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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. PFENNIGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Council has nominated Monsieur Gaston Jaccard, Swiss Minister to Norway, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Reykjavik (Iceland). He will still be accredited to the Government of Norway.

\* \* \*

President Eisenhower has appointed Miss Frances Willis at U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland. She has been in the diplomatic service since 1927, beginning as a third secretary. Now, at 54, she ranks as America's senior woman in the foreign service.

Before taking up diplomacy, Miss Willis had a distinguished academic career, she was a professor at two leading colleges for women, Goncher and Vassar.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Foreign Office announces that Monsieur Walter Bossi, Counsellor of Legation, has been nominated political advisor to the Swiss Korean delegation.

\* \* \*

The Queen of Tonga has arrived in Geneva where she was received by members of the municipal authorities, and the British Consul General. The President of the Government of the canton of Geneva, M. Antoine Pugin, presented the Queen with a bouquet of flowers.

\* \* \*

The Premier of New Zealand, Mr. G. S. Holland, has arrived in Berne, where he paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation. The Federal Council gave a luncheon at the von Wattwyl House in his honour.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts during the month of June 1953, amounted to 54 million francs, or 3 million francs more than in June 1952.

The receipts during the first six months of the current year totalled 221.7 million francs, or 7.8 million francs more than during the same period in 1952.

#### Cantonal

The "Altdorf Tellspiele" have started again, and will be given continuously until the middle of September, 1953. The performances of the play "Wilhelm Tell" by Friedrich Schiller started first in 1899. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Stiftungsrat der Innerschweizerischen Kulturstiftung" has awarded the Literature prize, amounting to 3,000—frs., to Dr. h.c. Meinrad Inglin (Schwyz), for his literary work. [A.T.S.]

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, 1st August, 1953

2.45 to 5.15 p.m. (Doors open at 2.p.m.)  
at the

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES: on Sunday 2nd of August.

Joint Protestant Service in French and German at 11 a.m.  
at Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Catholic Service at 11 a.m. Solemn Mass, and Sermon in  
French and English at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard  
Street, S.W.1.

Dr. Eduard Freimüller, National Councillor, and "Polizei-und Sanitätsdirektor" of the town of Berne, has been elected President of the Board of the "Insel-spital", Berne, in succession of Professor Dr. Hans Guggisberg, who had held this post for the last 36 years. [A.T.S.]

During the first six months of 1953, 248 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Basle-County. (1952: 247). Thirteen persons were killed, and 194 injured. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Christ-de Neufville, President of the Board of the "Floretpinnerei Ringwald, A.G.", Basle, has been made an Officer of the "Légion d'honneur".

Dr. H. Lewald, Professor of Civil Law at the University of Basle, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Frankfurt a. M. [A.T.S.]

The late Jakob Maag-Keller, of Neunkirch (Ct. Schaffhausen), has left an amount of 16,000.—frs. to various Neunkirch Societies, and to the town itself he left his house. [A.T.S.]

The Albula railway has celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation. On this occasion a banquet was held at Samedan to which 200 guests were invited, amongst them Federal-Councillor Escher, members of the government of the canton of Grisons (*in corpore*), Dr. J. Favre, General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, etc., etc. Speeches were made by Federal-Councillor Dr. Escher, Dr. P. Buchli, Manager of the "Rhätischen" railways, and Dr. Ettore Tenchio, President of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, Mr. Coray, Mayor of the town of Samedan, and by former National-Councillor von Moos.

Dr. Tenchio in his address pointed out, that the canton of Grisons has, up to date, spent 185 million francs on its railways. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Muri (Ct. Aargau) has nominated Mr. Otto Wild, Industrialist, to be an honorary citizen. [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Aargau has elected Dr. jur. Werner Baumann, to the post of "Staatsschreiber" in succession to Dr. W. Heuberger, who has retired. [A.T.S.]

M. Oscar Moret, at present conductor of the "La Lyre" in Broc, has been nominated conductor of the "Landwehr", the official music corps of the canton of Fribourg, in succession to the late composer and conductor M. Georges Aebi. [A.T.S.]

The town of Altstätten (Ct. St. Gall) has celebrated its 1,100th anniversary. The celebration was attended by Federal-Councillor Dr. Kobelt, who originates from the "Rheintal", the Presidents of the National- and States Council, Dr. Holenstein and J. Schmucki respectively, the President of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall and the cantonal government *in corpore*. At the official Banquet, Federal-Councillor Kobelt brought greetings of the Federal government, and "Landammann" Paul Müller those of the cantonal government.

An historic procession wended its way through the gaily decorated streets, and in the evening a performance of Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell" was given. [A.T.S.]

A burglary was committed at the "Konservenfabrik" Bischofszell, and an amount of 40,000.—frs. was stolen.

The police was able to identify the culprits, one of them a former employee of the firm, all the missing money was still found intact. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the Centenary of the firm "Adolphe Saurer, A.G." Arbon, the management has made a donation of 25,000.—frs. to the "Krankenhaus" Arbon. [A.T.S.]

Judgment has been given in the action brought by the administration of the "Casino-Kursaal" Vevey, against the Manager and members of the staff employed in the gambling department, for irregularities which had occurred since 1948.

The former Manager, Severino Rezzonico, has been fined 3,000.—frs. and will have to bear one-tenth of the costs of the case.

Several of the "groupiers" were fined amounts ranging from 90.—frs. to 1,500.—frs., whilst four members of the controlling staff were acquitted.

[A.T.S.]

Considerable damage was caused by a fire which broke out at the "Akkumulatorenfabrik" "El etrona" in Boudry (Ct. Neuchâtel). A member of the Fire Brigade was seriously injured, and had to be taken to the hospital in Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

On the 1st of July, 1953, the population of the town of Lausanne numbered 112,172, of which 3,762 were Lausanne citizens, 49,290 Vaudois from other communes, 47,964 Swiss from other cantons, and 11,156 foreigners. [A.T.S.]

Dr. phil. Jean Perrenoud (Neuchâtel), has been appointed Director of the "College" in Yverdon.

[A.T.S.]

The watch manufacturing firm of "Charles Tissot & Fils, S.A." in Le Locle, has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Hermann Faes, a teacher at the "College moderne", Geneva, at the age of 50.

Emile Ochs, formerly Director of "Asyles" of Petit Lancy, and Honorary President of the "Ondine genevoise", in Geneva, aged 66.

Fritz Steuri, alpine guide and champion skier, in Grindelwald, at the age of 45. He was a member of the Swiss Himalayan expedition in 1939, and had climbed all the highest peaks in the alps.

Hans Munzinger, landscape and portrait painter, in Olten, aged 76.

Divisional-Colonel Albert von Salis, in Lucerne, at the age of 80. The deceased was for a number of years Instructor of fortress troops. In 1914, he was chief of artillery at the St. Gotthard fortress, and thirteen years later (1927) he was promoted to the rank of Divisional-Colonel and entrusted with the command of the St. Gotthard garrison.

Jules Jäger, Engineer, in Gryon, aged 84. Jäger was at one time President of the commune of Gryon-sur-Bex. The "Zähringer" and "Pérolles" bridges in Fribourg were built after his plans, as well as the "Stauwehr" of Montsalvens.

André Matti, Engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, and since 1949, Professor at the "Ecole Polytechnique" of the University of Lausanne, in Pully, at the age of 51.

Dr. Ricardo Donati, teacher at the cantonal Teacher's Seminary, Locarno, in Locarno, aged 48.

Josef Segesser-von Brunegg, owner of the castle Tannenfels near Nottwil (Ct. Lucerne), in Lucerne, at the age of 88.

Paul Chapuis, from 1940-1952, Professor of Theology at the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 71.

Henri Cottier, President of the commune of Cheseaux from 1915-1945, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud from 1929-1949, in Lausanne.

Dr. Emil Jenal, a teacher at the "Kantonschule" Zug, in Zug, at the age of 53.

Edgar Renaud, from 1919-1949, a member of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel, and President of the Board of Neuchâtel Cantonal Bank, in Neuchâtel, aged 66. [A.T.S.]

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

Mr. and Mrs. Thurnheer Rohner of Au (Ct. St. Gall), and Mr. and Mrs. Bornand-Boesch, of Meyrin (Ct. Geneva). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \* \* \*

Grock, the famous Swiss clown, who is now 73 years of ago, is touring Switzerland with a troupe of artists. His partner, Alfred Schatz, who acted in the same capacity from 1936 to 1939, is an excellent musician and an ex-student of the Academy of Music, Stuttgart. In a recent interview Grock stated: "There is absolutely no truth in the statement that I am thinking of retiring and making my farewell visit to several European countries. I hope to hold out for many years to come — 10 or perhaps even more than that — for the honour of a calling I love so much. I feel full of life, young, ardent . . ."

\* \* \* \* \*

Hermann Geiger, a Swiss stunt pilot, landed a Piper Cub plane near the summit of 15,217ft., Monte Rosa, in the Alps, to set up a new European record for the highest landing.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Swiss Government has approved a loan of 50m. Swiss francs by a syndicate of Swiss banks to the Belgian Government.

The loan will be for a period of three years and will be repayable in three equal instalments. The rate of interest is not yet known.

\* \* \* \* \*

A new board of directors of the *Gazette de Lausanne* has been elected, and new rules have been made to prevent any group of shareholders that chances to hold a majority of the shares from influencing the



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editorship of the paper. This action ends the crisis which a few weeks ago caused some agitation in Swiss newspaper circles.

\* \* \*

A Swiss student, Charles Imboden, of Sierre, has been killed by a fall while collecting edelweiss above Lake Dixence, in Val d'Herens, Canton Valais.

\* \* \*

"Tiger" Tensing, conqueror of Everest, became Tensing of the Alps and tried a type of climbing that is new to him.

With a basket lunch and a bottle of tea he set out roped to Raymond Lambert, the Swiss guide who almost conquered Everest with Tensing last year.

They tackled the 7,250ft. Similistock peak in the Rosenlaui range of central Switzerland because Lambert wanted to show Tensing what he calls "a pure rock mountain."

The "Tiger" had not climbed one before. He is more at home on the snow slopes and ice peaks of the Himalayas.

When they returned to the village of Meiringen Lambert told me: "Tensing clapped his hands with joy when I pointed to where we were going. He was very impressed, especially when we reached the most dangerous part and then the summit.

"We had sandwiches, fruit, and tea up there, still roped together. Tensing was like a little boy with a new toy. This type of mountain suits him. He was perfect on it."

Back at the village Tensing smiled and slapped Lambert and other climbers on the back.

He made them feel that he was happy to be climbing again and away from the banquets and receptions of the cities.

In the guides' club, Tensing sat down to four plates of thick soup, meat, potatoes and cheese, and liked it so much that he gestured for more.

He has won the hearts of these mountain people with his simplicity and smiles — just as he conquered London.

D.E.

\* \* \*

The panel of experts which has chosen the new "Pro Juventute" stamps now on sale in Switzerland has praised the work of Mr. Karl Bickel, who has been working untiringly for the Swiss Postal Administration and the "Pro Juventute" Foundation. Mr. Bickel lives in an isolated home on the mountain above Lake Wallenstadt, and the Director-General of the Swiss Post Office, Mr. Edouard Weber, in paying tribute to the 67-year-old artist, spoke of his simple and quiet life, despite his universal fame. As a mark of gratitude, the President of "Pro Juventute", Colonel Wille, presented Mr. Bickel with a badge. He said that the stamps designed by the artist had excited great admiration.

\* \* \*

Many visitors to Switzerland, delighted by the distinctive musical horn of Swiss postal coaches, which are used on high Alpine roads, have wondered what history lies behind them. The three notes are, in fact, taken from the French horn solo which is heard in the overture of Rossini's "William Tell". This opera was performed for the first time in Paris in August, 1829, but it was nearly a century later before the three-note horn was used by the postal coaches. Incidentally, the use of the signal by any other vehicle is not permitted.

This year's traditional equestrian autumn event in Eastern Switzerland will again be held at Breitfeld near St. Gall. Competitors from the border districts of Germany and Austria as well as from the occupying powers have been invited. The world-famous St. Gall textile manufacturers will be arranging elegant fashion shows.

\* \* \*

The great international racing event, "Le Grand Prix Suisse" at Berne, for motor cars, motor cycles and motor-cycle combinations at Bremgarten, near Berne, will take place on August 22nd and 23rd. Judging by the ever increasing number of applications received one can expect some very exciting battles between the leading competitors of this popular race, which, incidentally, qualifies for the world championships.

\* \* \*

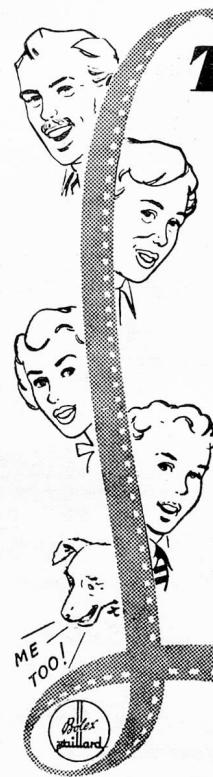
With the Susten Pass now open to traffic, all the Swiss alpine passes are fit, along their whole length, for vehicles without snow-chains.

As is known, improvements are being carried out on various roads, notably between Oberwald and Gletsch on the Furka Pass, and on the Gotthard Pass. Drivers are asked to proceed with extra care; not to attempt to take heavy vehicles over these routes; and to co-operate with road services and police directing traffic where work is in progress.

The Forclaz road from Martigny to Chamonix, in process of being repaired, should be avoided this year.

\* \* \*

Organised by the Swiss Government's Department of the Interior, the Belgian Ministry of Education, the International Federation of Art Weeks and the Swiss National Tourist Office, the sixth International



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Week of Swiss Art is to be devoted to a study of art treasures on the lakesides of Switzerland. It will last from Monday, August 10th, to Wednesday, August 19th. The programme is as follows:

Monday — Brunnen, with excursion to Stoos. Tuesday — Schwyz, Ruetli, Altdorf, return to Brunnen. Wednesday — Kussnacht (Queen Astrid's Chapel), Zug, Lucerne (International Music Festival concerts). Thursday — Stans, Flueli, Sarnen, Interlaken. Friday — Wengen, Little Schneidegg (folklore evening at Interlaken). Saturday — Thun, Berne, Neuchâtel. Sunday — Excursion on the lakes of Neuchâtel and Morat, with return to Neuchâtel. Monday — Fribourg. Tuesday — Bulle, Gruyères Castle, Châtel St.-Denis, Lausanne. Wednesday — Close of tour at Lausanne.

The full programme, with the cost of the tour, can be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458/9, Strand, London, W.C.2., or from Professor Paul Montfort, President of the International Federation of Art Weeks, 310, Avenue de Tervueren, Woluwé, Brussels, Belgium, with whom bookings should be made.

\* \* \*

The Brotherhood of the Vevey Wine-growers has held its annual general assembly on Saturday, May 23rd, under the chairmanship of M. David Dénéréaz, president-abbot and mayor of the town. The assembly has unanimously ratified the decision taken by the Council to organise the Wine-growers' Festival (Fête des Vignerons) for 1955.

Impelled by the desire to honour wine-growing and agriculture fraternities, the organisers of this

Festival have given the originally modest manifestation a new importance; it will be a grandiose manifestation, unique of its kind, which has attracted large numbers of visitors in 1927, 1905, 1889, 1865, 1851, 1833, 1819, 1897, etc. At first a local celebration, then a Vaudois and Swiss Festival, it enjoys now European and even world-wide fame.

The Swiss Blue Cross Society — a temperance organisation — planned to import a number of parrots from South America, teach them to say: "Alcohol is poison," and then present them to cafe owners in the hope that they would influence, as well as amuse, customers.

But the society has been told by the Swiss Federal Sanitary Service that the importation of the parrots has been forbidden owing to the risk of psittacosis — parrots' disease.

\* \* \*

Brazil will have a prominent part to play in this year's "Comptoir Suisse" (the trade fair of Western Switzerland) which is to be held in Lausanne from September 12th to 27th. The Brazilian section will be officially opened on September 14th in the presence of Mr. d'Alamo Lousada, Brazilian Minister in Berne and Dr. Antonio Garcia de Miranda Neto, president of the fairs and exhibitions commission of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Brazil.

Since the second world war trade between Switzerland and Brazil has been on the increase, Switzerland now imports 43 per cent of its coffee from Brazil, and the country is also one of Switzerland's principal suppliers of tobacco leaf and cocoa.

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La flotte suisse de haute mer compte aujourd'hui 35 bateaux totalisant 200,000 tonnes brutes. Le trafic marchandises de la Swissair a passé de 280,000 tonnes-kilomètres en 1946 à 3,423,000 en 1952. L'hôtellerie suisse accuse en 1952 un chiffre d'affaires total dépassant le milliard de francs. Le 53% des nuitées a été effectué par des hôtes suisses. Au cours des 20 dernières années, 160,000 pommiers du verger thurgovien ont été greffés avec des variétés de premier choix. Le revenu suisse de l'année passée a atteint 20.1 milliards.

\* \* \*

Le montant des commandes passées à une fabrique de Soleure pour le remarquable métier à tisser Sulzer atteint environ 9 millions de francs.

\* \* \*

Une entreprise suisse de construction de moulins vient de monter le premier moulin pour production mixte en Afrique occidentale française. Il est muni des derniers perfectionnements et peut travailler 12,000 tonnes de céréales ou 15,000 tonnes de maïs ou de millet. Il ne demande qu'une équipe de 7 personnes.

\* \* \*

Une fabrique suisse a créé un nouveau thermomètre qui s'est imposé sur le marché mondial. Il enregistre les variations de température avec une rigoureuse exactitude. En cas d'échauffement préalable, ce thermomètre redescend toujours à la température du corps, ce qui est aussi le cas aux tropiques, lorsque la température de l'air ambiant est plus élevée que celles du corps.