

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: - (1953)

Heft: 1204

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: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 38. No. 1204.

FRIDAY, MAY 15th, 1953.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

A Government-sponsored Bill raising postal charges was rejected by the Swiss electorate in a popular poll. The vote was 266,790 in favour and 465,059 against. The Bill had already passed both Houses of Parliament. Here are the particulars of the voting:

	Yes	No
Zürich	48,719	107,395
Berne	37,196	57,598
Lucerne	10,529	21,353
Uri	3,040	2,745
Schwyz	2,946	6,940
Obwalden	858	2,249
Nidwalden	1,087	2,391
Glarus	2,927	3,806
Zug	1,956	3,739
Fribourg	6,602	11,255
Solothurn	15,440	15,578
Basle Town	7,526	13,866
Basle County	5,728	9,684
Schaffhausen	4,742	8,440
Appenzell A.Rh.	3,149	6,456
Appenzell I.Rh.	670	1,168
St. Gall	21,441	35,876
Graubuenden	9,898	11,672
Aargau	26,302	44,227
Thurgau	11,428	21,251
Ticino	7,431	8,193
Vaud	14,694	30,573
Valais	7,263	8,229
Neuchâtel	10,033	16,697
Geneva	5,185	13,678
Total	266,790	465,059

50% of the electorate went to the poll.

* * *

The Swiss Government has submitted to the Federal Assembly proposals for supplementary credits for rearmament and for the extension of military service in the Swiss armoured corps. This is con-

sidered as a timely reaffirmation of Switzerland's policy of maintaining ready and up-to-date defences regardless of political fluctuations.

The rearmament programme quoted two and a half years ago and providing for an expenditure of 1,463.3 million Swiss francs has been fulfilled to a large extent, according to the Federal Council. Up to the end of 1952, 569.9 million Swiss francs were actually spent; in addition current orders represent 401.8 millions; orders that were drawn up but that have not yet been placed account for 300.3 millions; and contemplated purchases for 410.5 millions. Thus, the rearmament programme is expected to cost 1,682.5 millions (about £137 millions), and this figure exceeds the originally planned expenditure by 219.2 millions (about £18 millions), the amount which the Swiss Government is now asking Parliament to approve.

The items which seem to be getting priority are armoured vehicles and jet planes. This confirms the

ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 1953

at

THE POLYTECHNIC STADIUM, CHISWICK
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Prizes will be given to the winners and also to the winners of a competition organised by the Swiss Rifle Association.

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By Bus No. 71 from Hammersmith to Polytechnic Sports Ground.

well thought-out Swiss defensive strategy of fighting for the Northern Swiss plains by a series of quick counter-attacks with mobile columns.

* * * * *

The Swiss authorities have decided that the new coinage decree passed by the Lower House in 1952 will come into effect on April 20. The decree mainly signifies the transformation of the emergency regulations in this field into part of the Swiss legal code and does not introduce any fundamental change in Swiss currency or coinage.—

* * * * *

Monsieur Y. D. Gundevia has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of India, in succession to the late Minister Asaf Ali, who died when *en poste* in Berne. Monsieur Gundevia, after a distinguished career at the Foreign Office in New Delhi, has been since 1950, Indian Minister at Moscow.

* * * * *

Monsieur Richard C. Patterson, jun., American Minister in Berne since 1951, held a fare-well reception in Berne, previous to his departure from the Federal Capital. The reception was attended by members of the Swiss government and the Diplomatic Corps.

* * * * *

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. R. Höppli as Honorary Consul at Singapore, in succession to Mr. François Châtelain.

The new Consul was born in 1893, and is a citizen of Zürich and Affeltrangen (Ct. Thurgau). On

obtaining his degree as a doctor of medicine, he worked for some time at the Pathological Institute in Kiel and afterwards was appointed a lecturer at the University of Hamburg. In 1927, he was appointed Professor of Parasitology at the University of Amoy (China) and in 1930, Professor at the University of Peking. Since 1952, he has held the post of Professor at the University of Singapore.

* * * * *

Monsieur Franz Kappeler, Swiss Minister in Lebanon, Irak and Syria, and Secretary of Legation, Jaques Mallet, represented the Federal Council at the Coronation celebrations of S. M. Faisal II, King of Irak which took place in Bagdad at the beginning of May.

* * * * *

The Federal Council has accepted the resignations of two Honorary Swiss Consuls, they are Robert Stünzi, Kobe, and Walter Meier, Osorno.

* * * * *

Dr. h.c. Eugène Péquignot, born in 1889, at Saingelégier, General Secretary of the Federal Economic Dept. in Berne, has celebrated 40 years of service.

He was for 22 years a close collaborator of Federal Councillor Schulthess, and afterwards of Federal Councillors Obrecht, Stampfli and Rubattel.

* * * * *

Customs Receipts for the month of March 1953, amounted to 51.1 million francs, which is 3.6 million francs more than during the same period in 1952.

Cantonal

The commune of Altdorf has nominated Director Adolf Dätwyler-Gamma and his wife as honorary citizens for services rendered to the canton and its population. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

The "Obwaldner Landsgemeinde" took place at Sarnen; amongst the official visitors were Federal-Councillor Rubattel and members of the government of the canton of Zug *in corpore*.

Dr. Ludwig von Moos (Sachslen) was elected "Landammann" of the canton of Obwalden in succession to Dr. G. Odermatt, who will take over the post as "Landesstatthalter".

Dr. von Moos, the newly elected "Landammann" was born in Sachslen in 1910. He received his education at the *Gymnasium* in Sarnen, and afterwards studied law at the University of Fribourg i. Ue. He has occupied various positions in the cantonal administration, and in 1946, was elected a member of the government of the canton of Obwalden. He has represented his canton in the States Council since 1943. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden was held at Wil near Stans, and was attended by Federal-Councillor Escher, members of the government of the canton of Fribourg *in corpore*, and representatives of the Zurich guilds.

Mr. Ernst Zgraggen (Hergiswil) was elected to the post of "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

Dr. Hans Schmid, since 1938 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich has resigned.

[A.T.S.]



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The 37th Basle Fair, which was held at Basle from April 11th-21st, 1953, was a great success. 700,000 visitors went through the turnstiles. (1952: 650,000). [A.T.S.]

Dr. W. Staehelin, a Basle journalist, has been appointed Foreign Correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" in succession to the late Hans E. Morf.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Franco Maurer, of the Federal Air Office, Berne, has been appointed Manager of "Balair, A.G."

[A.T.S.]

The commune of Uznach (Ct. St. Gall) has nominated Mr. J. Schmucki-Klingler, President of the States-Council, and his wife, as honorary citizens.

[A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the District of Werdenberg (St. Gall), Christian Gantenbein of Grabs, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell, A. Rh. took place at Hundwil. Visitors who attended were the French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Chauvel, the new commander of the 7th division, Divisional Colonel Annasohn, Dr. Holenstein, President of the National Council, and Mr. Schmucki, President of the States Council.

"Landammann" Bodmer was confirmed in his office, and "Gemeindehauptmann" Jakob Langenauer, (Rehetobel) was elected a member of the cantonal government in succession to Eugen Preisig (Herisau), who vacated his post. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident occurred between Gais and Bühler (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.) when a motorist from Zurich, at excessive speed collided first with a cyclist and afterwards with an oncoming motor car, driven by Dr. Josef Schai (56), a medical practitioner of St. Gall; the latter was killed outright and his wife was seriously hurt.

The cyclist, August Sprenger (18) of Speicher died later on at the hospital. The Zurich motorist was injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The traditional "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh. was held in Appenzell, and was conducted by "Landammann" Armin Locher, States-Councillor.

National-Councillor, Dr. med. A. Broger was elected "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

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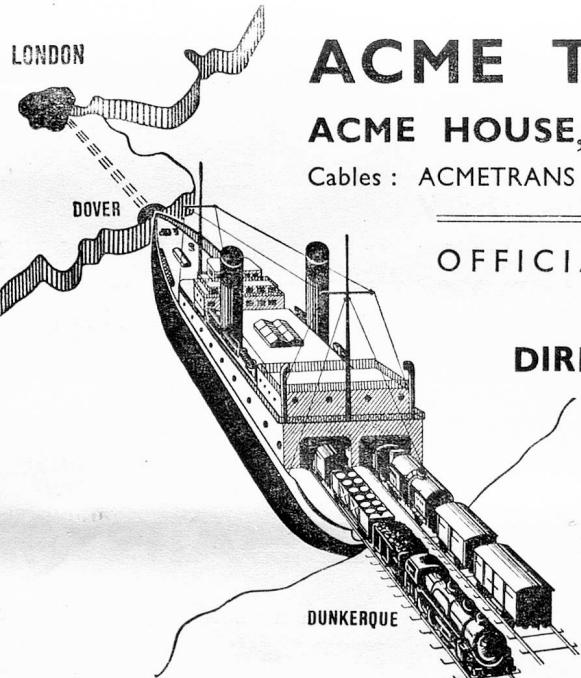
The Grand Council of the canton of Aargau held a solemn meeting to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its constitution.

Dr. Bachmann, "Landammann", who presided, gave an address dealing with the history and the principal events during the last 150 years.

Mr. Hans Birchmeier (Künten) was elected President of the cantonal parliament, and Mr. A. Richner (Oftringen) Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

National-Councillor, Dr. med. Eugen Bircher (Aarau) has been nominated an Honorary Member of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chirurgie" Munich. This honour has in the past only been bestowed on



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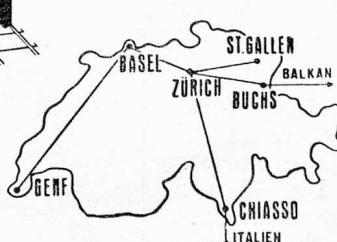
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four Swiss, namely: Theodor Kocher, Ulrich Krönlein, Konrad Brunner and Carl Henschen.

[A.T.S.]

* * * * *

The Brown, Boveri & Co. A.G. in Baden, has given an amount of 200,000.—frs. towards the foundation of a cantonal school in Baden. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

A motorcar trying to avoid a motor-cyclist near Etzgen (Ct. Aargau), crashed into a wall and afterwards fell into the Rhine. The driver and his passengers were drowned. The names of the victims are: Eduard Rubli (39) of Schaffhausen, Agathe Rubli, his wife (43), and Hans Peter Rubli, son (15).

[A.T.S.]

* * * * *

All the members of the cantonal government of Grisons were re-elected at a recent poll. They are: Dr. A. Theus, (Dem.); with 15,049 votes; Dr. E. Tenchiol (Cons.), with 14,217 votes; K. Bärtsch, (Dem.), with 14,031 votes; Dr. A. Cahannes (Cons.) with 13,933 votes and Dr. Ch. Margadant (Lib.), with 13,672 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

The 150th anniversary of the canton of Vaud's entry into the Confederation was celebrated throughout the canton on April 14th. The festivities started at 8.15 a.m. with the ringing of all the church bells in towns and villages. At 8.30 a.m. the official guests, among them the Federal-Councillors Rubattel, Petitpierre and Kobelt, representatives of the Federal Chambers, the Federal Supreme Court, the cantonal Tribunal, the Army, Delegations from cantonal governments and the 388 communes of the canton of Vaud were welcomed on the Place de la Riponne, Lausanne.

A solemn service was held at the Cathedral conducted by M. André Bovon. Patriotic addresses were given by M. Maurice Lavanchy (Yverdon) Doyen of the Grand Council, M. Alfred Oulevay, President of the government of the canton of Vaud, and by Federal-Councillor Rubattel who brought the greetings of the Federal Government.

The next day (April 15th) the members of the Grand Council were sworn in at the Cathedral, and afterwards a historical procession wended its way through the main street of the city, watched by large crowds. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

M. Jean Zeissig, (39), at present Director of the College Yverdon, has been elected Director of the cantonal Teachers seminary, in succession to M. G. Chevallaz, who has vacated his post. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

M. René Morax, author and dramatist (80) has been nominated an honorary citizen of the commune of Morges (Ct. Vaud) in gratitude for his literary work. René Morax, is the author of many plays which were produced at the "Théâtre du Jorat" in Mezières. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

Professor Gottfried Bohnenblust since 1920, Professor of German language and literature at the University of Lausanne has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. He is succeeded by Dr. Werner Stauffacher of Buchs, since 1950 a teacher of German at the "Ecole d'études sociales" and the "Ecole supérieur" in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

M. Raymond Jaussy (39) of Montreux has been elected Director of the Tourist Office in Montreux.

[A.T.S.]

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The following parties are represented in the newly elected Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau: Peasant Party: 30, (formerly 33); Liberals: 30 (no change); Socialists: 31 (formerly 29); Cath. Cons.: 21 (formerly 20); Christian Soc.: 8 (no change); Evang. Pop. Party: 2 (formerly 1); Young Lib.: 1 (no change), Democrats: 1 (no change); Lib. Soc.: 0 (formerly 1). The Council numbers 124 members.

[A.T.S.]

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The newly elected Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel consists of the following parties: Radicals: 33 (formerly 35); Liberals: 21 (formerly 22); Nat. Progr.: 8 (formerly 11); Socialists: 42 (formerly 34); Communists: 6 (formerly 4). [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Damian Camenzind, until recently Manager of the "Kantonalbank" Schwyz, in which service he had been for 48 years, in Schwyz.

Colonel Alfred Schlegel, Industrialist of Walenstadt, at the age of 73. The deceased was during the last war "Platzkommandant" of Walenstadt and of the Sargans Fortress.

Louis Pidoux from 1912-1921 Pastor in Charleroi, and afterwards till 1948 Pastor at the "Eglise Libre"

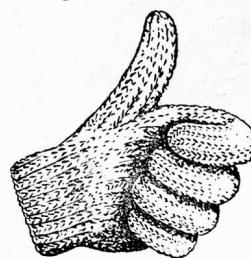
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Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 75. The deceased was from 1936-1948 Editor of the church paper "Lien", and for 20 years a collaborator of the "Feuille d'Avis" in Lausanne.

Professor François Guisan, from 1919-1950, Professor of Law at the University of Lausanne, and *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Neuchâtel and Geneva, in Lausanne, at the age of 73.

Colonel Franz Ineichen, Head of the "Aargauischen Landwirtschaftlichen Genossenschaft", Brugg, and for several years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau, in Muri (Aargau), aged 66.

Fritz Weilenmann, one of the oldest flight pioneers in Switzerland, in Zurich, at the age of 73.

Mme. Else de Gerzabeck, pianist, singer and conductor, in Lausanne, aged 78. The deceased had been since 1909 a teacher of pianoforte at the "Conservatoire" Lausanne.

Henri Beaumann, Manufacturer of essential watch parts, in Les Bois, aged 71.

Charles Ulysse Perret, Vice-President of the Board "Verbandes Schweiz. Konsumvereine", Basel, "in Neuchâtel, aged 80.

Dr. David Farbstein, a lawyer in Zurich, at the age of 85. From 1902-1926, the deceased was a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, and for several years a member of the "Grossen Stadtrates", Zurich, and the Cantonal Appeal Court. In 1922, he was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) which seat he kept until 1939.

Johann Jakob Schär, a notary, and former member of the National Council, in Berne, at the age of 93.

Auguste Porchet, for the last 16 years Prefect of the District Yverdon, and formerly President of the commune of Chamblon, in Lausanne, aged 69.

Dr. Adolf Streuli, from 1922-1935 a member of the government of the canton of Zurich, and for many years President of the Liberal Party of the canton of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 85.

Joseph Probst, Member of the Grand Council, and "Gemeindeammann" of Wettingen, in Wettingen at the age of 34. The deceased was "Zentral Präsident des Schweiz. Katholischen Turn und Sportsverbandes".

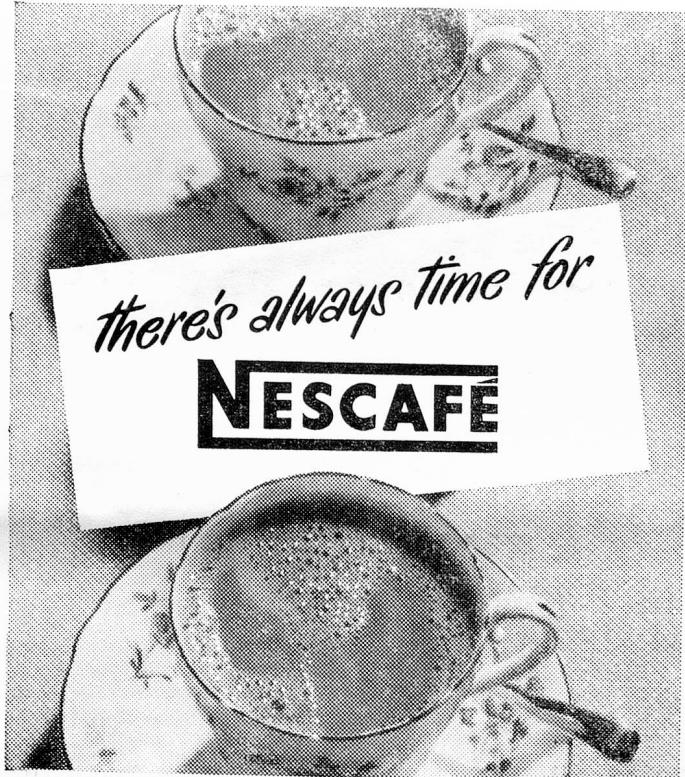
Heinrich Bänteli for eleven years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Zurich, and from 1924-1949 a member of the District Council Andelfingen, in Andelfingen, aged 78.

Mme. Hortense Besson-Hediger, the oldest Swiss (female), in Nyon, at the age of 104.

Maurice Robert, Manager of the Watch Manufacturing Works in Fontainemelon, and one of the founders of the "Ebauche, S.A.", in Neuchâtel, at the age of 65. [A.T.S.]

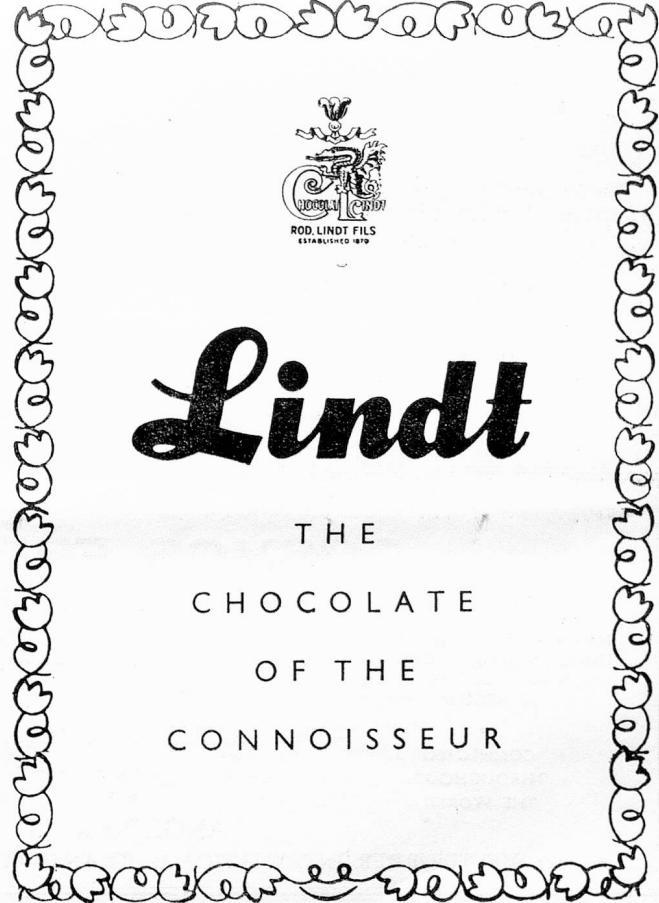
The undermentioned anniversaries are announced in the Swiss Press:

Professor William Rappard (70) of Geneva. He was born in New York, and studied at the Universities of Geneva, Berlin, Munich, Harvard, Paris and Vienna. He was Professor of Economics at the University of Geneva of which he was its rector in 1927/28. In



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1928, he was appointed head of the "Institut universitaire des Hautes-Etudes internationales" in Geneva.

Professor Rappard was on various occasions entrusted with diplomatic missions in Washington, Paris and London, by the Swiss government. He was a member of the Swiss Delegation of the League of Nations, and President of many International commissions dealing with economic and financial questions. He is the author of a number of works on Economics, International Law and General Politics. For a short while he was a member of Parliament. (National Council).

Arnold Ming (70) of Lungern, from 1946-1952 a member of the government of the canton of Obwalden, twice he occupied the post of "Landammann".

Edgar Junod (70) of Geneva, President of the Board and General Manager of the "Tribune de Genève".

Professor Edgard Milhaud (80) of Geneva, for 50 years Professor of political economy at the University of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Here are further balances of the accounts for 1952 of the following cantons :

Berne	<i>Debit</i>	Balance	6,420,362.—frs.
Ticino	<i>Debit</i>	Balance	1,106,870.—frs.
Obwalden ...	<i>Credit</i>	Balance	5,213.—frs.
Graubuenden	<i>Debit</i>	Balance	954,235.—frs.
Valais	<i>Debit</i>	Balance	2,238,212.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland : Mr. & Mrs. A. Becker-Binkerton of Basle, and Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Reichen-Tschanz of La Chaux-de-Fonds.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Swiss police claim to have broken up a Middle Eastern espionage ring with the arrest in Geneva of a woman and two men alleged to have been spying against the Arab States in favour of another Power, it was learned in Geneva.

The three arrested, whose names are being withheld by the police, are alleged to have been supplying information about shipments of machinery from Switzerland to the Arab States.

Artile Sandoz, country postman at Couvet for 25 years, claims in that time to have walked 130,000 miles, equivalent of five times round the world.

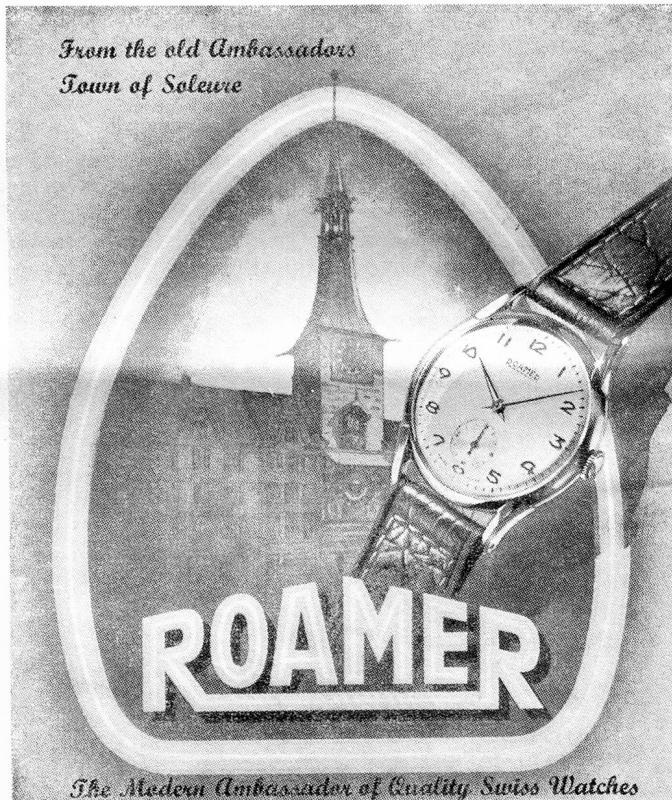
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Switzerland will be manufacturing British De Havilland Ghost Jet air engines under licence for its own air force by the end of this year.

They will be installed in De Havilland Venom aircraft, whose frames will also be produced in Switzerland under licence.

* * *

Switzerland asked Moscow to free 20 Swiss who are being held in the Soviet Union. They are mostly people deported by the Russians during hostilities in Eastern Europe.



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