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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain**

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The British Minister in Berne, Sir Patrick Scrivener, has addressed a letter of thanks to the Swiss Foreign Minister, Monsieur M. Petitpierre, for the generous help which the Swiss people have given to the victims of the recent Flood disasters in Great Britain.

Monsieur A. Bentinck, the Dutch Minister in Berne has addressed a letter to the Swiss Government in which he expressed the warmest thanks of the Queen of Holland and her government for the great help the Swiss population has given to his country on the occasion of the Flood disasters.

The Federal Council has offered the traditional dinner to the heads of the accredited diplomatic missions in Berne. Amongst the guests were the members of the Federal Council *in corpore*, the Presidents of the Federal Supreme Court, the States and National Councils, the Mayor of the town of Berne and the President of the Municipal Council of Berne.

The Italian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Egidio Reale, held a reception at the Italian Legation, in honour of the Papal Nuncio, Mgr. Filippo Bernardini, accredited since 1935 to Berne, who is shortly vacating his post.

Amongst those present were: Federal-Councillor Petitpierre, former Federal-Councillors Minger, Pilet-Golaz and von Steiger, Federal Chancellor Oser, Schmucki, President of the States Council, Minister Zehnder, the Bishop of Basle and Lugano, Mgr. von Streng, and a great number of diplomats headed by the French ambassador, M. Jean Chauvel.

Federal Judge Walter Leuenberger has tendered his resignation to take effect next month. Dr. Leuenberger was from 1921-1936 a member of the Supreme Court of the Canton of Berne, and in 1936 was elected a member of the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne.

The Swiss Government has announced its willingness to consider requests from foreign Governments that wish to raise their Berne legations to the rank of embassies.

By long-established tradition, Switzerland is represented abroad by ministers, and for this reason other countries have sent ministers plenipotentiary to Berne. The sole exception is France, who for three centuries has had an ambassador in Switzerland.

Several countries have expressed a wish to raise the status of their diplomatic missions in Berne, and the Swiss Government has decided that for reasons of international courtesy it can no longer ignore a practice that has become general. It is added that, as the transformation of Swiss legations abroad into embassies depends upon Parliament, the Federal Government could not at once apply the principle of reciprocity in the matter, but subject to the decision of Parliament, would be favourable to taking similar action later.

### Cantonal

Walter Kälin (aged 37) of Einsiedeln has been elected "Kantonsoberförster" in succession to the late National Councillor, Kaspar Knobel (Schwyz). The new "Oberförster" is the son of the former "Landammann" Karl Kälin of Einsiedeln. [A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. H. Hediger, Director of the Zoological Gardens in Basle, has accepted the post of Director of the Zoological Gardens in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The theological faculty of the University of Zurich has bestowed the title of doctor of theology on Hans, Jakob Rinderknecht, the founder and head of the "Reformierten Heimstätte Boldern." [A.T.S.]

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Madame Eugénie Frésey of Grandvillard (Ct. Fribourg) has celebrated the 102nd birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Professor, Dr. Rud. Geigy, head of the Swiss Tropical Institute, Basle, has been nominated "membre d'honneur" of the "Société Belge de Médecine Tropicale." [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Zug for the year 1952 close with a credit Balance of 102.180.— frs. Those of the canton of Aargau close with a credit Balance of 1 million frs. [A.T.S.]

The cashier of the "Darlehenskasse, Herdern-Hüttwilen (Ct. Thurgau) has been sentenced to two years imprisonment for embezzling 75.000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Nello Celio, has been nominated President of the government of the canton of Ticino, and M. Adolfo Janner, its Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Ticino has decided to celebrate on May 24th next, the 150th anniversary of the entrance of the canton into the Confederation. [A.T.S.]

An employee of a Lausanne Transport firm, who was sent to the Bank to pay in an amount of 10.000.— frs., has disappeared. [A.T.S.]

Playing with fire-arms had tragic consequences when three boys from Lugano went for shooting practice to a wood above Viganello. One of the boys accidentally injured his comrade who was taken to a house near-by, but it was found that he was only slightly wounded. A few moments later a shot was heard, and the boy, who had caused the injuries, was found dying having thought that he had caused the death of his friend. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Francis Messerli, physician-in-chief of the Health Service of Lausanne, since 1917, will shortly vacate his post. Dr. Messerli has been since 1919, a lecturer at the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1952, 912 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Neuchâtel. (1951: 804). 650 persons were injured and 24 killed. 78 drivers were deprived of their licence, 60 being on account of drunkenness.(!) [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Robert Piguet, famous *Couturier* in Lausanne, at the age of 55. The deceased, a son of M. Armand Piguet, banker of Yverdon and National-Councillor, founded in 1933, at the Rond Point, Champs-Élysées, Paris, a fashion house, which became one of the best-known establishments of this kind in the French Metropolis, employing over 400 workhands. For reasons of health Piguet was obliged in 1951 to close down.

Mlle. Dr. phil. Pauline Long, since 1922, a lecturer of History of Music at the University of Geneva, in Geneva.

Albert Klausfelder, Vice-President of the "Société de l'imprimerie Klausfelder, S.A. Vevey", in Vevey, aged 79.

Jules Huber, Director of the "Weberei Wallenstadt", and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, in Wallenstadt, at the age of 69. The deceased obtained the rank of Colonel of artillery in the army.

Dr. Karl Ibach, a lawyer and member of the Appeal Court, Basle, in Basle, aged 62.

Antoine Aubert, for many years Professor of Theology at the University of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel.

Edouard Morel, from 1917-1932, President of the commune of Montricher, and from 1921-1948, a member of the Grand Council, at Cossonay, aged 75.

Dr. Hermann Balsiger, a former President of the Superior Court of Zurich, and for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" and "Gemeinderat" Zurich, in Lugano, at the age of 76.

Henri Vaucher, painter, in Les Verrières, aged 67.

Charles Haenni, for over 50 years, organist at the "Stadtkirche" of Sitten, and composer of masses and operas, in Sitten, at the age of 86.

Dr. Karl Frei, a former Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Landesmuseum", Zurich, and Editor of the "Zeitschrift für schweizerische Archäologie und Kunstgeschichte", in Zurich, at the age of 62.

Jules, Edouard Gottret, Editor of the "Courier de Genève" and President of the commune of Veyrier, member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva. The deceased sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1919-1947. He died in Geneva, aged 88.

## THE SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR BASLE — APRIL 11th to 21st, 1953

THIS Fair provides the foreign visitor with an impressive picture of Switzerland's intensive industrial activity in its most varied forms.

Full information from the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, London, W.1, or the Swiss Consulate, 53, Spring Gardens, Manchester 2. Details of travel arrangements and currency allowance from any leading Travel Agency or the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458/9, Strand, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Professor, Dr. Zareh Cheridjan, a well-known specialist for ear-nose and throat diseases, and formerly Professor at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced in the Swiss Press:

Dr. h.c. Robert Sulzer (80) of Winterthur, for over 50 years a member of the Management of the concern Gebrüder Sulzer, Winterthur. In the year of 1941, he was honoured with the title of *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich.

Dr. Karl Jaspers (70) of Basle, since 1948 Professor of Philosophy at the University of Basle, and author of a great number of scientific works. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following Legacies and Donations are reported from Switzerland:

The late Dr. Paul Vogt, dentist of Solothurn has left an amount of 250,000.—frs. to the "Bürgerspital" Solothurn.

Director Ad. Dätwyler-Gamma of Altdorf has, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, donated an amount of 100,000.—frs. towards the costs of the new cantonal hospital.

The firm "St. Galler Feinwebereien, A.G." Schmerikon, Eschenbach and Neuhaus has, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its foundation given an amount of 100,000.—frs. to the old age fund of the firm. [A.T.S.]

The following couple has celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. A. Ruf-Dreyfus of Basle. Mr. & Mrs. G. Bretscher-Liggenstorfer of Zurich have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary. (65). [A.T.S.]

The members of the staff of the Watch Manufacturing works "Longines", St. Imier, have agreed to work for a week, two hours overtime. The amount of the overtime amounting to 6,000.—frs. was handed over to the Swiss Red Cross for the victims of the Flood disasters in England, Holland and Belgium.

The Board of the Longines concern had already given an amount of 10,000.—frs. for the same purpose. [A.T.S.]

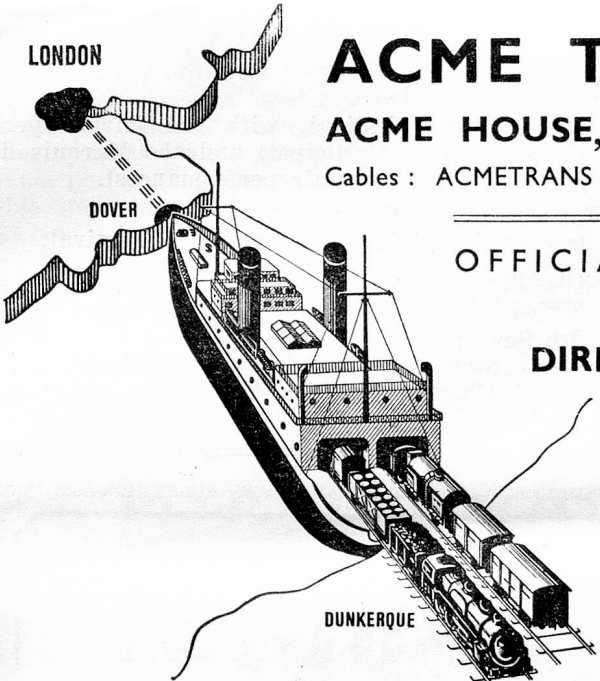
The "Verband Schweiz. Konsumvereine" has sent a first consignment of boots and shoes to the value of 33,000.—frs. to the victims of the Floods in Holland. [A.T.S.]

A collection by the Radio Basel amongst the Hotel guests in Arosa for the victims of Floods in Great Britain, Belgium and Holland has brought in 10,500.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1952: Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Zurich: 8 per cent; Kredit-Anstalt, Zurich: 8 per cent, (1951: 7%); Banque populaire de la Gruyère, Bulle: 6 per cent. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Shooting Competition will take place in Lausanne from the 7th — 25th July, 1954.

[A.T.S.]



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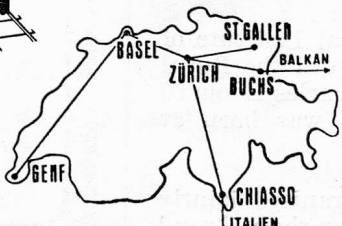
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Between the 4th and 15th February, Swissair has transported more than 21 tons of gift parcels and aid materials to Holland, Belgium and England.

Swissair also assisted in the transportation of sandbags to England. In three days around six tons of jute sacks were transported on several flights from Kloten to London.

\* \* \*

The Akademische Alpen Klub, of Zürich, is sponsoring a new Swiss Himalayan expedition to the western mountains of Nepal, where there are several peaks above 24,000ft. The expedition proposes to climb in the spring Dhaulagiri (26,826ft.), which was approached by a French expedition in 1950. This attempt will be by a ridge that reaches the peak on the western side.

The leader of the expedition is Mr. Bernard Lauterburg, who made ascents in the Cordillera Blanca in 1948, and the other climbers will be Mr. Hannes Huss, Mr. R. Schatz, Mr. Mark Eichelsberger, and Mr. Peter Braun, all expert Alpinists. The technical preparation is in the hands of Mr. André Roch, who took part in the first Everest expedition of last year. Mr. Pfisterer will go as doctor, and the Swiss geologist Mr. Tony Hagen will join the expedition in Nepal.

\* \* \*

The first passenger train from Interlaken to Brienz ran, near Oberried, into a big snow avalanche which had just fallen down to the lake shore. The shock was violent; 12 persons were slightly and one seriously injured, and the material damage was considerable.

\* \* \*

Between now and the end of March, the Swiss Federal Railways are testing two new twin-axle Diesel railcars which have been loaned by the German Railways. The modern, lightweight railcars are fitted with third-class compartments only, and each is accompanied by a twin-axle trailer. Seats are upholstered, and have moveable backs. The trailers themselves have small luggage compartments. It is stated that these vehicles have already proved their worth on non-electrified lines in other countries. The Swiss Federal Railways hope that, for a limited use on certain routes, they will be a useful addition to Switzerland's rolling stock.

\* \* \*

Before the British Everest Expedition left for India, its leader Major John Hunt, accompanied by the team's medical officer, Dr. R. C. Evans, went to Zurich where they were guests of the Swiss Alpine Research Foundation. They had a number of vital talks with the organisers of last year's two Swiss expeditions to Everest, and were given useful information for the new attempt at conquering the famous mountain.

\* \* \*

On the recommendation of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Queen has awarded the Royal Gold Medal for 1953 to Le Corbusier (Charles-Edouard Jeanneret), the famous architect who was born at Neuchâtel.

\* \* \*

The success of the competition organised jointly by the cities of Geneva and Lausanne for the "Grand Prix Théâtral" has been greater than was ever hoped

for when the event was first announced. The secretariat has received a total of 536 manuscripts, of which 369 came from France, 70 from Switzerland, 69 from Belgium, and 15 from Algiers. The reading of this large number of works has already started, but because of the unexpected response the first meeting of the judges, planned to be held in Paris this month, has been postponed to the beginning of April. The names of the successful competitors will be announced in June, and the prize-winning work will be performed in both Lausanne and Geneva during the 1953-4 season.

\* \* \*

#### EVENTS, SUMMER 1953.

19th April:

Zurich. "Sechseläuten" Children's Procession.

20th April:

Zurich. "Sechseläuten". Zurich Spring Festival. Procession of the Guilds and burning of the "Böög" (straw-man).

26th April:

Lucerne. International Horse Show and Jumping Competition.

20th/24th May:

Bellinzona. 150th Anniversary of Ticino's entry into the Confederation. Official celebrations, procession, popular rejoicing.

4th June:

Corpus Christi Feast. Especially impressive processions at each of five resorts mentioned. Also at: Saas-Fee, Vitznau, Wil, Estavayer-le-Lac, Romont, Bulle, Guin/Düdingen, Châtel-St. Denis, Porrentruy, as well as in other Roman Catholic localities.

12th and 19th June:

Berne. 600th Anniversary of Berne's entry into the Confederation. Official celebrations, processions, popular festival.

June:

Lausanne. June Festival, with the Paris Opera Ballets (Théâtre Municipal) and the Marquis de Cuevas' Ballets (open-air performances).

20th June (possibly 27th):

Lucerne Lake Night — and Popular Festival.

8th/30th August:

Lucerne. International Festival of Music.

16th/19th Sept.:

Lucerne International Federation of the Association of Chemists of the Textile and Dyestuff Branch.

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