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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. PENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a congratulatory message to President Dwight Eisenhower, on the occasion of his having taken the oath as President of the United States of America.

The President of the Swiss Confederation has expressed to the Governments of Great Britain and Holland the sympathy of the Federal Council and the Swiss people for the catastrophe which has befallen them.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Escher, head of the Federal Post and Railway Department, has attended a conference of West European Transport Ministers, which took place in Paris from the 29th — 31st of January.

M. Charles, Albert Dubois has been appointed Chief of the Press Service of the Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne.

He was born in 1910 at Fribourg, and is a citizen of Vevey. He studied law at the Universities of Lausanne and Vienna, and entered the service of the Political Department in 1945. Two years later (1947) he was nominated head of the diplomatic mission to Japan, which post he held until his return to Berne in 1950.

The Swiss Consular Agency of Maracaibol (Venezuela) which had been closed since 1951, has been re-opened. Mr. Max Oberli of Lucerne, has been appointed head of the Agency.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Georges Perrin to the post of Swiss Consul in Zagreb, in succession to Mr. Albert Cuendet, who has been nominated Swiss Consul in Torino.

Dr. Perrin was born in 1913 in Lausanne and is a citizen of Vuiteboeuf (Ct. Vaud), he entered into the service of the Political Department in 1939. In 1942, he was appointed Attaché of Legation, and two years

later (1944), he was promoted to 2nd Secretary of Legation in which capacity he served at the Swiss Legations in London, Paris and Berlin.

Mr. Frédéric Müller, Honorary Swiss Consul in Luxembourg has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council which has been accepted, and he has been thanked for the services he has rendered.

Mr. Müller was born in 1880 at Emmishofen, (Ct. Thurgau) and was for 25 years, until his retirement in 1945, Manager of the "Internationale Bank, A.G." in Luxembourg. He was appointed Consular Agent in 1945, and eight months later was promoted to the rank of Honorary Consul.

Mgr. Filippo Bernardini, Papal nuncio since 1935, is leaving Berne shortly, owing to another appointment. During his 17 years séjour in our country he has played an important rôle in many international organisations. Mgr. Bernardini is a doctor *honoris causa* of the University of Fribourg.

The Swiss Red Cross has opened a collection for the victims of the flood disasters in England and Holland.

Customs receipts during the month of December, 1952, amounted to 45.6 million francs, or 0.7 million francs less than in December, 1951.

Receipts for the year 1952 amount to 428.1 million francs, which is 11.4 million francs less than for the year 1951.

#### Cantonal

A fire which broke out at the "Sägewerk & Imprägnieranstalt" of the firm "E. Hüni & Co." in Glattbrugg, (Ct. Zurich) caused damage amounting to 200.000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

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R.A.C.

Mr. Albert Burmeister, Editor of the "Journal de Payerne" has celebrated his 50th jubilee in the service of the paper. [A.T.S.]

Two postal bags containing notes and coins amounting to 19,300.— frs. were stolen from a postvan at the railway station Wangen, nr. Olten. No arrests have been made yet. [A.T.S.]

On January 22nd, 1953, the town of Chur numbered 20,000 inhabitants. In the year 1850, the population numbered 6183, in 1900, 11,500, twenty years later, 15,600, and in 1941, 17,000. [A.T.S.]

The brickworks at Lanquart have been totally destroyed by fire. [A.T.S.]

The late Max Wirth, of Sao Vicente (Brazil) has left an amount of 110,000.— frs to his native community of Lichtensteig, and 20,000.— frs to the commune of Bütschwil. [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Aargau, numbering five, contains the following members, according to the recently held elections: Dr. R. Siegrist, Socialist, (no change); Dr. E. Bachmann, Liberal, (no change); Dr. K. Kim, Liberal, (no change); Dr. P. Hausherr, Cath. Conservative, (no change) and E. Schwarz, B-G-B, (new). Mr. Schwarz, replaces Mr. F. Zaugg, B-G-B, who vacated his post on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

Madame Marie Anna Müller-Gloggner, an inmate of the Home for old people "Friedau" at Zofingen, has celebrated her 101st birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Alpine flying specialist, Herman Geiger of Sitten, landed with his Piper aircraft on the snow-covered top of Rochers de Naye, 6,473 ft. above Montreux, and easily took off soon after. The experiment was made at the request of the Bernese-Oberland Railway Company to ascertain the possibility of supplying transport when the line is blocked by snow. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Divisional Colonel, Claude Du Pasquier, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 67.

The deceased was born in 1886 at Le Havre. He studied law, and for many years was Professor of law at the University of Neuchâtel of which he was rector in 1929/30; he also held at one time the post of President of the District Court of Boudry.

During the second world war, he was appointed commander of the 2nd division, in succession to Colonel Borel; he had held previously the commands of the 8th Neuchâtel regiment, and the 3rd brigade.

Professor Hans Haefliger, in Solothurn, aged 40. In 1944, he was appointed teacher of German, political science and history at the "Kantonsschule", Solothurn, five years later (1949) he was elected rector of this school, and in 1951 the deceased became Professor of History at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Dr. Robert Herzog, founder of the "Schweizerischen Zentralstelle zur Bekämpfung des Alkoholismus", in Lausanne, at the age of 77.

Dr. Hermann Hagenbüchli, since 1942 States Prosecutor of the canton of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 50.

Paul Thüring, co-founder of the costume group "Ceux de Genève", in Geneva, at the age of 53.

Heinrich Richner, "Kreispostdirektor", and from 1944-1952 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town, in Basle, aged 62.

Camille Barbey, Manager of the railway Yverdon-St. Croix, in Geneva, aged 63.

Dr. Oscar Schulthess, from 1924-1937, Manager of CIBA, in Basle, at the age of 82.

George Aebi, well-known composer, a teacher at the secondary school for boys in Fribourg and for 15 years conductor of the "Landwehr" band of Fribourg, aged 51.

Auguste Devouan, a former President of the Municipal Council of Geneva, and administrator of the old "Kursaal" of Geneva, at the age of 78.

Pastor, Dr. Basile Mastronardi, for 17 years a preacher at the hospitals in Berne and Bienne, and previously pastor in Neuchâtel, Les Bayard and the French Protestant parish in Lucerne. The deceased was also a teacher at the theological faculty of the University of Neuchâtel— He died in Berne, aged 74.

Max Burger, cigar manufacturer, in Menziken, (Ct. Aargau), at the age of 66.

Paul Mäder, co-partner in the "Internationalen Transport und Speditionsfirma, Jacky Mäder & Co." Basle, in Basle aged 55. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced in the Swiss Press:

Léon Morf of Pully (80), from 1905-1911, Director of the Superior commercial school in Lausanne; from 1911-1943 Professor at the "Ecole des hautes études" of the University of Lausanne, of which he was its Director from 1911-1925.

Jakob, Ulrich Graf of Chur (80), from 1924-1938, Director of the Chur Postal District, and Central President of the "Verbandes Schweiz Postbeamter" from 1906-1908.

Dr. Georges Ott of Basle (60), lawyer and notary, President of the "Basler Advokatenkammer", and since 1944 a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town [A.T.S.]

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1952:

Gewerbekasse, Baden: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);  
Gewerbebank, Zurich: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);  
Schweizerische Spar- und Kreditbank, St. Gall: 4½ per cent (1951: 4½%);  
Schweizerische Hypothekenbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);  
Schweizerische Bodenkredit-Anstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent (1951: 6%);  
Leihkasse Neumünster, Zurich: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);  
Bündner Privatbank, Chur: 4 per cent (1951: 4%);  
Solothurner Handelsbank: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);  
Gewerbekasse, Bern: 7 per cent (1951: 7%);  
Schweizerische Volksbank: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);  
Volksbank, Willisau, A.G.: 5 per cent (1951: 5%);

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Bank in Burgdorf: 6 per cent (1951: 6%); St. Gallische Creditanstalt: 8 per cent (1951: 7%); Leu & Co., Zurich: 6 per cent (1951: 6%). [A.T.S.]

The following traffic accidents during the year 1952, are reported: *Ct. Zug*: 370 accidents, 9 persons killed, and 256 injured; *Ct. Lucerne*: 1,588 accidents, 48 persons killed, and 1,021 injured; *Ct. Uri*: 202 accidents, 13 persons killed, and 128 injured; *Ct. Grisons*: 814 accidents, 26 persons killed, and 390 injured; *Ct. Zurich*: 8,857 accidents, 135 killed, and 4,059 injured. [A.T.S.]

The independence of the Swiss Pays de Vaud was proclaimed in Lausanne on January 24th, 1798, when the régime of the Bernese bailiffs came to an end, but it was not until April 14th, 1803, that the new Canton of Vaud was constituted with the Small Council (the executive power), which later took the name of the State Council, and the 180-member Grand Council (legislative power).

This important date in the history of the region will be marked in Lausanne on April 14th, 1953, with celebrations that also co-incide with the swearing-in of the deputies to the Grand Council, who will be elected on March 1st for a four year term of office. The deputies will form a procession headed by the members of the Federal Council (the Swiss Cabinet) and members of the national Parliament. All other Swiss cantons will be represented by their magistrates preceded by cantonal officials.

The ceremony will be held in Lausanne's magnificent gothic cathedral, where the deputies will take their usual oath. In the afternoon there will be a

procession consisting of young people from all parts of the canton. There will be special publications in honour of the occasion and, as in the Canton of St. Gall, a special coin will be struck. Different celebrations, the nature of which will depend on local conditions, will be held all over the canton on Sunday, April 12th.

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

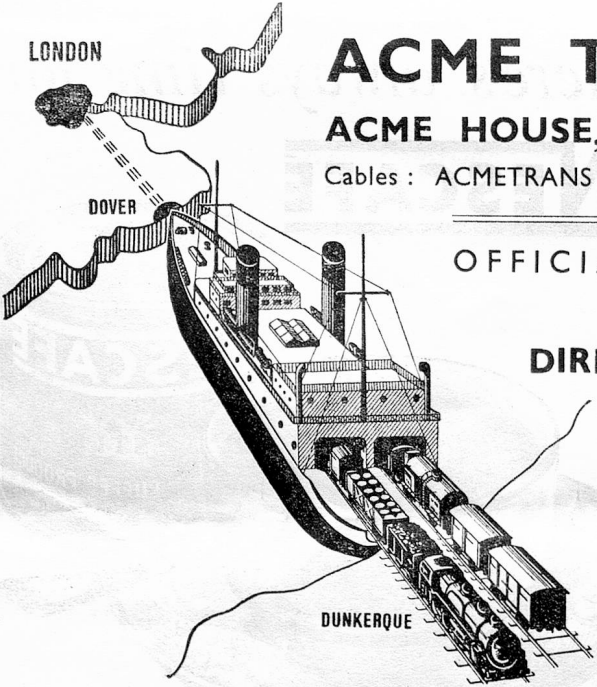
"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Une maison zurichoise vient de mettre au point une méthode nouvelle et très rapide pour la stérilisation de l'eau. Ce procédé repose sur l'effet nocif pour les bactéries des ions d'argent. L'appareil construit à cet usage permet de stériliser l'eau sur place.

Une fabrique suisse de chocolat a créé un emballage hermétique au moyen de fortes feuilles d'aluminium scellées à chaud. Il est imperméable aux odeurs et présente toute garantie contre l'humidité, la chaleur et les insectes.

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Les dispositifs Longines pour la mesure du temps dans les concours sportifs, connus dans le monde entier pour leur précision et leur sûreté, ont été employés, dans le seul mois de janvier, dans dix manifestations internationales, suisses ou régionales.



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