

**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:** - (1954)

**Heft:** 1227

**Rubrik:** News at random

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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.

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. 29. No. 1227.

FRIDAY, MAY 14th, 1954.

PRICE 11D.

### PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

(Fortnightly issue.)

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

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

Monsieur Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation has, on the occasion of the opening of the Geneva Conference sent a telegram expressing the pleasure of the Swiss Government and the Swiss people in welcoming the many statesmen now on Swiss territory, and hoping that their deliberations would be successful in bringing to the world a just and durable peace.

It is estimated that the costs of the Geneva Conference, which will be borne by the Confederation, the canton, and the town of Geneva will exceed 1 million Swiss francs.

The preparation and fitting up of the several villas for the heads of the various Delegations, and the Hotel Metropole, which is the Headquarters of the Russian Delegation, has cost several hundred thousand francs.

The expenses alone for the installation of offices for the Press have reached 300,000.— frs. The costs for the security service is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 150,000.— frs.

Customs receipts during the month of March, 1954, totalled 60.8 million francs, or 7.1 million francs more than in March, 1953.

In the first three months of the current year the receipts amounted to 109.8 million francs which is 10.2 million francs more than during the same period in 1953.

Dr. Oscar Reinhart of Winterthur has disclosed that his home "Römerholz", his library and his unique and valuable collection of pictures, will after his death become the property of the Swiss Confederation.

#### Cantonal

The "Obwaldner Landsgemeinde" took place at Sarnen, on Sunday, April 25th, and was attended by about 3,500 voters. Amongst the official visitors were

"Fürstabt", Dr. Benno Gut of Einsiedeln, National-Stefanos Kauf of the Abbey Muri-Gries, National-Councillor, Dr. Max Rohr, President of the Swiss Conservative Popular Party, and Professor, Dr. Liebeskind, of the University of Geneva.

Dr. Odermatt (Sarnen) was elected "Landammann" and Ludwig von Moos (late "Landammann") will act for one year as "Landesstatthalter."

[A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden was held at Wil near Stans on the 25th of April. "Landammann" Zgraggen welcomed the following official visitors: Monsieur Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, the Governments in corpore of the cantons of Solothurn and Schwyz, Divisional-Colonel Uhlmann, and Dr. Weber, Vice-Chancellor of the Swiss Confederation.

[A.T.S.]

The traditional "Sechseläuten" took place in Zurich on the 26th of April. The procession of the children and the various guilds was witnessed by a large number of spectators. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Fritz Ebi has celebrated his 40th Jubilee in the service of the canton Basle-Town. Born in 1889, he became in 1914 a teacher at the Boys Secondary School, Basle, and a year later he entered, as representative of the Socialist party the cantonal Government of which he is still a member. [A.T.S.]

The Basle Zoological Gardens have received a legacy amounting to 1 million francs from the late Dr. A. Sandoz. [A.T.S.]

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The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. took place at Trogen on the 25th of April, and was attended by 9,000 voters. The official guests were: Federal-Councillors Feldmann and Streuli, Minister Nef of Canada, and Army-corps commander Thomann.

Finance-Director Bruderer, (Teufen) was elected "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh. was held in Appenzell on the 25th of April. Dr. Albert Broger was confirmed as "Landammann". Beat Dörig (Appenzell) was elected "Landessäckelmeister". [A.T.S.]

The Municipal Council of St. Gall has voted a credit of 30,000.— frs., and a guarantee against loss, not exceeding 20,000.— frs. for the Federal Singing Competition, which will take place at St. Gall from June 25th, — to July 6th. [A.T.S.]

The firm Heberlein & Co., Wattwil (Toggenburg) has made a donation of 60,000.— frs. to the parish of Wattwil, 50,000.— frs. of which are to be used for the enlargement of the hospital and the remainder for the renovation of the "Volkhaus". [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Grisons *in corpore* has paid a visit to the "Landesfürst", Franz Joseph II at Vaduz (Lichtenstein). During the official dinner various speeches were held underlining the friendly relations which exist between the neighbouring canton of Grisons and the "Fürstentum", Lichtenstein. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor Hans Müller of Aarberg has been made an Honorary Citizen of Aarberg. [A.T.S.]

A burglary took place at the Hotel "Storechen" in Rheinfelden. (Ct. Aargau); a cash amount of 12,000.— frs. is missing. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Estelle Robert-Tissot of La Chaux-de-Fonds has celebrated her 100th birthday on which occasion she was presented with the traditional easy-chair by the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

Four men lost their lives in a fire which broke out in a building in the Avenue Léopold Robert in La-Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Robert Lehmann, from 1910-1919, Manager of the Tourist Office, Lucerne, and from 1915-1919, also Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Afterwards he founded his own business in the Fur Trade. For ten years he held the post of President of the "Gesellschaft für Handel & Industrie" Lucerne. He sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne for several years. Robert Lehmann died in Lucerne at the age of 71.

René-John Peytrequin, painter, in Lausanne, aged 58.

Otto Wymann, in Beckenried, at the age of 68. The deceased was from 1938-1940, President of the "Nidwaldner Landrates". In 1943, he was elected a member of the cantonal Government, he held the post of "Landammann" from 1949-1952.

Martin Herrmann, conductor of various Male Choirs, and brass bands, amongst them the "Basler

Musikverein", and the "Stadtmusik" Thun, in Basle, aged 64.

Madame Aline Chavan-Barbey, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Vaud, at the age of 102.

Gottlieb Ruefli, painter, and since 1932 head of the art section of the Solothurn museum, in Solothurn, aged 88.

Baptist Reichmuth-Fönn, for 30 years a member of the cantonal Tribunal, in Schwyz, at the age of 71.

Eduard Diserens, from 1921-1941, Professor of Agriculture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. In the army he held the rank of Colonel. He died in Lausanne, at the age of 69.

Dr. Albert Wiesner, in Basle, aged 65. The deceased was Director of the "Stadttheater", Lucerne from 1947-1953, and from 1953, until his death, Director of the Municipal Theatre in Basle.

Alfred Zurbriggen, a well-known alpinist, lost his life on a skiing excursion near the "Dufour Spitz".

Ernst Waldburger, in St. Gall, at the age of 80. The deceased entered the service of the "Schweiz. Kredit Anstalt", Zurich in 1904. From 1930-1940 he occupied the post of Manager of the St. Gall Office.

Esther Mengold, a well-known portrait painter, in Basle, aged 77. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are published in the Swiss Press:

Director Heinrich Bührer (80) of Basle, a member of the Board of the Chemical Works "Schweizer-

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hall", and Honorary President of the "Getreide-und Produktenbörse", Berne, and the "Vereinigung Schweiz.Getreidegrossimporteure".

Dr. Carl Camenisch (80) of Chur, Head of the "Alpine Töchterinstitut" in Fetzan. (Ct. Grisons).

Melchoir Hefti of Hätszingen (tCt. Glarus) (75). He was for 30 years President of the parish of Hätszingen, from 1920-1947 Hefti was a member of the Government of the canton of Glarus, and from 1932-1938, "Landammann". He sat in Parliament (States Council) from 1938-1953.

Dr. Bossi (80) of Chur, a former member and President of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and a member of the cantonal Government. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1919-1943. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. Meier-Büchler of Baden, and Mr. & Mrs. J. Inauen-Dörig of Schwende. (Appenzell I.Rh.)

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

At the beginning of December, 1953, the membership of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein" totalled 55,030 of whom 13,503 are women. To be added to this total are 503 members of foreign sections (London: 255, Milan: 170, New York 37, Marseilles: 25 and Brussels: 16). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Peace Prize" for 1954, of the "Deutschen Buchhandels" has been awarded to Professor Carl J. Burekhardt, Historian and Diplomat.

Professor Burekhardt was from 1937-1939 "Ober-

kommissar" of the League of Nations for the town of Danzig. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

ZURICH'S "NOVELTY FAIR". An "Inventions and Novelties Fair" is to be held in Zurich from May 11th-20th. Its purpose is to give inventors and firms specialised in the launching of novelty goods an opportunity to display their most interesting products. Exhibitors from several countries will take part. Every gadget and novelty is to be thoroughly examined by experts before acceptance for display, so that the public can be assured of viewing only the most interesting novelties.

THE ZURICH JUNE FESTIVAL. Every year, the Zurich Tourist Office organises a "June Festival", the reputation of which extends far beyond our national frontiers. The 1954 programme is particularly interesting.

It includes the performance of classical plays in four languages: "Bérénice" by the French XVIIth Century playwright, Racine, to be given by the Comédie Française company (in French); "La vedova Scaltra", a comedy by Goldoni, the Italian XVIIIth Century author, given by the Piccolo Teatro della Città di Milano company (in Italian); "Troilus und Cressida" (German version of Shakespeare's play) by the Zurich Schauspielhaus company. Another English classic will be given by a leading English Company. A cycle of Richard Strauss operas will be included in the Festival programme: "Frau ohne Schatten", "Capriccio", "Salomé", "Rosenkavalier" and "Arabella"; also four symphony concerts (June 11th, 17th, 22nd and 29th), conducted by Hans Rosbaud, Bruno Walter, Rafael Kubelik and Erich Schmid.

## APPEAL

### *The French Hospital in Shaftesbury Avenue needs our help.*

The Hospital was established in 1867 and is still run on a purely voluntary basis. Since its inception it has treated annually hundreds of our compatriots in its inpatient and outpatient departments. Its services are recognised by the Swiss Government who give an annual contribution to its costs. The Swiss Churches, the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Welfare Office are unanimous in their praise for the generous help and the kindly individual treatment, our compatriots unfailingly experience from the British, French and Swiss medical and nursing staff.

To cover the rising costs of equipment and medicaments the hospital committee has decided to issue a general appeal in order to raise funds. The Assembly of Presidents of Swiss Societies in London and Great-Britain strongly recommend to you this worth-while cause and ask for your support.

A ball will be held on Tuesday, 22nd June, 1954, at the Dorchester Hotel, for which Mme de Torrenté has accepted the patronage jointly with Mme Massigli, the Marquise du Parc Locmaria, the wives of the French and Belgian Ambassadors.

There are three ways in which you can help:

- a) by buying tickets for the ball (3 gns. per person)
- b) by sending contributions in kind for the tombola
- c) by sending a donation (cheques to be made payable to Mr. Maurice G. Benjamin).

For tickets please apply to the Swiss Legation (Mlle Jehl). Contributions to the Fund and the Tombola should be sent to the same address.