

**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:** - (1952)

**Heft:** 1194

**Rubrik:** News at random

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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, L.S. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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: REPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 37. No. 1194.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1952.

PRICE 11d.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Council will be represented at the Coronation of Queen Elisabeth by the Swiss Minister in London, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, in "special mission." \*

The Swiss Government announces that, the Persian Government having notified its agreement, Switzerland will at their request represent the interests of Australia and South Africa in Persia.

The President of the Swiss Confederation has sent a telegram of condolence to the Prime Minister of Israeli, on the occasion of the death of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of the Israeli Republic.

Customs receipts during the month of October, 1952, amounted to 58.6 million francs, which is 1.8 million francs more than in October, 1951.

During the first ten months of the current year customs receipts totalled 354.6 million francs, or 19.8 million francs less than during the same period in 1951.

#### Cantonal

One person was killed and four seriously injured, when two motor-cars collided between Mauensee and Kottwil, (Ct. Lucerne). Felix, Alois Walter, a confectioner in Wolhusen was killed. [A.T.S.] \*

Professor Felix Bloch, of Stanford University, California (U.S.A.) has been awarded the Nobel prize together with Professor Edward Purcell of Harvard University, for their nuclear physics discoveries.

Professor Bloch was born in Zurich in 1905, and studied from 1924-1927 at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich. [A.T.S.] \*

The third Air-liner DC-6B ordered in February 1951 by Swissair from the Douglas Works in California has arrived at the Zurich-Kloten Air Port. The non-stop flight New-York Zurich was made by Flight-

commander Anton von Tscharner, head of the North Atlantic Service of Swissair. The new machine can carry 72 passengers. [A.T.S.] \*

A serious accident occurred at the level-crossing between Dachslen and Wasen, when a local train collided with a motor-car. The motor-car was totally destroyed and all the passengers were killed. The names of the victims are: Mme. Klara Blättler, aged 45 of Fällanden; Mathias Moser, aged 41, a farmer of Hermikon-Dübendorf and Rudolf Kofel, aged 36, an innkeeper of Dachslen. [A.T.S.] \*

The late Mlle. L. Gremaud of Fribourg has left legacies amounting to 27,000.—francs to five churches of the town of Fribourg. [A.T.S.] \*

The town of Singen (Germany) has presented the town of Schaffhausen with a beautiful stained glass window in recognition of the post war aid rendered to the population of Singen. [A.T.S.] \*

The commune of Vals (Ct. Grisons) has nominated Mr. C. Hew, "Bauunternehmer" in Chur, and Mr. F. O. Kälin, engineer of Meilen (Ct. Zurich) as honorary citizens in recognition of the services they had rendered in connection with the erection of the electric power works Zervreila-Rabiusa. [A.T.S.] \*

Professor Marcel Bridel has been appointed rector of the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.] \*

Mme. Mina Vicari, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary at Vernayaz (Ct. Valais). She was presented by the cantonal government with the traditional "easy-chair. [A.T.S.] \*

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The Association of medical practitioners of the canton of Neuchâtel has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

**Army**

A military mission from Thailand, headed by Lieutenant-General Luang Swasdo Kolayudh is visiting military schools in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

—oo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland :

Hippolyte. P. Pellarin, a former editor of the paper "La Suisse", in Geneva, at the age of 74.

Eduard Cattani, for 10 years a member of the government of the canton of Obwalden, "Talammann" of Engelberg, cantonal judge, and President of the Board of the "Stansstad-Engelberg" railway, at Engelberg, aged 78.

Eplyse Darbellay, since 1942 Swiss Consul in São Paulo. The deceased, a citizen of Liddes (Ct. Valais), entered into the service of the Confederation in 1922. On his promotion to Vice-Consul he was attached to various Swiss Consulates in South America. In 1939, he was appointed Swiss Consul in Besançon, and a year later (1940) he acted as Chargé d'Affaires at Bogotá. In 1942, M. Darbellay became Swiss Consul in São Paulo.

Theodor Weber, "Oberforstmeister" of the canton of Zurich (1916-1940) and President of the "Schweizerischen Forstvereins", in Zurich, at the age of 82.

Mme. Hermine Gubler, a former head of the "Schweizerischen Frauenfachschule" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 76. She was in the service of this school from 1899-1939.

Phil. Nabholz, "Musikdirektor" in Lucerne, at the age of 71. The deceased was born in 1882. From 1906-1909, he was director of music in Wattwil and Nesslau. In 1909, he was appointed in the same capacity at Lucerne, where for many years he conducted various male choirs; he was also well-known as a composer.

Ewald Classen, publisher and author of children's picture books, in Zurich, aged 73.

Charles Haussener, Watch Manufacturer, Villeret, in Villeret, at the age of 65.

Mme. F. de Bosset, née Gabrielle de Coulon, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel. Aged 100.

Otto Fricker, Manager of the "Condor" works, Courfaivre, in Courfaivre, at the age of 72.

Professor Wilhelm Merian, Professor of Music at the University of Basle, and a member of the editorial staff of the "Basler Nachrichten", in Basle, aged 63. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced in Switzerland :

Dr. phil and Dr. h.c. Hans Leeman (70) President of the Board of the "Sandoz, A.G.", Basle. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich honoured him in 1942 with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Ernest Dubois (85) formerly editor of the "Nouvelliste Vaudois", and the "Gazette de

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Lausanne" and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Jakob Bührer (70) well-known author and dramatist. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following couple have celebrated their diamond-wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland : Mr. and Mrs. M. Schuler-Imhof of Horgen. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Salvation Army in Switzerland has celebrated the 70th anniversary of its foundation. The headquarters are in Berne and over 300 section are distributed in various parts of Switzerland. The head of the Salvation Army in our country is Commissioner Marcel Allemand, a South American Swiss. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. F. Wissel, a Swiss pilot landed a Storch plane on Forno Glacier, 8,000ft, near St. Moritz. He said his landing and take-off on a glacier were the first in the world by a plane carrying passengers. He had two men with him.

\* \* \*

The painting by Corot known as "Man Fishing for Crayfish," which was stolen in September from a well known restaurant in the centre of Paris, has been found in Geneva, and several arrests have been made.

The painting, which came into the possession of the owner of the restaurant in 1938, used to be exhibited in an upstairs dining room. A few days ago a French police inspector was informed by a Swiss citizen that

the painting was in Geneva. He passed the news on to the chief of police.

According to statements collected the painting had been sent by railway, under the description of "a mirror," to a frontier town near Geneva, where it was called for.

\* \* \*

Swiss Customs police have uncovered a gang thought to have smuggled £83,000 worth of gold coins from Italy into France. Two Geneva business men are among those arrested.

\* \* \*

A scheme to build a power station jointly owned by the Federal Railways and the Centralschweizerische Kraftwerke, of Lucerne, has been approved by the board of the Federal Railways. The new power station is to be built in the Gotthard massif above Göschenen, at the northern end of the Gotthard Tunnel, and will take advantage of the water power available in that region. The joint undertaking will be known as Kraftwerk Göschenen Aktiengesellschaft. Its share capital of fr. 5,000,000 is to be subscribed in equal amounts by the Federal Railways, and Centralschweizerische Kraftwerke.

The scheme is to be completed in three stages, of which the first two, requiring investments of fr. 200,000,000 approximately, within ten years. The total production of the new power station, including also the projected increases in the output of the existing power stations of Wassen and Amsteg (both north of Göschenen) to total 420,000,000 kW. a year.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and

Development has contracted with a group of Swiss banks to raise a loan of 50m. francs on the Swiss capital market. Issues of 3½ p.c. bonds are to be made shortly. The issue price of the loan, which matures after 10 years, is 98½ p.c. net, against 100 p.c. in the case of earlier loans floated in Switzerland by the World Bank. The guarantee charge of the Swiss banks is 1½ p.c.

\* \* \*

The 4,956-tons gross cargo motorship *Nyon* has been delivered to the Suisse-Atlantique Société de

## 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/-.

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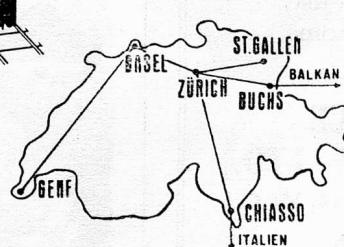
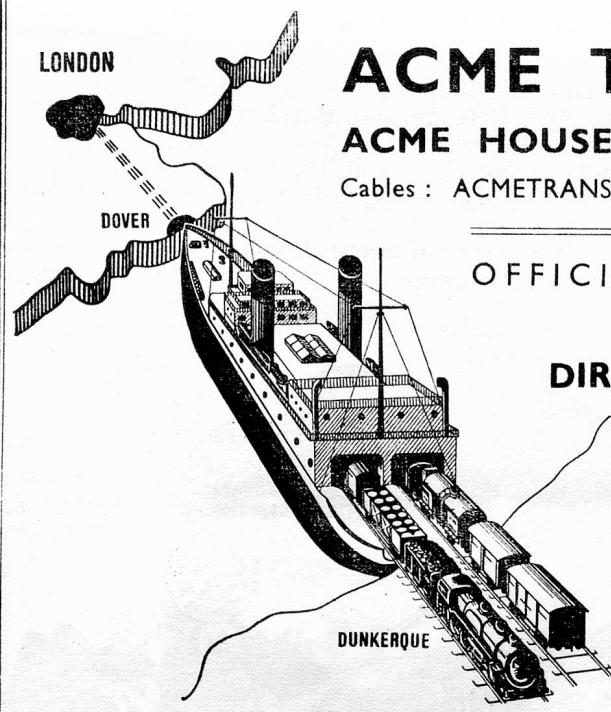
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Navigation Maritime S.A., by N.V.C. Van der Giessen & Zonnen's Scheepswerven. The principal particulars of the vessel are length 420ft., breadth moulded 57 ft. 3½ in., depth to shelterdeck 37 ft., and depth to main deck 28 ft. She has a capacity of 9,540 tons dead-weight on a draught of 25 ft. ¼ in. The *Nyon*, the first vessel built in Holland for Swiss account, is of the open shelterdeck type. She is propelled by a 5-cyl. single-acting two-stroke M.A.N. diesel engine developing 3,500 b.h.p. at 125 r.p.m., to give a loaded speed of 13 knots.

\* \* \*

The Swiss motorship *Sempach* (647 tons), Lisbon and Genoa for Naples, went aground on Meloria Shoals. She refloated under her own power.

\* \* \*

The Morris Commercial one-and-a-half ton four-wheel drive all-purposes truck, it was announced, is the first British commercial model to pass the Swiss Army vehicle tests, and as a result, Swiss civilian buyers immediately become entitled to a 66½ per cent. rebate on the import duty.

To entitle them to this they have to give the Military Department the right to control the vehicle for five years and have to keep it in good condition and available "on call" to the Army.

\* \* \*

West Germany beat Switzerland 5—1 in a Soccer international in Augsburg. Germany 'B' beat Switzerland 'B' 2—0 at Basle.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Communist Party have started collecting signatures to call for a nation-wide referendum against construction of the proposed European nuclear laboratory in Geneva.

A minimum of 5,000 signatures is needed before a referendum can be held.

\* \* \*

Vindonissa was a place of great importance between the first and second centuries. It was the headquarters of a Roman legion which guarded the route from the Rhine to the rivers Aare, Reuss and Limmat, and one of its sights was an amphitheatre which accommodated more than 10,000 people. Now the "Pro Vindonissa" Society in nearby Brugg (in the canton of Aargau) has published a little illustrated guide which will be of real value to visitors to this former Roman town. The Federal Department of the Interior (the Swiss "Home Office") has made a grant

towards the publication of the booklet, which has been prepared by Mr. Rudolf Fellmann.

\* \* \*

A new Swiss locomotive which took nearly three years to build and cost 1,600,000 francs (£131,000), has been put in operation on the famous Gotthard line. It is capable of pulling a train of 590 tons at a speed of 46 m.p.h. on a gradient of 26 0/00. It is so powerful that it does away with the costly double hauling — in the past it has been necessary to couple a second locomotive to trains proceeding up an incline, detaching it when the train reaches the level.

The new locomotive, which will be known as "Ae 6/6", weighs 119 tons and all its six axles are motor-driven. It is a counterpart, for the mountain lines, of the famous Re 4/4, which for several years now has been drawing express trains. Ae 6/6 has a maximum speed of 77 m.p.h. and from now on will be drawing three expresses from Lucerne to Chiasso and return, a fast train and a goods train, travelling each day 500 miles, of which a large part will be in mountain country.

Within a few years there will be more than 20 locomotives of the Ae 6/6 type on the important Gotthard route. The Swiss Federal Railways can be doubly proud of their latest achievement, which will cut down working costs as well as speed up the already remarkable running time on this line.

\* \* \*

Frank Sullivan, the famous Canadian player, has taken up his new ice-hockey post in Switzerland. He will be in charge of the national teams and will direct junior training, while at the same time keeping an eye on the training of clubs in the leading leagues. Here is the calendar of this season's international matches:

1952: Nov. 21 and 23, Switzerland-Germany at Lausanne and Bâle respectively. Dec. 5 and 7, Sweden-Switzerland, at Stockholm. 1953: Jan. 9 and 11, Switzerland-Wembley Lions at Zurich and Bâle respectively. Feb. 28 and March 1, German-Switzerland at Mannheim and at Düsseldorf or Krefeld.

Between March 6 and 15, World and European championships will be played at Zurich and at Bâle.

\* \* \*

The International Scout Jamboree will take place at Kandersteg between July 29 and August 8, 1953.

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