

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: 1201

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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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. 1201.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27th, 1953.

PRICE 11D.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	{ 6 issues, post free 6/- 12 issues, post free 11/6 24 issues, post free 21/-
SWITZERLAND	{ 12 issues, post free Frs. 7.— 24 issues, post free Frs. 13.50

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto
Basle V 5718).



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Belgian Minister in Berne, Vicomte de Landsheere, in a letter addressed to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, has conveyed the thanks of the Belgian Government to the Swiss people for the generous help given to the victims of the recent Flood disasters.

The departing Papal Nuncio in Berne, Mgr. Philipp Bernardini, who has been appointed secretary of the *Congregation de propaganda fide* in Rome, held a fare-well reception at the "Nuntiatur" in Berne. Amongst those who attended were: Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor, Dr. M. Feldmann, former Federal Councillors, Dr. J. Baumann, R. Minger, E. von Steiger, Minister Dr. W. Stucki, representatives of the University of Fribourg, the army and of Industry and Commerce as well as a great number of diplomats accredited to the Confederation.

Mgr. Gustavo Testa has been appointed Papal Nuncio in Berne in succession to Mgr. Bernardini, (accredited since 1935 to the Confederation).

The new Nuncio was born in 1886 at Boltiere near Bergamo. He was ordained as a priest in 1910. Since 1934, he has been titular arch-bishop of Amasea. He was formerly *en poste* in Cairo, Jerusalem and other Eastern countries.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during January, 1953, 17.12 million passengers, or 966.000 less than during the same period in 1952.

Goods traffic has diminished by 238,000 tons and is returned as 1.37 million tons carried. (Jan. 1952: 1.60 million tons). Receipts: 26.73 million frs. (Jan. 1952: 30.16 million frs.)

Customs receipts for the month of February, 1953, amounted to 43.4 million francs, or 0.3 million frs. more than during the same period in 1952.

Cantonal

A young man entered a grocer's shop in the Spitalstrasse Lucerne, where he purchased several articles. When the proprietress of the shop, a Mrs. Mathilde Lustenberger, turned her back to the customer in order to get some of the goods, he suddenly attacked her, trying to choke her, and also wounding her with a knife. Although badly hurt, the woman was able to call for help, upon which the aggressor decamped. He was later on arrested and identified as Pius, Gottfried Küng, of Küssnacht. (Rigi). [A.T.S.]

Four alpinists from Zurich, on the way to the Cadlimo hut above Airolo, were overtaken by a heavy blizzard, two of them were swept by the wind over the Froda precipice and killed. The names of the victims are: August Schraner, (Zurich) care-taker, aged 62, and Josef Deschmann, care-taker, aged 50. The other two, took shelter amongst some rocks where they spent the night, the next day they reached Airolo completely exhausted and suffering from frostbite. [A.T.S.]

The town of Zurich is to have a two-storey car park 35ft. below the river Limmat. Cost will be £1,250,000. [A.T.S.]

Dr. J. B. Noser (Oberurnen) a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Glarus, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

On the 6th of March 1953, 600 years ago Berne concluded an eternal alliance with the "Ur" cantons. (Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden). This historical event was duly observed in Berne, but the public festivities

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