 47,485  |
| Graubünden      | 14,140          | 4,770   | 4,072        | 14,410  |
| Aargau          | 54,267          | 15,715  | 10,286       | 58,623  |
| Thurgau         | 19,495          | 10,233  | 5,303        | 24,336  |
| Ticino          | 10,066          | 3,184   | 1,586        | 11,277  |
| Vaud            | 32,184          | 9,912   | 4,456        | 37,445  |
| Valais          | 9,388           | 2,798   | 2,487        | 8,983   |
| Neuchâtel       | 13,803          | 4,259   | 1,938        | 16,055  |
| Genève          | 14,977          | 5,998   | 2,276        | 17,919  |
| Total           | 491,607         | 232,032 | 110,836      | 602,091 |

About 51 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Robert Moret, Vice-Consul since 1939, to the post of Swiss Consul in Nantes.

M. Moret was born in 1892 in Pully and is a citizen of Ollon (Ct. Vaud). He entered the Consular Service in 1924, and occupied various posts at the Swiss Consulates in Paris, Strassbourg and Brussels.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Francisco Vazquez Treserra presented his Letters of Credence as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Mexico to M. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Petitpierre, Foreign Minister.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of September, 1952, totalled 49.6 million francs, or 1.8 million francs more than during the same period in 1951.

During the first nine months of the current year, altogether 314.5 million francs have been collected, which is 20.7 million francs less than during the first nine months in 1951.

#### Cantonal

Mr. Ludwig von Moos, Head of the "von Moos'schen Eisenwerke", Lucerne, and a former President of the Chamber of Commerce, Lucerne, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The American Consul General in Zurich, Mr. C. Porter Kuykendall, has been transferred to Winnipeg (Canada). He is succeeded by Mr. John Bailey, formerly Consul General in London. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

States Councillor Dr. Emil Klöti has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. For 20 years he was a Municipal Councillor and for 14 years held the post of Mayor of the town of Zurich. From 1919-1930, he sat in the National Council and since 1930 represents the canton of Zurich in the States Council. Dr. Klöti

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is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and the University of Zurich.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
The late Aegidius Streiff, an architect in Zurich, has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the old age fund of his native commune of Glarus. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
The "Schweiz. Gesellschaft für analytische und angewandte Chemie" has nominated Dr. med. P. Vollenweider, "Direktor des Eidg. Gesundheitamtes" in Berne, an honorary member. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
Mr. Conrad Graf, licensee of the "Bergtrotte", Stein a. Rh., has been elected Mayor of the town of Stein a Rh. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
In memory of the recently deceased Georges Tobler, "Bankprokurist" in St. Gall, an amount of 10,000.—frs. has been given to various charitable institutions by his heirs.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Director Tobler-Barry has also given an amount of 10,000.—frs. towards the costs of building a second "Kindergarten". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
Mr. Georg Bührer, for many years Pastor of the Linsebühl Church St. Gall, and President of the "Kantonal-protestantisch kirchlichen Hilfsverein" has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Chauvel, has paid an official visit to the town of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
Mr. Fritz Zaugg, since 1929 a member of the government of the canton of Aargau is vacating his post in January of next year on reaching retirement age.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
The "Official" day of the "Fierra Svizzera" Lugano, took place on the 5th of this month. Amongst the speakers were Carlo Bernasconi, President of the "Fierra", Sig. Pelli, Mayor of the town of Lugano, Sig. Canevascini, President of the cantonal government and Federal Councillor Rubattel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
M. Henri Favez, since 1921, Professor of Electro-Technic at the University of Lausanne is vacating his post for reasons of health. M. Paul Fourmarrier, of the University of Lutte will be his successor [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
The consecration ceremony of the new Bishop of Sitten (Ct. Valais), Mgr. Nestor Adam, took place on the 12th of this month at the Cathedral. Amongst those who attended the consecration and afterwards



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the banquet were: The Apostolic Nuntius, Mgr. Bernardini, Federal-Councillor Escher, the members of the government of the canton of Valais *in corpore* as well as all the r.c. Bishops in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

Mme. E. Evard, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Neuchâtel has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

An amount of 90,000.—frs. in one thousand notes has been stolen from a Bank in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*  
The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Louis Zbinden, a former Professor at the "Collèges de Genève", and the "Ecole supérieure des jeunes filles" in Geneva at the age of 86.

Mme. Geneviève Filetti, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Genève, in Geneva, aged 102.

André Schnetz, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the paper "Le Démocrate", Delsberg, in Delsberg at the age of 50.

Dr. med. vet. Ferd. Müller, a well-known veterinary surgeon and President of the commune of Malters (Ct. Lucerne) in Malters, aged 57.

Walter Kobelt, from 1936-1950, Manager of the St. Gall branch of the Swiss National Bank, in St. Gall, at the age of 62.

Dr. Emil Oprecht, Head of the "Europa Verlag" Zurich, and Central President of the "Schweizerischen Buchhändler- und Verleger Vereins" in Zurich aged 57.

Edmond Lateltin, from 1925-1951, Inspector of buildings of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 65.

Dr. Ed. Ruckhäuserli, formerly President of the Criminal Court of the canton of Basle, in Basle aged 80.

Dr. h.c. Emil Richard, in Gersau, at the age of 95. The deceased was connected for many years with the Zurich Chamber of Commerce of which he was at one time its Vice-President. Dr. Richard was formerly a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" and "Kantonsrat" Zurich. In 1923, he was honoured by the University of Zurich with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel.

René Gouzy, Editor of the "Tribune de Genève" since 1915, in Geneva, aged 75.

The deceased studied at the Universities of Neuchâtel, Berne, Jena and Berlin, and took up journalism as a profession. He held for some time, the post of Editor of the "Schweiz. Depeschen Agentur" and afterwards became connected with the "Tribune de Genève". Gouzy travelled widely and wrote a number of books on his travels. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*

The following have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. H. Schneider-Karpf of Zurich.

Mr. and Mrs. Bachmann-Scheiwiller of Degersheim (Ct. St. Gall) have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary. (65) [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*

Pilot Otto Schüpbach, who has been in the service of Swissair since 1946 has flown altogether three million kilometers. He is the fourth Swissair pilot who has flown this distance. [A.T.S.]

The 20 million francs issue at 3 per cent of the "Rhonewerk, A.G. Ernen," has been considerably oversubscribed and allotments had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*

The Swiss Locomotive & Machine Works of Winterthur, have delivered the first of the new 6,000 h.p. 122-ton single phase electric locomotives for the St. Gotthard line to the Swiss Federal Railways.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*

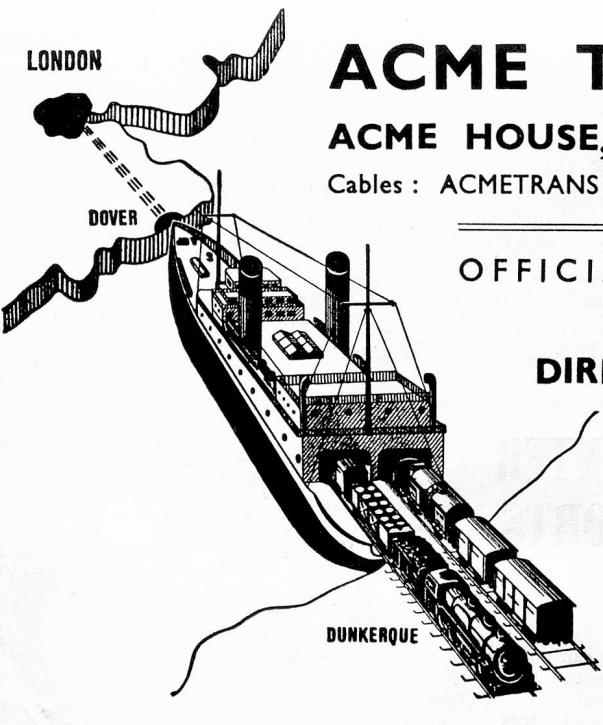
At the close of the third meeting of the European Council for Nuclear Research (known from the French form of its title as "Cern"), several delegates including Professor Dahl (Norway), Professor Kowarski (France), M. Valeur (France), Mr. Picot (Switzerland), and Professor de Groot (Netherlands), met representatives of the Press.

It was pointed out that the big protonsynchroton for the laboratory which was to be established at Geneva would embody a new principle. After the visit by a study group to the United States, it was now intended to concentrate on a machine, much larger than was originally contemplated, of 30,000m. electro volts.

Results of research work in the laboratory would be made available to every country that asked for them. The institution would serve scientific purposes only.

\* \* \* \* \*

The new extra-territorial road linking the city of Basle with the airport at Basle/Mulhouse (Blotzheim) was opened on October 2. Its use obviates the need for passengers to and from Switzerland passing through French customs.



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The Swiss Government has ordered two American Patton M.47 medium tanks. They are to be tried out during the winter.

Lack of display place for the increasing number of exhibitors at the annual Swiss Industries Fair at Basle has led to plans for the construction of additional buildings in time for the 1953 Fair, to be held from April 11 to 21. Exhibitors at this year's Fair numbered more than 2,000, a slight increase over 1951.

Pursuing a series of experiments in Alpine landings for aircraft engaged in rescue work and the distribution of foodstuffs, a Swiss airman, Mr. Geiger, has flown with one passenger in a small aircraft from Sion, (Ct. Valais). The first landing took place successfully on the Testa Grigia, at the Swiss-Italian border above the Théodule Pass (10,900ft.), east of the Matterhorn. After taking off from a snowfield, Geiger made another landing near Gandegg Hut (10,005ft.) and a third at Zermatt (5,315ft.).

An 1,100lb bomb, the largest ever exploded in Switzerland, was set off at Kandersteg as part of an experiment to test air-raid shelters.

Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, one-time president of the German Reichsbank and current adviser of numerous governments in the more turbulent parts of the world, has conclusively demonstrated to the Swiss that whatever he may have lost during and since World War II, he retains his talent for rubbing people the wrong way.

Dr. Schacht is not welcome in Switzerland. He was forbidden to enter the country in 1945 and this ban has never been rescinded.

Knowing all this, Dr. Schacht took a plane from Cairo recently that stopped over in Geneva at the time when an overnight stay here was necessary before a connection could be had for Germany.

Instead of letting Dr. Schacht sit up all night in the customs precinct at Cointrin Airport, a policeman met him and told him he could stay in a hotel.

Dr. Schacht did not like this. According to Swiss accounts of the incident, he complained that there were no connections for Germany. He complained about the customs. He complained about everything so long that the regular airport bus was delayed on his account.

## Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The scarcity of paper and the costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Saturday, 6th December, 1952, together with remittance for 6/-.

Finally the policeman offered to drive the financier into town. Once in the car, Dr. Schacht started complaining about the Swiss.

None of this would have been aired by the Swiss had not Dr. Schacht upon arriving in Frankfurt taken it upon himself to "request" an airline official to ask the Swiss Government not to provide him with a "police escort" on the occasion of his next visit — a statement that was, of course, promptly relayed back to Switzerland and that stung Swiss police into giving their version of the incident.

Mr. Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announces in a Parliamentary written reply that the basic travel allowance for the year beginning November 1, 1952, will remain at £25. The Allowance for children will remain at £15, but the adult allowance will now be given to children of 12 or over, instead of 15 or over, on the ground that many Continental hotels charge adult rates for older children.

In another reply Mr. Butler states that the amounts of exchange allowed to business travellers are under review.

During the first half of 1952 Switzerland imported 19,570 motorcars — Germany being the principal supplier. Great Britain came second on the list, the United States third and France fourth. Britain's contribution was 3,500 cars compared with 8,300 from Germany.

## WINTER SEASON 1952/3 — COMING EVENTS

January-Feb Zurich Arts and Crafts Museum: International Poster Exhibition Jan 3-4 Crans-Montana: 2nd Mont-Lachaux Trophy, International Skiing Competition.

January 3-4 Sainte-Croix: Downhill and cross-country skiing competition.

January 5 Mürren: "No Fall" British junior championship downhill race.

January 5-6 Andermatt: Gotthard International Skiing Days.

January 6 Les Diablerets: "Foxhunt" ski race.

January 6 Zermatt: Blauherd Derby (ski), in memory of Otto Furrer.

January 9-11 Wengen: 23rd Lauberhorn International Skiing Competitions.

January 9-11 Grindelwald: The Ladies' Ski Club 15th International Races.

January 12-13 St. Moritz: Alpine Skiing Competition.

## WINTER SPORTS

1952-3

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January 10-11 Arosa: Swiss figure-skating championships.

January 11 Flims: "Schlitteda" (gaily coloured procession of horse-drawn sleighs).

January 14-18 Arosa: International horse racing on snow (possibly Jan. 21 and 25).

January 15 Villars-Chesières: "Across Villars" slalom ski race.

January 16-18 Villars-Chesières: "Quatre-Pistes" ski trophy (with international participation).

January 18 Engelberg: Downhill and slalom ski races and S.C.G.B. challenge race.

January 18 Lenzerheide-Valbella: 4th Philips-Fairplay International Ski Derby.

January 18 Montreux/Caux: 10th ski Derby on the Diable run.

January 18 Rigi: "Rot-Blau" ski races.

January 18 Montana: Bobsleigh races.

January 19-22 Engelberg: "Shield" and International Cup" curling week.

January 20 Wengen: 28th downhill "No Fall" ski race for Sunday Times Cup.

January 23-25 Wengen: Bernese Oberland "Boca" curling championship.

January 24-25 Davos: Swiss speed skating championship (with international competitors).

January 28 Zurich Tonhalle: Haydn's "The Seasons" with Philharmonia and choir of the Vienna Opera.

January 29 Celerina: "Bärenjagd" ("Bear-hunt" ski race).

January 31/Feb. 1 Gstaad: 8th Wasserngrat International Ski Derby.

February 1, 8 St. Moritz: International horse racing on snow.

February 7-8 Adelboden: 4th horse show on snow.

February 8 Château d'Oex: Horse show and racing on snow.

February 8-15 Davos: World figure-skating championships for men, women and couples.

February 12, 16-17 Lucerne: Carnival, processions and balls.

February 14-15 St. Moritz: "White Ribbon" International Ski Races.

February 15 Champéry: Planachaux giant ski slalom.

February 19 Villars-Chesières: Night ski slalom and downhill run with torches.

February 21 Mürren: Fancy-dress ski race and fair; international curling competitions.

February 21-22 St. Moritz: Swiss ski championships, Scandinavian method (cross-country, jumping and relay races).

February 22 Pontresina: "No Fall Malicheff" downhill ski races.

February 23, 25 Bâle: Carnival, torchlight procession (at 4 a.m.), fancy-dress balls, etc.

February 25 Davos: Grand open-air ice revue.

February 26 Grans-Montana: Horse show on snow.

February 27/March 1 Andermatt: Swiss ski championships, Alpine method (downhill, slalom).

Mar-April Zermatt and Saas Fee: High Alpine ski excursions (along "La Haute Route").

March 3-8 St. Moritz: World universities winter sports championships.

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March 5 Gstaad : Giant Easter ski slalom on the Wasserngrat.

March 5-8 Davos/Klosters : 3rd International Ski Week on the Parsenn (Drostobel and Dorftäli giant slaloms, 28th Persenn Derby).

March 5-15 Geneva : 23rd International Motor show.

March 5-15 Zurich/Bâle : World and European ice-hockey championships.

March 7-8 Andermatt : Winter military championships and International military patrol race.

March 8 Grindelwald : 6th First giant slalom.

March 8 Montreux-Les Avants : Orgevaux, jumping competition ; Jaman, ski races.

\* \* \*

Swiss ice hockey championships start next month. The National Ice Hockey League has announced that they are to begin on November 27th and end on February 22nd. The calendar of the national Swiss team opens with two matches against Germany — one at Lausanne on November 21st, and the other on November 23rd at Bâle. On December 5th and 7th Stockholm will be the scene of matches between Switzerland and Sweden. Switzerland will be opposed by the Wembley Lions at Zurich and Bâle on January 9 and 11. Return matches against Germany will be held on February 28 and March 1 and will help as training matches for the world championships which are to take place at Zurich and Bâle between March 5 and 15. Switzerland will make a big effort to walk off with this important championship, and to help the Swiss players the League has signed a two-year

contract with Canadian trainer Frank Sullivan, who coached the Edmonton Mercury, world champions in 1951.

### SWISS INTERESTS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

It is announced that MR. THEODOR E. SEILER, who has since 1947 been one of the Agents of the Swiss Bank Corporation in New York, has been appointed to the post of permanent Representative of the Swiss Bank Corporation in South America, with his head-quarters in Rio de Janeiro, where he will commence his duties on the 1st January 1953.

Before entering the service of the Swiss Bank Corporation, Mr. Seiler had eighteen years of banking experience in Brazil. He has travelled widely in the whole South American continent.

A further evidence of the close financial associations of Switzerland and Brazil, may be drawn from the visit of a group of Swiss bankers to Brazil on the invitation of the Brazilian Foreign Minister. The party consist of :

Mr. Charles de Loes, Partner in Hentsch & Cie., of Geneva, Dr. Samuel Schweizer, General Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation in Basle, Mr. J. H. Pfeiffer, of Leu & Co., in Zurich, Mr. W. Schulthess, Manager of the Crédit Suisse, in Zurich, Mr. A. J. Schaefer, General Manager of the Union Bank of Switzerland, in Zurich.

Visits are to be made to various industrial concerns and plantations and there will be conferences with leading figures in Brazilian economic life.

### A DISTINCTION.

The following has appeared in the Sunday edition of "Die Tat" :

"Der in Zürich wohnende dipl. Ingenieur-Chemiker R. O. Steiner, der gegenwärtig als Doktorand das Imperial College of Science and Technology in London besucht, ist durch "The Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trustees, London" für seine Forschungen auf dem Gebiete der Technik mit einer Auszeichnung im Betrage von £500.— bedacht worden."

Mr. Steiner, lives at present London, where he studies at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. We are tendering him our best congratulations.

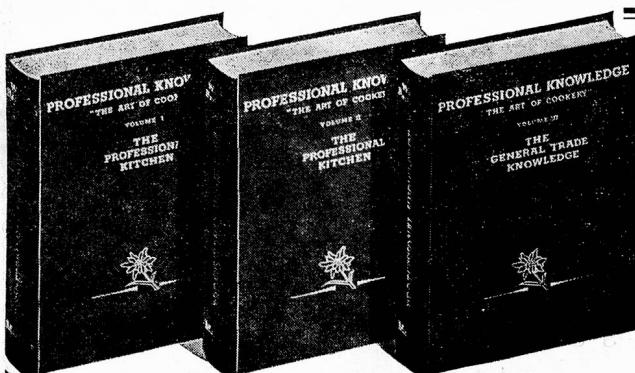
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