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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, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Swiss electorate has accepted by a large majority the new Finance Scheme for 1955/58, after having previously rejected it twice.

Here are the particulars of the poll:

	Yes	No
Zürich .....	107,012	39,271
Bern .....	67,245	21,850
Luzern .....	21,528	9,438
Uri .....	4,173	843
Schwyz .....	5,166	3,179
Obwalden .....	1,831	576
Nidwalden .....	2,308	736
Glarus .....	4,852	1,665
Zug .....	4,836	2,780
Fribourg .....	8,617	3,625
Solothurn .....	16,777	6,727
Baselstadt .....	16,712	9,267
Baselland .....	10,517	4,615
Schaffhausen .....	9,918	3,395
Appenzell A.Rh. ....	5,990	2,752
Appenzell I.Rh. ....	1,166	484
St. Gallen .....	36,739	14,611
Graubünden .....	13,684	3,548
Aargau .....	47,164	20,768
Thurgau .....	19,670	8,148
Ticino .....	7,722	3,307
Vaud .....	19,889	15,687
Valais .....	7,573	1,356
Neuchâtel .....	7,598	5,013
Genève .....	8,067	10,114
Total .....	456,754	193,755

45.2 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has announced the following appointments in the Swiss Diplomatic Service:

Dr. Friedrich Real to be Swiss Minister in Finland, in succession to Minister Anton Roy Ganz, who has been transferred to Persia. Dr. Robert Maurice

to be Swiss Minister in Brazil, replacing Minister Eduard Feer, who has been transferred to Athens.

Minister Real was born in 1909 at Arth (Ct. Schwyz). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Zurich, and at the "Institut universitaire des hautes études internationales", in Geneva. In 1938, he entered the Federal Political Department, and was sent to the Swiss Legation at Washington, where he was promoted in 1945 to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation. From 1946-1949, he occupied a post at the Federal Economic Department in Berne. Returning to Washington with the rank of Counsellor of Legation he became 1st in command after the Minister.

Minister Maurice, a citizen of Geneva was born in 1906. By profession a civil engineer, he was from 1930-1942 in the Belgian Congo in the mining industry. From 1940 onward he held the post as a delegate of the International Red Cross in the Congo. After his return to Switzerland he entered the Federal Political Department at the age of 36. In 1947, he was sent to the Swiss Legation in Portugal with the rank of Secretary of Legation. In 1951, M. Maurice was appointed Chef du Protocol in Berne, with the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

\* \* \*

The following foreign diplomats have presented their credentials to the President of the Confederation, and to M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister:

Monsieur Etienne Roland Dennery, as French Ambassador. He has been since 1950, Ambassador in Warsaw.

Monsieur Faik Zihmi Akdur, as Turkish Ambassador, he was formerly Ambassador in Madrid and Rome.

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Monsieur Hugh James McCann, as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Eire. He was since 1948 Commercial Counsellor at the Eire Legation in Washington.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during September, 1954, 18.85 million passengers, or 752,000 more than in September, 1953. Receipts: 28.52 million francs. (September, 1953: 27.40 million francs)

Goods traffic is returned as 1.89 million tons transported, which exceeds last year's figures by 133,000 tons. Receipts: 37.25 million francs. (September, 1953: 35.85 million francs.)

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of two heads in the Federal Justice and Police Departments, both having reached retiring age, namely: Dr. Emil Alexander, Chief of the Federal Justice Department, and Dr. Heinrich Rothmund, Chief of the Federal Police Department.

Dr. Alexander was born at Sent (Ct. Grisons) in 1889. He entered the Federal Justice Department in 1914 where he held several posts. In 1952, he was elected Head of the Department in succession to Dr. H. Kuhn.

Dr. Heinrich Rothmund, a citizen of St. Gall, was born in 1888. He took up an appointment in the Federal Administration in 1916. Three years later (1919) he was appointed Chief of the "Fremdenpolizei", and in 1929, Head of the Federal Police Department in succession to Professor Delaquis.

Sir Winston Churchill has sent the following telegram to General Henri Guisan: "I send you my warm congratulations on your 80th birthday".

The Federal Council has elected Dr. Fritz Lang to the post of Director of the "Schweiz. Unfallversicherungsanstalt" (SUVA) Lucerne, in succession to the late Dr. U. Oertli.

Dr. Lang was born in Zurich in 1902, and studied medicine at the University of Zurich, after which he held various posts at clinics both in Switzerland and abroad.

He entered into the service of the SUVA in 1932, and nineteen years later (1951) was appointed chief surgeon. Dr. Lang was also a lecturer at the Universities of Zurich and Basle. In the army he obtained the rank of Lieutenant-colonel of the Swiss Medical Corps.

Dr. med Antonio Serati, has been appointed chief physician (Oberbahnarzt) to the Swiss Federal Railways.

He was born at Lugano in 1916, where he received his schooling, after which he studied medicine at the University of Zurich. He held appointments at the SUVA, the cantonal hospital, Lucerne, and the Ospedale Civico in Lugano. In 1953, he entered into the service of the Swiss Federal Railways.

General and Madame H. Guisan were the guests of the Federal Council at a luncheon in the von Wattenwyl house in Berne.

The Swiss Government has announced that trade negotiations with Poland have ended in a deadlock.

Sir Chintaman Deshmukh, Indian Finance Minister, has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation in Berne.

Emperor Hailé Selassié of Abyssinia is paying an official visit to Switzerland on November 25th.

\* \* \*  
Mr. Walter Schurter, "Eidg. Oberbauinspektor" has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, on reaching retiring age.

For the same reason, Dr. Paul Vollenweider, Director of the Federal Health Office, is retiring at the end of this year.

### Cantonal

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Zurich Zoological Gardens, the administration has published a jubilee number, entitled: "25 Jahre Zoologischer Garten Zurich" by Karl Huber.

[A.T.S.]

Two persons were killed when a motor-car collided with a lorry between Selzach and Solothurn. The names of the victims are: Anton Ackermann (53) business representative of Grenchen, and Anton Schärli, business representative of Selzach. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Robert Bauder (Mett) a member of the Government of the canton of Berne, is entering Parliament (National Council) in succession to the late A. Seematter.

[A.T.S.]

A sports aeroplane crashed on the Chasseral near Biel. The pilot, Samuel Howald (40) of St. Imier, and his passenger, Luigi Veterol (32) also of St. Imier were killed.

[A.T.S.]

M. Jacques Waeber (34), clerk of the Court of the Saane District, has been appointed commander of the police force of the canton of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
Traffic accidents in the canton of Solothurn from July, 1st to September 30th, 1954, numbered 368. 243 persons were injured, and 8 succumbed to their injuries.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
The Grand Council of Basle Town voted in favour of modifying the canton's constitution to give women equal voting rights with men.

[A.T.S.]

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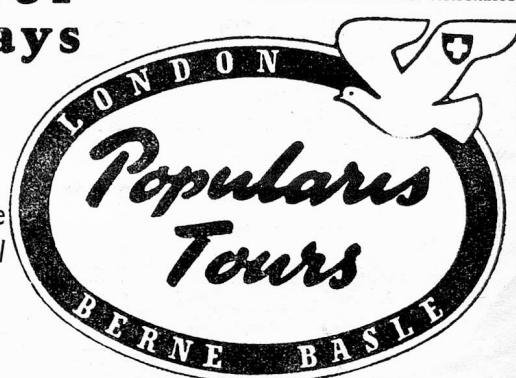
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The late Mlle. Luise Firchter of Dornach has left a legacy of 200,000.—frs. to the Zoological Gardens in Basle. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the "Schweiz. Mustermesse" has elected Dr. H. Hauswirth to be Manager of the Basle Fair, in succession to Professor Brogle, who is retiring from his post for reasons of health.

Dr. Hauswirth was born at Saanen (Bernese Oberland) in 1903, and is at present Vice-Director of the commercial section of the Federal Office of Economy. He studied History, Philology and Law at the Universities of Berne, Paris and London. [A.T.S.]

On a mountaineering excursion on the "Gacht-pass" in the "Churfürsten" district, Mr. Albert Schneider, aged 61, architect in Winterthur, lost his life. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Anna Bucher-Matter of Witterswil (Ct. Solothurn), the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Solothurn, has celebrated her 100th birthday, on which occasion she was presented with the traditional easy-chair. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Arnold Bollag-Rieder and his wife of Baden, who have recently died, have left various legacies, amounting to 100,000.—frs. to charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

The "Bündner" cantonal school has celebrated its 150th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The furniture factory of "Muller & Co., A.G." in Sirnach (Ct. Thurgau) has been completely destroyed by fire; 140 employees have been thrown out of work. The damage caused is considered to be about two million francs. [A.T.S.]

Using a public telephone box in Lausanne, a woman left her handbag containing twenty-one thousand franc notes. On returning to the box the bag and its contents had disappeared. [A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Geneva at the end of September, 1954, numbered 215,957. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Ernst Kunz, for 24 years Editor of the "Allgemeinen Anzeigers vom Zürichsee" in Wädenswil (Ct. Zurich) at the age of 64.

Dr. Ludwig Lehmann, for 20 years Professor at

the Teachers Seminary, Rorschach, in Rorschach, aged 69.

Albert Feller, since 1931 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 62.

Mme. Schmuziger, for many years President of the "Schweizerischen Evangelischen Verbandes für Frauenhilfe", in Aarau, aged 88..

Karl Furrer, from 1932-1944 a member of the Government of the canton of Uri, in Altdorf, at the age of 79.

Colonel Alphonse Cerf, in Delsberg, aged 78. The deceased held the following commands in the army: 22nd Battalion, 9th Regiment, and 20th Infantry Brigade.

Dr. Hermann Schollenberger, formerly a Professor at the "Oberrealschule", Zurich, and author of biographical works, in Zurich, at the age of 72.

Dr. med Ryncki, since 1953 chief physician of the Swiss Red Cross, in Fribourg, aged 59. The deceased practised for 30 years in Fribourg. In the army, he held the rank of Colonel in the Swiss Medical Corps.

August Jaeger, from 1921-1954, drawing-master at the "Kantonschule" Solothurn. He was well-known as an etcher.

Professor A. Rollier, pioneer of the sunlight treatment of tuberculosis, at Leysin, at the age of 80.

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique and Anglo-Swiss Society

### F I L M   S H O W

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Arnold Seematter, from 1934-1954, a member of the Government of the canton of Berne, and from 1939-1954, a member of Parliament (National Council) in Berne, aged 64. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries have been mentioned in the Swiss Press:

Dr. Hermann Knuchel (70), for the last 30 years Professor of forestry science at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich.

C. Flubacher (70) of Basle. Merchant and author of Fairy tale books. He is President of the "Schweizerischen Baumwollband Fabrikanten Verbandes".

Domherr Johann Hagen (90) of Frauenfeld. He was, from 1890-1897, a priest in Müllheim, and from 1897-1922, Editor-in-Chief of the "Thurgauer Volkszeitung", Frauenfeld.

Edouard Chapuisat (80) of Geneva. He was formerly Director of the "Journal de Genève", and is a member of the International Red Cross Committee. [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding (60) anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Vuillumier-Faivre of Neuville, M. and Mrs. A. Radrazzini of Vevey, Mr. and Mrs. Walker-Müller of Zurich-Wiedikon, Mr. and Mrs. J. Engweiler-Heer, of Tägerwilen, Mr. and Mrs. L. Friberg-Carigiet of Brigels (Ct. Grisons).

Mr. and Mrs. J. Grandjean of Enney (Ct. Fribourg), and Mr. and Mrs. A. Schefer of Uetikon (Zurich) have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

The Swiss motor-ship "General Dufour" (4,779 tons gross, built in 1949) has met with a mishap in the shape of a broken crankshaft while on a voyage from Houston to Marseille. She has been taken in tow by a U.S.A. coast guard cutter.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Switzerland will organise the next modern pentathlon world championship tournament in October, 1955.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Swiss expedition led by M. Raymond Lambert have set up a base camp at 16,404 feet on Gauri Sankar in the Himalayas.

A letter from the expedition dated October 2, published by the Geneva Alpine Club, said the team had found the south face of the 23,440-foot mountain to be impossible to scale. They had approached the mountain from another direction, exploring the east and south-east faces, but these, continually affected by avalanches, also appeared to be insurmountable.

The letter did not confirm reports that Lambert and his companions have left the Gauri Sankar region for Makalu. The whole party was said to be in excellent spirits.

\* \* \* \* \*  
The World Cup football championship, won in Switzerland by Germany in July showed a net profit of about 2,500,000 Swiss francs (over £200,000).

The news was given after a meeting of the organising committee. The receipts totalled 5,500,000 francs and expenses 3,000,000.

The profit will be distributed according to a special scale in the following approximate sums:— 1,500,000 francs among the 16 teams who entered

the final rounds; 375,000 francs to the International Football Federation (F.I.F.A.); 900,000 francs to the Swiss Football Federation.

The Swiss body must meet from their amount organisation expenses of 675,000 francs, F.I.F.A. having contributed 329,000 francs to the organisation.

Scotland were one of the 16 countries who reached the final round but the Scottish Football Association will receive only a fraction of the 1,500,000 francs (£120,000). The shares will be distributed pro rata in accordance with the number of games played. Scotland played only two matches whereas Germany played six. \*

Winter sports enthusiasts from the U.K. will again be able to purchase prepaid vouchers for Season Tickets on Skilifts, Funiculars, etc., without the respective amount being deducted from the basic allowance. The tariff containing full particulars will reach Travel Agents in approximately two weeks' time.

## OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, November 26th, 1954. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: J. J. Wetter, Mrs. L. Moehr, E. Goodbehere, G. E. Suter, C. B. Adam, W. R. Gamper, E. A. Doelly, A. R. Tissot, W. Allenspack, M. A. Mauch-Modica, Th. Erb, C. O. Brullhard, O. Schneider.

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