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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

The elections for the two Chambers of the Swiss Parliament (States and National Council) have taken place on Sunday, October 30th.

The first Chamber or Council of States, pending a second ballot for two seats, so far includes 37 members of the bourgeois parties and two Socialists. The second Chamber will be formed of 53 Socialists, 50 Radicals, 47 Catholic Conservatives, 22 members of the Peasant party, 20 members of other bourgeois parties, and four Communists. Thus the Socialist Party, with a gain of four seats, becomes the strongest single party in Parliament, while the Communists lose one seat and the Radical Party, which is a Government party, loses one seat.

Swiss budget estimates for 1956, to be presented to Parliament in December, show a record estimated gross surplus of frs. 463 million. From this will be deducted frs. 100 million as a special reserve and a further frs. 15 million for unforeseen expenses.

Overall revenue is put at 2,432 million and expenditure at frs. 1,969 million.

The net income in 1954, of the Swiss Confederation amounted to 22 milliard francs, or 5 per cent more than in 1953.

The 3 per cent loan for 230 million francs issued by the Swiss Confederation has been heavily oversubscribed.

Mr. Yehuda Nassi is to replace Mr. Avidor Shoham as the Israeli Consul in Zurich. Mr. Shoham has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Helsinki.

The Swiss Federal Railways have granted a free one month season ticket to all Journalists attending the Geneva Conference.

Cantonal

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, the following have been honoured with the decree of *doctor honoris causa*: Federal-Councillor, Dr. Philipp Etter, Professor Alfred Stucki, Director of the "Ecole Polytechnic de l'Université de Lausanne", Professor, Dr. Paul Karrer, Zurich, Max Maag, civil-engineer, Zurich, Franz Gerber, engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, Wabern, nr. Berne. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the jewellery establishment, G. Egli, in the Talstrasse Zurich, and decamped with goods to the value of 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Four people lost their lives in a fire which broke out in Riehen nr. Glarus, in which a number of dwelling houses were totally destroyed. [A.T.S.]

A sports machine piloted by Mr. Ernst Flückiger of Langenthal, caught fire and crashed in the Tremelaschlucht in the Gotthard district. The pilot and his three passengers Mr. and Mrs. H. Ziegeli, and Mrs. Brugger, all from Belp, were injured, and had to be taken to the hospital in Faido. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident occurred between Luterbach and Flumenthal when a lorry in a skid collided with a tree. The driver, Max Frey, mechanic of Olten (aged 28) was killed, his passenger Hans Peter Kunz (aged 24) Secretary in Olten, received fatal injuries. A third passenger was seriously hurt. [A.T.S.]

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 25th, 1955, together with remittance for 6/-.

Mrs. Anna Maria Bucher-Matter of Witterswil (Ct. Solothurn) has celebrated her 100th birthday at the District Hospital Breitenbach, she was presented with the traditional easy-chair by the Government of the canton of Solothurn. [A.T.S.]

The Basle guild "Zur Schmieden" has recently celebrated the 700th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

Plans for converting their local transports system from trams to trolley bus operation have been announced by Schaffhausen City Council, who are preparing to raise a loan for the purpose. The Council are to purchase trolley buses, erect overhead power lines, and build workshops and other facilities.

The Council are also planning to buy three new trams with motors for their existing tramway system. A loan of Frs. 1,124,000 is being raised. [A.T.S.]

The "Schaffhauser Musik Collegium" has celebrated its 300th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

King Gustave Adolf of Sweden, Queen Louise, and their suite paid an unofficial visit to the town of St. Gall, where they visited the "Stiftsbibliothek", the "Heimatsmuseum", and an embroidery establishment. The Government and municipal authorities offered a luncheon to the distinguished visitors. The Royal pair also went to Winterthur where they inspected the Oscar Reinhart collection. [A.T.S.]

The "OLMA" exhibition in St. Gall closed its doors on the 22nd of last month. 283,000 visitors went through the turnstiles (Oct., 1954: 256,000). The next "OLMA" exhibition will take place from the 11th to 21st of October, 1956. [A.T.S.]

Dr. M. Otto Treyvaud, Editor-in-Chief of the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne", has celebrated his 25th Jubilee in the service of this paper. He was born in 1890 in Courtelary, and studied philosophy at the University of Lausanne. In 1918, he entered into the service of the "Tribune de Lausanne", and from 1921-1930, he was a teacher of French, History and Geography at the commercial school, Lausanne. In 1930, he took over the post of Editor-in-chief of

the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne". M. Treyvaud is a member of the Board of the Agence Telegr. Suisse. [A.T.S.]

A motorist, who under the influence of alcohol caused the death of a cyclist, father of three children, was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment by the tribunal in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The new building of "Radio Lausanne" in La Sallaz has been opened. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Emil Feer, one of the best known specialists on children's diseases.

The deceased studied medicine at the Universities of Basle, Munich, Heidelberg and Vienna. In 1907, he became Professor at Zurich University, which post he gave up in 1929 to devote his time to private practice. Professor Feer was a member of many European learned societies. Amongst his publications were a "Lehrbuch der Kinderheilkunde", and "Diagnostik der Kinderkrankheiten". He was also for many years Editor of the "Jahrbuch für Kinderheilkunde".

Maurice Paschoud, formerly General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, in Lausanne, at the age of 73.

The deceased studied mathematics at the "Ecole d'Ingénieurs", Lausanne, and at the Universities of Paris (Sorbonne) and Berlin. Later he became a Professor at the University of Lausanne, of which

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he was rector from 1928-1930. From 1928-1930, he sat in Parliament (National Council), and from 1930-1931, he was a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud. In 1932, he was nominated General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, retiring from this post in 1947. The University of Lausanne honoured him with the decree of *doctor honoris causa*. (Maurice Paschoud was the brother of the late Marius Paschoud, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, London.)

Dr. Hans Hoffmann, from 1928-1947, a teacher for "Neuere Kunstgeschichte", and since 1947, Professor for "Kunstgeschichte des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit" at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 67.

Guido Gonzato, well known painter, in Mendrisio, at the age of 59.

Dr. Fritz Burkart-Jann, Manager at the General Direction of the "Schweizerischen Bankverein", Basle, in Basle, aged 56.

Edgar Junod, President of the Board of the "Tribune de Genève", in Geneva, at the age of 72.

Dr. Alfred Keller-Weber, a lawyer, and member of the Board of many industrial and commercial concerns, in Brugg, aged 79.

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm von Gonzenbach, from 1920-1950, Professor of hygiene and bacteriology at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and for eight years a member of the "Kantonsrat", in Zurich, aged 76.

Professor Georges Tiercy, since 1928, Director of the Observatory of Geneva, and Professor of Astronomy and Meteorology at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 73.

Georges Dubois-Lembrich, a former President of

the Court of La Chaux-de-Fonds, and a member of the cantonal Parliament, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 80.

Dr. med. M. Reber Köchlin, well known specialist for children's diseases in Basle, aged 79.

Carl Rüegg, from 1912-1926, a member of the editorial staff of the "Landbote", Winterthur, and later librarian of the "Volksbibliothek", Winterthur, in Winterthur, at the age of 80. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Brigade-Colonel Walter Burkhard (60) of Zurich, Director of military air ports, he is one of the pioneers of military aviation.

Otto Münch (70) of Zurich, well known sculptor. [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuchsli-Schoch of Brugg; Mr. and Mrs. Erb-Drosse, of Zurich; Mr. and Mrs. Ammann-Isler, of Wädenswil; Mr. and Mrs. E. Morf-Hofer, of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Board of Swissair has appointed M. Charles Frédéric Ducommun (b. 1910) of Yverdon, to the post of Staff Manager, he had acted in the same capacity with the firm of Nestlé's in Vevey. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Printed in four languages (English, French, German and Italian), the booklet *Presenting the Swiss Federal Railways*, just issued, should prove as successful at *The Swiss Federal Railways Today* which it succeeds. It sets out to explain to the public of many countries who use the Swiss railways for both business and pleasure, the problems which confront

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the undertaking and the manner in which they are met. The large number of illustrations probably does more to convey the extent and scope of the system than any amount of text, no matter how well written, but that is not to say that the text that is provided is inapposite or involved. So far as the English edition is concerned, it merits warm commendation for its succinctness. We like also the small drawings which are used at the appropriate moments to emphasise or elucidate points and the useful section on standard pallets and containers.

Swiss book exports in the first six months of 1955 were valued at 15,387,357 francs, exceeding exports for the corresponding period of 1954 by 3,598,773 francs. Periodical exports showed an increase of 195,587 francs to 2,699,331 francs. On the other hand, domestic book and periodical sales showed a falling tendency.

Swiss Customs Regulations Regarding Unexposed Films.

One cine-camera and two photo-cameras may be imported duty-free, provided they are for the passengers' personal use and will be exported again on leaving Switzerland. Residents of Europe may furthermore carry five unexposed films for each photo-camera and two films for each cine-camera, under the same conditions.

Visitors from the Commonwealth and other overseas countries are not subject to the limitations concerning the number of films.

Transportation of Motor Cars through Alpine Tunnels.

The reduction on freight charges for return journeys (within one month) is now applicable to all Swiss Alpine Tunnels (Simplon, Simplon-Loetschberg, Gotthard and Albula), as well as the Mont-Cenis. The reduction of Fr.10.— will apply to all tunnels (previously Fr.5.—). It will in future also be deducted from the freight charges if the return journey is started from Domodossola (Simplon Tunnel). Previously, the respective amount was refunded by the Swiss destination station. The driver accompanying a car seating not more than 8 passengers travels free of charge in 3rd class. Against payment of the excess fare the 2nd class may be used.

Timing for trains, conveying motor cars are given in the Official Swiss Time Table (Winter 1955/56), covering the period until June 2nd, 1956. Copies (price 5/-) are obtainable also from the SNTG, 458, Strand, London, W.C.2.

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION.

The Swiss Minister, Monsieur A. Daeniker, offered an Apéritif to the Delegation of the "Office Vaudois du Tourisme" at his residence, 21, Bryanston Square, W.1, on Monday, October 31st.

The Swiss Minister and Madame A. Daeniker gave a reception on the 10th and 11th of November at the Swiss Legation, to members of the Swiss Colony.

Monsieur and Madame René Faessler, Counsellor of Legation, gave a cocktail party at their home, 233, Cromwell Road, S.W.5, on Wednesday, October 26th, to say good-bye to Monsieur and Madame Miesch, 1st Secretary of Legation.

PETIT CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

Le gigantesque tapis noué qui orne l'entrée du nouveau temple mormon de Zollikofen a été livré par une fabrique de tapis de Lotzwil. Le dessin en a été établi en Suisse. Pour une surface de 60 m², ce tapis compte plus de 4 millions de points de Smyrne. Les clients ont déclaré à la réception: "Même en Amérique, il eut été difficile de trouver un tapis plus beau et d'aussi bonne qualité".

La première fabrique indienne de wagons, à Perambur, a été installée sous la direction technique d'une fabrique de wagons et d'ascenseurs de Schlieren. — La ville d'Edmonton, au Canada, a commandé à une grande maison de Baden des turbines à gaz pour la production d'énergie électrique. — En Suède, la Suisse se classe au premier rang des fournisseurs de caméras cinématographiques à films de format réduit. — Une convention a été signée entre une fabrique australienne et une maison spécialisée de Winterthur pour la collaboration technique à la fabrication de nouvelles locomotives Diesel.

Une fabrique soleuroise de produits métalliques a créé un chauffe-plats fonctionnant selon des principes tout-à-fait nouveaux et dont l'efficacité est parfaite. Des contrats de licences ont été signés avec un certain nombre de pays, tandis que l'appareil sera exporté directement dans d'autres.

Le 15 octobre 1955, tandis que s'ouvrira la Semaine suisse, une autre Semaine suisse débutera à Stockholm. On y verra une exposition de textiles, d'horlogerie, de denrées alimentaires et d'autres produits industriels suisses. Les vitrines de nombreux



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