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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

No sooner had the alarming news of the terrible disasters in Great Britain, Holland and Belgium become known in our country, than Federal, Cantonal and Local authorities, as well as private bodies, started collections.

As reported in our last issue the Federal Council has made a first donation of 100.000.— frs. to the Swiss Red Cross, and the "Chain of Solidarity" sponsored by Radio Lausanne, has collected so far over 2½ million francs.

Up till last week the following donations had been published in the Swiss Press: Swiss Red Cross: 1 million francs; Government of the canton of Zurich: 100.000.— frs; Migros Genossenschaften: 160,925.— frs.; Evangelischer Kirchenbund: 50.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Berne: 30.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Aargau: 25.000.— frs.; Town of Berne: 10.000.— frs.; Town of Winterthur: 10.000.— frs.; Government of canton of Geneva: 10.000.— frs.; Schweizer Gewerkschaftsbund: 10.000.— frs.; Municipal Council, Lucerne: 5,000.— frs.; Genossenschaft Schweizer Mustermessen: 5.000.— frs.; Municipal Council, St. Gall: 5.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Valais: 5.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Neuchâtel: 5.000.— frs.; Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein: 2.000.— frs.; Town of La Chaux-de-Fonds: 2.000.— frs.

In addition to cash payments large quantities of clothing, mattresses, sheets, rugs, woollen materials, pillows and pillow cases, shoes and 500.000 sandbags have been flown by Swissair to England, Holland and Belgium.

Children from Holland and Belgium have been flown to Switzerland and will be cared for.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried during the month of December, 1952, 19.55 million passengers, 3.84 million more than in December, 1951. Receipts

from passenger traffic amount to 25.57 million francs. (Dec. 1951: 19.58 million francs).

Goods traffic shows a decrease of 185,000 tons, 1.54 million tons having been carried. Receipts: 30.9 million francs. (Dec. 1951: 33.26 million francs.)

Cantonal

Traffic accidents in the canton of Schwyz during the year of 1952 numbered 675. (1951: 530) 16 persons were killed and 40 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The population of the town of Zurich at the end of 1952 was returned as being 404,102. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Fritz Strich, Professor of German language and literature at the University of Berne, has been presented with the Göthe "Plakette" of the town of Frankfurt a M. The presentation was made by the "Oberbürgermeister" of the town of Frankfurt.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Pio de Meyer, a former surgeon-in-chief of the sanatoriums Mont Blanc and Chamossaire in Leysin and the "Kurhaus" at Bex, and a former Colonel of the Swiss Medical Corps, has celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary at Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Basle justice court has sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and 10 years' suppression of citizen's rights a former Nazi named Johannes Pauli, commander from 1944 to 1945 of Biesingen concentration camp in Württemberg, where out of 2,000 prisoners 535 died under Pauli's rule. When prisoners were called to assist in rescue work after Biesingen was bombed some prisoners, dying from hunger, took foodstuffs and

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Pauli shot one of them for looting, and under his orders two more were executed without judgement.

S.S. guards under Pauli's orders had already been sentenced to death in 1947 by a French military court and executed, but Pauli, remembering that his father was of Swiss origin took shelter in Switzerland. His counsel asked for Pauli's acquittal on the ground that Swiss courts were not competent, but the court overruled that claim. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The government of the canton of Vaud has declared the 14th of April to be a public holiday. On that day 150 years ago the canton entered into the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The gambling room at the Montreux Kursaal which was recently closed, owing to mismanagement, will be shortly re-opened. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Georges Chevallaz, Director of the teacher seminary of the canton of Vaud since 1927, has resigned his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Army Two Swiss soldiers were killed when an avalanche carried away a patrol on manoeuvres near Villars. A rescue party was quickly organised and, with the help of dogs, all the buried soldiers were dug out alive with the exception of two. The names of the dead are: Wm. Vitaly Rosset, Vallorbes, and Charles Zuchuat. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Mme. Ines Bolla, for many years head of the "Frauenarbeitsschule" of Lugano, and President of the Lyceum Club, in Lugano, at the age of 67.

Dr. Raymund Vieli, for 30 years teacher of Romantsch at the "Kantonsschule" Chur, and editor of the "Rätoromanischen Wörterbuch" in Chur, aged 58.

Walter Eckinger, Publisher of the "Wochenblattes des Bezirk Uster" and collaborator of the paper "Züribieter" Bassersdorf, in Dübendorf, at the age of 67.

Rudolf La Roche-Respinger, senior partner of the well-known banking concern, La Roche & Co. Basle, in Basle, aged 73.

Arnold Balzer, from 1912-1918, "Finanzvorstand" of the commune of Tablat, and from 1918-1924, a member of the "Stadtrat" of St. Gall, in St. Gall, at the age of 78.

Alfred Jaccard, a well-known watch technician, in Geneva, aged 87.

Th. Geisendorf-des Gouttes, who played a leading rôle in the Y.M.C.A. movement. The deceased had been since 1918, General Secretary of the International Committee of Y.M.C.A., in Geneva, at the age of 79.

Hans Badrutt, well-known Hotelier of St. Moritz, in St. Moritz, aged 76.

Edwin Wehrli, Secretary of the "Verbandes für innere Mission", President of the "Kirchenpflege" Fraumünster, Zurich, and from 1925-1946, secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 56.

Louis Bise, President of the District Court of the Saane, and a judge at the cantonal Court, in Fribourg, aged 58.

Dr. Karl Glenck, a lawyer and notary, and member of the Board of the Chemical Works "Schweizerhalle", Basle, in Basle, at the age of 80.

Dr. G. von Büren, lecturer of Botany at the University of Berne, in Berne aged 63.

Dr. Pierre Warnery, a medical practitioner, and from 1921-1945 a member of the Grand Council of the Canton of Vaud, in Morges, at the age of 78.

Dr. Guido Eigenmann, at one time President of the Swiss Railwaymen Association, and from 1912-1921, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, aged 78. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following Legacies are published in the Swiss Press:

The late Pietro Realini, industrialist of Stabio (Ct. Ticino) has left an amount of 115.000.— frs. to various charitable institutions in the canton of Ticino.

Mm. K. Fuchs, who died in 1952 at Wollerau-Hurden (Ct. Schwyz) left legacies amounting to 50.000.— frs. to a number of charitable institutions.

The late August Isler-Hüssy of Wohlem (Ct. Aargau) donated an amount of 10.000.— frs. to the school excursion fund of the commune of Waltenschwil. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press:

Ernst Kreidolf (90) of Berne, a well-known painter, and *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Berne.

Pastor Ernst Schnyder (80) of Schaffhausen, from 1910-1933, a preacher at the St. Johannes Church, Schaffhausen, and for the 20 years President of the "Kantonalen Landeskirche"; Pastor Schnyder is a keen collaborator of the Basle Mission.

E. Loepfe-Benz (75) of Rorschach, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, of the States Council (Ständerat), Editor and Publisher of the "Ostschweizerischen Tagblattes", and Publisher of the "Nebelspalter".

Dr. Vinzenz Winiker (70) of Lucerne, from 1913-1931, member of the Superior Court of Lucerne. In 1934, he entered the government of the canton of Lucerne. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne from 1925-1931, and since 1943 has been a member of Parliament. (National-Council).

Adolf Laubscher (65) of Berne, painter and author. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Lord Brabazon (aged 69) won the Seniors Cup on the Cresta Run in St. Moritz with a time of 152.1 secs for the three courses.

* * *

More than 20 main roads in Switzerland are blocked by snowdrifts accumulated by a freezing north wind, and 17 motorcars were abandoned on the road between Lausanne and Yverdon. Game is approaching villages and farmhouses for food, and measures have been taken for the provision of fodder near forests for hungry deer. For the first time for about 30 years chamois have been driven away from the high mountains by hunger and intense cold, and several herds have been seen roaming in the country a few miles north of Lausanne.