

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: 1173

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, LS. 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: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vo. 37. No. 1173.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1952.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Assembly, or joint meeting of the two Chambers of Parliament, have elected Federal-Councillor, Dr. Karl Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation for 1952.

Dr. Kobelt was born on the 1st of August, 1891, in Marbach (Ct. St. Gall) and was educated in the town of St. Gall. He studied engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, where he obtained his diploma as a "Bauingenieur".

From 1919-1933, he was chief of section of the Federal Department for "Wasserwirtschaft" in Berne. In 1933, Dr. Kobelt was elected a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall, and in 1939, he entered Parliament (National Council).

In the army, he was in command of the 31st Infantry regiment, and later, on promotion to the rank of Colonel, he occupied the post of chief-of-staff of the 4th army-corps.

He was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1940, in succession to Federal-Councillor Baumann, as Head of the military department.

Federal President Kobelt is a member of the Liberal Democratic Party and was President of the Confederation in 1946.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Philipp Etter has been elected Vice-President of the Confederation for 1952.

Dr. Etter was born on December 21st, 1891, at Mönzingen (Ct. Zug), he received his schooling at the "Kantonsschule" in Zug, and the "Stiftsschule" in Einsiedeln.

He studied law at the University of Zurich, and in 1917 established himself as a lawyer at Zug. Dr. Etter took a great interest in the politics of his native canton, and sat from 1917-1922 in the "Kantonsrat", and became later on (1927) a member of the cantonal government.

In the year 1930, he entered Parliament (States Council) where he soon made a name for himself as a shrewd parliamentarian. Four years later (1934) he

became a member of the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor Musy, who had vacated his office.

Dr. Etter occupied the Presidential chair in 1939, 1942 and 1947. In the army he holds the rank of major (Infantry); he belongs to the catholic-conservative party, and is the first representative of the canton of Zug to become a member of the Federal Government.

Dr. Markus Feldman, has been elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor Edouard von Steiger, who has resigned from his office.

Dr. Feldmann was born on the 21st of May, 1897, in Thun (Ct. Berne). He received his schooling in Thun and Berne and afterwards studied law at various Universities. In 1924, he became a member of the editorial staff of the "Neuen Berner Zeitung" and in 1928, he became Editor-in-Chief of this paper. Seventeen years later (1945) he was elected a member of the government of the canton of Berne. He has sat in Parliament (National Council) since 1935. From 1933-1935, he occupied the post of "Zentral President" of the Swiss Press Association.

Dr. Max Weber has been elected a member of the Federal Government, he succeeds Mr. Ernest Nobs, who has vacated his office.

Dr. Weber was born on the 2nd of August, 1897, in Zurich. He studied economics and afterwards became Editor of the Socialist paper "Volksstimme" of St. Gall. From 1926-1940 he was an active collaborator of the "Schweizerischen Gewerkschaftsbundes" (Trade Union) of which he became its Secretary, and in 1944, its President. In 1948, he was appointed Professor of National Economy at the University of Berne. He has sat in Parliament (National Council) since 1939 as a Socialist.

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R.A.C.

Minister Henry Valloton, Swiss Minister in Stockholm, has been transferred to Brussels, in succession to Minister Lardy, who reached retiring age.

Minister Valloton was born in 1891 at Lausanne. From 1915-1943, he practised as a lawyer in Lausanne. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, over which he presided in 1927. He was also, a member of the National Council. From 1943-1945, he was Swiss Minister in Brazil, and since 1946 he has represented our country in Sweden.

* * *

Minister Armin Daeniker, at present Minister in India, will replace Minister Valloton in Stockholm.

Minister Daeniker was born in 1898 in Zurich, he studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Berne, Zurich, Berlin, Rome and London. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1925, and held successively posts in Riga, Berlin and Shanghai. From 1933-1934, he acted as Chargé d'Affaires in Teheran, and afterwards was transferred to the Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne where he occupied an important post. In 1949, Dr. Daeniker was appointed Minister in India, he was also accredited to the Kingdom of Thailand.

* * *

The Federal Council has decided to open a Legation in South Africa. Dr. Jean de Rham, at present 1st Counsellor of Legation in Rome, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Jean de Rham was born in 1907 at Geneva and is a citizen of Giez (Ct. Vaud). He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1934, and was sent to London in 1937 where he remained until 1946 in which year he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. From 1946-1947 he held the post of Consul General in Hamburg, and afterwards was transferred to the Foreign Office in Berne. In 1950, he went to Rome as 1st Counsellor of Legation. (M. de Rham was well-known to the Swiss Colony during his nine years *séjour* in London.)

* * *

Mr. Oscar Berchtold, Vice-Consul in Johannesburg, has been promoted to the rank of Consul and will replace Hon. Consul Carl Robert Diethelm, who has retired from his post.

M. Berchtold was born in 1903 at Horgen and is a citizen of Uster (Ct. Zurich). He entered the Federal Political Department in Berne (Consular Service) in 1924 and was sent to the Consulate General at Johannesburg in 1944.

* * *

Minister Philippe Zutter, Chief of the section for International Organisations at the Federal Political Department in Berne, has been nominated Swiss Minister in Madrid, in succession to Minister Broje who has left the service on reaching retiring age.

Minister Zutter was born in 1904 in Bevaix and is a citizen of La Chaux-de-Fonds (Ct. Neuchâtel). He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1930. In 1935, he was sent to Bukarest, as Secretary of Legation and four years later (1939) he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Buenos Aires where he was promoted in 1943, to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In the same year, he was sent to Santiago de Chile as Chargé d'Affaires and in 1946, he returned to the Federal Political Department in Berne. In 1949, he received the title of Minister.

* * *

The newly appointed Minister of Sweden, Monsieur Torsten Ludvig Hammarström, has presented his

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credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

Minister Hammerström had been since 1947, Swedish Ambassador in China.

* * *

Dr. Charles Oser has been elected Federal Chancellor, in succession to Dr. Leimgruber, who has recently retired from his post.

The new Federal Chancellor was born in 1902 in Sitten (Ct. Valais), and is a citizen of Basle. He studied law at the Universities of Berne and Lausanne. In 1928, he entered the Federal Chancellery as secretary. Sixteen years later (1944) he was appointed Vice-Chancellor, and secretary to the States Council.

* * *

Monsieur Jean Michel Henri Chauvel has been appointed French Ambassador in Berne.

* * *

M. Pierre-Henri Aubaret, hitherto 1st Secretary of Legation, at present attached to the Federal Political Department (Commercial section) in Berne, has been appointed 1st chief of section at the said Department with promotion to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. M. Aubaret has recently returned from India where he held the post of 1st collaborator to the Swiss Minister in Delhi; he was previously attached to the Swiss Legation in London, where he became well-known to the Colony. We are extending to him our best congratulations on his promotion and new appointment.

* * *

Customs receipts in the month of November 1951, amounted to 47 million francs, or 8.1 million francs less than in November 1950.

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During the first eleven months of the current year, the receipts totalled 562.4 million francs, which is 24.5 million francs more than during the same period in 1950.

Cantonal

The late Dr. J. Krauer, formerly President of the commune of Männedorf (Ct. Zurich), has left a legacy amounting to 50,000.— frs. to the District Hospital of Männedorf. [A.T.S.]

During the month of November, 1951, 767 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Zurich. Eight persons have been killed and 293 injured. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Hans Stähli, a member of the BGB party has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to Dr. M. Feldmann, who has entered the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

Professor, Dr. C. Henschen of the University of Basle, has been nominated Vice-President of the International Congress of surgeons, which will take place in Lisbon this year. [A.T.S.]

At the end of December, 1951, the population of the canton of Basle-Town has reached 200,000 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

The late Mr. Heinrich Kehl, "Malermeister" in St. Gall, has left an amount of 140,000.— frs. to his native commune of Rebstein, and 210,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

The Montreux-Oberland railway has celebrated recently its 50th Jubilee. During the half century this railway has carried nearly 36 million passengers, and travelled over 27 million kilometres. [A.T.S.]

M. Marcel Patio has been elected Manager of the Municipal Tramway Company of Lausanne, in succession to M. R. Bourgeois, who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

The "Papierfabrik" Cham has given a donation amounting to 100,000.— frs. to the "Krankenasyll" Cham in remembrance of the late Colonel Richard Vogel, one of the founders of the firm. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are announced from Switzerland:—

Dr. Henri Preisig, a former Director of the Sanatorium at Cery and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Lausanne, in Geneva, at the age of 76.

Paul Perrochet, Vice-President of the "Schweiz. Elektrizität-und Verkehrsgesellschaft" Basle, in Basle, aged 80.

Gustav Eduard Braunwalder, a former Director of the "Gewerbeschule" Berne, at the age of 76.

Hermann Künzler-Giger, Head of the Textile firm H. W. Giger, A.G., Flawil, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, in Flawil, aged 79.

Edouard Loew, from 1927-1951, President of the commune of Les Verrières and from 1919-1937 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Les Verrières, at the age of 77.

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M. Müller, knitting yarn manufacturer, and for 15 years a member of the "Kantonsrat" of the canton of Appenzell A. Rh., in Urnäsch, at the age of 68.

Hans Aebi-Müller, senior partner of the firm Aebi & Co. (Landmaschinenfabrik) Burgdorf, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne from 1918-1934, in Burgdorf, aged 81.

Dr. Theodor Stephani, a well-known specialist on tubercular diseases, in Montana, at the age of 83.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Charles J. Bernhard (75), well-known scientist and botanist, Vice-President of the "Auslandsschweizerkommission" of the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique".

Dr. Ernst Fehr (80), for twenty-five years a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Zurich, and from 1918-1924, President of the Criminal Court. In 1937, the University of Zurich bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Jakob Job (60), Director of the "Radio-genossenschaft", Zurich, and author of the book "Portugal das Land der Christus Ritter."

Dr. Philipp Etter (60), Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

On Wednesday December 5th, 1951, the aircraft of Swissair have covered since the 1st January, 1950, ten million kilometres. This is the first time in the history of our civil aviation that aircraft flying under

Switzerland's flag will have covered so great a distance in one year. Taking into account the company's comparatively small fleet of aircraft and the small number of air crews, the results are very much in honour of the latter and the technical maintenance staff.

Twenty years ago in the year of Swissair's birth, its aircraft covered 724,476 kms. In 1938 just before the war the figure reached 1,483,794 kms. Since 1946, progress was much more rapid: 2,473,413 kms. in 1946, 4,106,208 in 1947, 6,224,920 in 1948, 8,611,084 in 1949, and 9,047,793 in 1950.

* * *

For the 30th time International horse races will be held in St. Moritz on the frozen lake. Five tests are being arranged on the 27th January and 3rd February: 2 flat races, 1 trotting race, 1 obstacle race, 1 ski-jöring race.

The St. Moritz Grand Prix will be held on the 3rd February, 1952; the winner will pocket the sum of 3,000 Swiss francs.

* * *

The Swiss Supreme Court have ruled that a taxi-driver must not drink alcohol while at work — even outside the country.

A Zurich taxi-driver appealed against a five-day sentence imposed because he drank wine on a trip in Austria and then had an accident when he returned to Switzerland.

The Supreme Court ruled that he broke Swiss law, not by drinking in Austria, but by bringing it back to Switzerland in his blood.

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