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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.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

On the conclusion of the Geneva Conference the following have sent telegrams to the President of the Swiss Confederation, thanking the Swiss Government and the Swiss people for the hospitality they have enjoyed in our country: Monsieur Pham Van Dong, head of the Vietnam Democratic Republic, Monsieur V. M. Molotov, Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., Monsieur Tscha En-lais, Prime Minister of the Chinese Republic.

The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Jean Chauvel, has called on Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, to express on behalf of Monsieur Pierre Mendès-France, head of the French Government, his appreciation for the hospitality extended to the French Delegation.

The Federal Council has issued a decree, prohibiting the wearing of foreign military uniform on Swiss territory. Exempt are members of the diplomatic corps, and the crews of foreign military machines flying over Swiss territory or effecting landings.

The population of Switzerland at the beginning of this year numbered 4,904,000 inhabitants.

A commercial treaty between Switzerland and Czechoslovakia has been signed at Prague.

In the first six months of the current year the Customs receipts totalled 335.62 million francs, or 31.77 million francs more than during the same period in 1953.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried in June 1954, 16.75 million passengers or 654,000 more than in June, 1953. Receipts: 27.39 million francs. (June, 1953: 26.33 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.88 million tons, which exceeds last year's figures by 966,000 tons. Receipts: 34.30 million francs. (June, 1953: 32.31 million francs).

#### Cantonal

Various fatal mountaineering accidents have occurred in the Bernese Oberland. O. Keiser, builder's foreman of Zurich lost his life on an ascent on the Eiger. On the Stockhorn, M. H. Bracher slipped while picking edelweiss and fell 500 feet to his death. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Theodor Stauffer (46) of Homberg (Ct. Berne) has been appointed Manager of the Airport Basle-Mulhouse, in succession to Mr. Ch. Koepke, who has relinquished his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the "Dornacher Schlachtfest" anniversary a commemorative tablet, the work of the sculptor H. Münger (Gretzenbach) was unveiled in the "Burghof" of the ruined castle of Dornach in memory of Vogt Benedikt Hugi, who had gallantly defended the castle in 1499. [A.T.S.]

The heirs of the late Ernst Abraham Preisig, who recently died at Gais (Ct. Appenzell, A.Rh.) have given an amount of 20,000. — francs for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

The late Alfred Schär of Wil (Ct. St. Gall) has left the sum of 10,000. — francs to the "Krankenhaus" Wil. [A.T.S.]

P. Beeli (18) of Samedan (Engadine) was killed on a rock-climbing excursion. [A.T.S.]

Villagers armed with pitchforks and scythes surrounded a group of tourists at Brissago (Ct. Ticino) on orders of the Mayor, after some had protested against the shorts and low neck-line of girls in the party. [A.T.S.]

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M. Georges Peillex has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the "Tribune de Lausanne" in succession to M. R. Monnet, who has retired from the post. [A.T.S.]

Professor Sauser-Hall, Professor of Law at the University of Geneva has resigned from his post. He lectured from 1911-1924 as "Privat-Dozent" and since 1934 as Professor. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland :

E. Bebler-Kling, formerly General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Rückversicherungsgesellschaft" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 71. Born in 1883, he received his early training at Basle, and later gained wider experience in Paris and London, entering the service of the "Schweiz. Rückversicherungsgesellschaft" in 1913. He joined the board of management in 1919, and was appointed general manager in 1932. The deceased was deeply interested in literature, and his studies of Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, Gottfried Kinkel, Gottfried Keller and Ludmilla Assing are widely esteemed.

Paul Huguenin-Davoine, technical manager of the firm Huguenin frères, Le Locle, in Le Locle, aged 72. Adolf Tschudi, President of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Italy (Head Office Milan) in Flims, where he was on holiday at the age of 63.

Professor René Bray, Professor of French literature at the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 58.

François-Louis Schulé, from 1891-1934, Editor-in-Chief of the "Feuilles d'Avis de Neuchâtel" in Neuchâtel, at the age of 89.

Hans Kasper, well-known mountain guide, and President of the Association of Swiss Guides, at Pontresina, aged 70.

Pastor Adolf Frey, formerly rector of the "Diakonissenhaus" Berne (1918-1944) in Berne, at the age of 76.

Mme. Adèle Zettler-Coulin, of Couvet (Ct. Neuchâtel) at the age of 100.

Johann Hangartner-Thür, the oldest inhabitant of Wil (Ct. St. Gall) in Wil aged 98. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press :

Dr. Vital Schwander (70) of Siebnen (Ct. Schwyz), since 1932 a member of the Government of the canton Schwyz.

Dr. Robert Boehringer (70) of Basle, Chemist,

writer and head of the "Commission mixte de Secours de la Croix rouge". [A.T.S.]

An exhibition of 1,000 dolls will be held in the Neuchâtel Fine Arts Museum from August 25th to September 15th, 1954.

The dolls and marionettes, ancient and modern are being lent by French, Dutch, Canadian and Swiss museums amongst others [A.T.S.]

Switzerland beat Japan in an international gymnastics match at Lucerne by 288.1 points to 287.4.

Insurance policies against rainy holidays have been introduced for the first time in Switzerland. The insurance company undertakes to reimburse travel and hotel expenses in case of bad weather.

The Saint Bernards are safe. There is absolutely no foundation for the spate of rumours that the giant dogs which take their name from the hospice of St. Bernard in the Swiss Alps will no longer be bred there.

Promoted doubtless by the widespread affection evoked by the sad-eyed mastiffs which have gained undying fame by rescuing people lost in the snowdrifts of the Alpine passes, the rumours included one report that the Vatican had directed the breed to be suppressed after nearly a thousand years.

The rumours, which have cropped up repeatedly over a period of years in various forms, have once again been exposed as entirely baseless in a reply given by the Canons of the Great St. Bernard Monastery.

The truth about the Saint Bernards as set down by the monks of the monastery on top of the pass between Switzerland and Italy was summarized as follows :

The dogs, formerly used for rescue work in the mountains, have not participated in such operations for a long time — because there has been no one to save.

The monks at present have six grown dogs and 12 puppies.

Formerly, the monastery was the sole centre for training dogs for rescue work. However, when the Swiss Army began to use dogs during the period of avalanches, it, too, began to train dogs.

The monks keep the dogs also for breeding purposes, exporting puppies to France, Germany, Italy, Africa and the United States.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

The next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, 14th September, 1954**, at the **DORCHESTER HOTEL, W.1.**

Our guest of honour at the Dinner (7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.) will be SIR STANLEY ROUS, C.B.E., Secretary of the Football Association.

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Other kinds of dogs besides Saint Bernards have been used for rescue work in winter — German Shepherds, for example—and all dogs are known generally as Avalanche Dogs.

Formerly Saint Bernards functioned as Avalanche Dogs. At present they are no longer trained for such operations, since the region around the monastery is not frequented in winter.

Neither the monks of the monastery nor anyone else intends to suppress the breed of Saint Bernards.

\* \* \* \* \*

New air fares to Switzerland to be introduced jointly by B.E.A. and Swissair during the coming winter sports season will be 15 per cent. cheaper than the present low-priced night fares.

From mid-December to the end of March, a 23-day excursion fare between London and Geneva will cost £18 4s. return against the present night fare of £21, and a similar fare between London and Zurich will cost £19 7s. saving three guineas.

The fares will be good for travel on night flights operated at week-ends by both airlines.

\* \* \* \* \*

Switzerland may start construction of its first private-controlled atomic power scheme next year, it was revealed in Berne. A spokesman of a Swiss firm said a consortium of Switzerland's biggest producers of electrical equipment have received approval in principle from the Government to proceed with their plans to build a £1,700,000 nuclear reactor for studies on peaceful uses of atomic energy.

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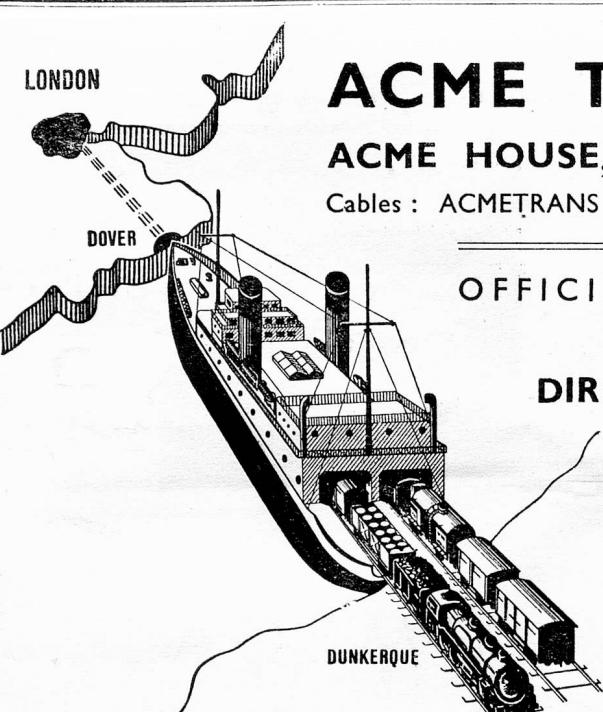
*The Swiss Comptoir Lausanne.* This national Autumn Trade and Agricultural Fair will be held

this year from September 11th to 26th. The permanent buildings of the "Comptoir" have been extensively enlarged in the last two years. Furthermore, finishing touches are being given to a new permanent Theatre accommodating 2,000 spectators and endowed with a very large stage (25.5 metres wide, 13 metres in depth) allowing for the production of musicals, operas, comedies, festival plays and the like, on a grand scale.

*10th Musical Competition, Geneva.* Over 1,300 inquiries and 50 applications have arrived from 17 different countries at the Secretariat of the 10th International Musical Competition, to be held from September 20th to October 3rd, 1954, in Geneva. The governments of Austria, Italy, Poland and Yugoslavia have announced that they are entering officially several young candidates.

*New aerial cabins and chairlifts.* The Federal Post and Railway Department has licensed the S.A. Eggli-Funi Company at Gstaad to replace their sleigh tow, known as the Gstaad-Eggli Funi, by a chairlift; the old installation is now out-of-date and can no longer meet the heavy demands made upon it.

On Saturday, June 26th, the Unterbäch-Brandalp Chairlift was inaugurated. This new installation is replacing the former skilift and transports passengers from 3,390 ft. above sea level to 5,100 ft. Unterbäch is also connected with Rarogne in the Valais, on the Swiss Federal Railway line, by a cabin line. It must be stressed that Unterbäch, which until recently was quite a small village in the Valais, is now being developed into a resort; the view from the terminal station of



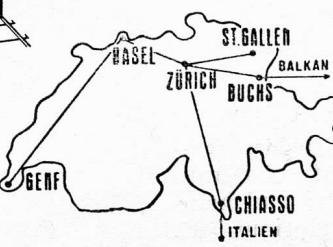
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the new chairlift extends over the range of the Bernese Alps.

In June also were inaugurated two new chairlifts at Villars-Chesières (Villars-sur-Ollon). The line which formerly connected the Black Lake (Lac Noir) has been extended to the Chavonnes Lake, from the Col de Bretaye (4,750 ft. above sea level). The upper terminal station is situated at 6,448 ft. and the lower one at 5,118 ft. The second new chairlift connects the small Lake of Bretaye (5,355 ft.) to the top of the Petit Chamossaire (6,090 ft.), where a magnificent view is obtained. Above the Petit Chamossaire rises the Chamossaire itself (6,348 ft.) which is connected to the Col de Bretaye by a skilift starting from the terminal station of the Villars-Bretaye rack-railway.

*The Geneva School of Interpreters.* This internationally famous School was founded in 1941 and today has a student roll of 550. The staff is composed of 45 professors teaching 24 languages. The school is equipped with a special hall allowing for training in ten different languages simultaneously. Students at this school are trained in view of appointments in international organizations and for work at the many polyglot and international congresses and sessions held in Geneva, the European Centre of the UNO.

*Swiss Health Resorts.* According to a publication issued by the Swiss Health Resort Association, it is proposed to classify Swiss health resorts as follows:

*Low altitude health resorts, mild climate:* Locarno-Orselina and neighbourhood (altitude 672 to 1,496 ft.), Ascona (682 ft.), Brissago (695 ft.), Lugano and neighbourhood (909 to 1,312 ft.), Melide (909 ft.), Montreux and neighbourhood (1,312 to 2,296 ft.), Weggis (1,456 ft.), Ragaz (1,709 ft.), Tesserete (1,745 ft.), Sierre (1,771 ft.), Gunten (1,853 ft.), Interlaken (1,866 ft.), Sonn-Matt (Lucerne) (1,968 ft.).

*Sub-Alpine health resorts, mildly invigorating climate:* Lausanne (1,246 to 2,207 ft.), Vevey and neighbourhood (1,263 to 2,126 ft.), Langenbruck (2,339 ft.), Aegeri (2,394 ft.), Heiden (2,660 ft.), Bürgenstock (2,886 ft.), Seewis i. Prättigau (3,162 ft.), Château d'Oex (3,313 ft.), Engelberg (3,346 ft.), St. Cergue (3,421 ft.), Gstaad (3,444 ft.), Grindelwald (3,467 ft.), Lenk (3,510 ft.).

*High altitude health Resorts, invigorating climate:* Flims (3,772 ft.), Beatenberg (3,836 ft.), Klosters (3,965 ft.), Churwalden (4,038 ft.), Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera (4,110 ft.), Wengen (4,182 ft.), Leysin (4,428 ft.), Adelboden (4,451 ft.), Sedrun (4,581 ft.), Loèche-Les-Bains (4,628 ft.), Wiesen (4,720 ft.), Champex (4,821 ft.), Lenzerheide (4,854 to 4,953 ft.), Montana (4,920 ft.), Davos (5,116 to 6,100 ft.), Arosa (5,740 to 6,232 ft.), Pontresina (5,914 ft.).

*High-altitude health resorts, very invigorating climate:* Rigi-Kaltbad (4,700 ft.), Zermatt (5,330 ft.), Celerina (5,655 ft.), St. Moritz (5,773 to 6,088 ft.), Sils Maria (5,894 ft.), Silvaplana (5,956 ft.), Bettmeralp (6,415 ft.).

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 11th, 1954. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: E. E. Rognon, C. Filliez, E. Eha.

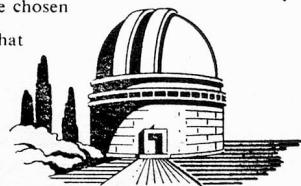
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