

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: - (1955)

Heft: 1245

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, 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. 40. No. 1245.

7594

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1955.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The traditional Dinner offered by the Swiss Government to the Diplomatic Corps has taken place in Berne. This year, for the first time three Ladies took part, namely the American Ambassador, Miss Willis, Miss Armentorp of the Danish Legation, and Miss Lefèvre of the Panamanian Legation.

Also present were the Directors of the International Buro's, the members of the Federal Council *in corpore*, the Federal Chancellor, representatives of the Federal Supreme Court, and the canton and municipality of Berne.

Monsieur Ahmed Savoit, Turkish Ambassador has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly accredited Ambassador was previously *en poste* in the same capacity in Paris, Athens and Berlin.

During the month of December, 1954, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.29 million passengers, or 66,000 less than during the same period in 1953. Receipts: 23.19 million francs. (December, 1953: 23.30 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 1.91 million tons, or 329,000 tons more than in December, 1953. Receipts: 34.96 million francs. (December, 1953: 31.03 million francs.)

The Federal Council has nominated M. André Dominicé, to the post of *Chef du Protocole*, in succession to M. Robert Maurice, who has recently been appointed Swiss Minister in Brazil, with promotion to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

M. Dominicé was born in 1911 in Geneva, and studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Paris and Vienna. On the conclusion of his studies he established himself as a lawyer in Geneva. In 1941, he

entered into the service of the Federal Political Department and was transferred to London, where he joined the "Special Division".

After two years (1943) he vacated his appointment and returned to Switzerland. On March 18th, 1946, he again entered into the service of the Swiss Foreign Office, with the rank of 2nd Secretary of Legation. In this capacity he was attached to the Commercial Section, where he remained for two years.

In 1951, M. Dominicé was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Buenos-Aires as Commercial Attaché.

Cantonal

A fire which broke out at the "Gummiwerke Huber, A.G." in Pfäffikon (Ct. Zurich) caused damage believed to exceed 100,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Fribourg on January 31st, 1955, numbered 30,000. [A.T.S.]

On December 31st, 1954, Switzerland's capital, Berne, had a population of 155,593. [A.T.S.]

The Cantonal Bank Basle has registered its 100,000th holder of a saving book. These accounts are credited with a total of over 200 million francs. [A.T.S.]

M. Charles Sollberger (Socialist) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud with 23,063 votes. His opponent, M. Ernest Pidoux (Radical) polled 21,714 votes.

M. Sollberger is succeeding M. Paul Chaudet, who has recently entered the Federal Government. He hails from the canton of Berne, and since 1945 has

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been a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and President of the commune of Bex. Since 1951, M. Sollberger has been also a Member of Parliament (National Council), [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Vaud has received a donation of 10,000.—frs. from Mr. H. A. Glauser, Manager of a pharmaceutical concern, in Vevey, for the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Paolo Ascari, from 1903-1950, Professor of Italian literature at the University of Fribourg, in Rome at the age of 70. For the years 1928-1929, he was rector of the University. The deceased was also a lecturer at the Universities of Neuchâtel and Lausanne.

James Attinger, a former well-known Publisher, in Neuchâtel, aged 91.

Dr. Bruno Pfister, President of the Swiss Millers Association, and from 1925-1935, a Member of Parliament (National Council), in Zurich, at the age of 66.

Dr. med. Paul Jung, from 1911-1940, Surgeon-in-chief of the cantonal hospital, St. Gall, and co-founder and formerly President of the "Schweiz. Gynäkologischen Gesellschaft", in Lucerne, aged 80.

Adrien Brandt, Chairman of the Board of the watch manufacturing firm "Omega", Louis Brandt et Frères, S.A., Bienne, and President of the "Société suisse pour l'industrie horlogère", in Lausanne, at the age of 73.

Colonel of division, Ernest Grosselin, in Versoix, at the age of 83. The deceased was born in 1869, and studied mathematics at the University of Geneva. In 1909, he was appointed commander of the St. Maurice Fortress, and from 1922-1930, he was in command of the 1st Division. Colonel Grosselin retired from the army in 1930, and from 1931-1933 he was a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva.

Dr. Samuel Aubert, for many years a teacher at the secondary school in Le Sentier, and author of a number of books on the "Vallée de Joux", in Le Solliat, aged 83.

Army-corps Commander Henri Iselin, in Riehen at the age of 67. The deceased held the following commands in the Swiss army: Chief of Staff of the 3rd and 4th Division respectively, and of the 3rd Army-corps. In 1940, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel of Division, with the command of the 4th

Division, which post he held until the end of the last war, when he took over the command of the 4th Army-corps, which he held until his retirement in 1953.

Mgr. Afredo Noseda, Vicar General to Bishop Bacciarini, in Lugano, at the age of 88.

Paul Béchler, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and a well-known personality in the "Jura Bernois", in Berne, aged 91.

Lieutenant-colonel Matthias Käppeli, a former member of the Instructors Corps, in Lucerne, at the age of 85.

Edouard Marchand, for a great number of years a teacher at the Commercial School and the Conservatoire, Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, aged 71. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Eduard Infanger (75) of Engelberg, from 1912-1922 a member of the "Kantonsrat", Obwalden and from 1922-1936, "Engelberger Talamann". In 1930, he became a member of the cantonal Government, and from 1940 until 1946, when he retired, he held the post of "Landammann".

Dr. Walter Hünerwadel (80) of Rüslikon, for over 35 years a teacher at the High Schools in Winterthur, and becoming rector from 1916-1941. [A.T.S.]

LEGACIES.

The late Dr. h.c. Ernst Homberger, an Honorary citizen of the town of Schaffhausen, has left a legacy amounting to 50,000.—frs. to the Museum "Zur Allerheiligen". Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

From the 1st of January until December 31st, 1954, 1,145 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Solothurn. 766 persons were injured, of whom 27 succumbed to their injuries.

In the year 1954, 791 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Fribourg. 562 persons were injured and 33 lost their lives. [A.T.S.]

BANK DIVIDENDS.

Schweiz. Bankverein, Basle: 8 per cent (1953: 8%); Schweiz. Bodenkredit Anstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent (1953: 6%); Hypothekarkasse of the canton of Fribourg: 5 per cent (1953: 5% plus 1% Jubilee bonus); Bündner Privatbank, Chur: 4 per cent (1953: 4%); Leu & Co.'s Bank, Zurich: 6 per cent (1953: 6%); Schweiz. Kreditanstalt, Zurich: 8 per cent (1953: 8%); Hypothekarkasse des Kanton Berne: 4½ per cent; Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Zurich: 8 per cent (1953: 8%). [A.T.S.] [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Zuberbühler-Rohner of Reute (Appenzell), Mr. and Mrs. Alois Baeriswil of Heitenried (Fribourg).

In the year 1954, 2,291 persons emigrated from Switzerland to overseas countries (1953: 2,687), amongst them 210 foreigners (1953: 463).

The Town Council of Fribourg have banned a beauty competition for a "Miss Fribourg 1955" be-

cause "such elections only excite the vanity of the girls — without always obtaining the participation of the prettiest".

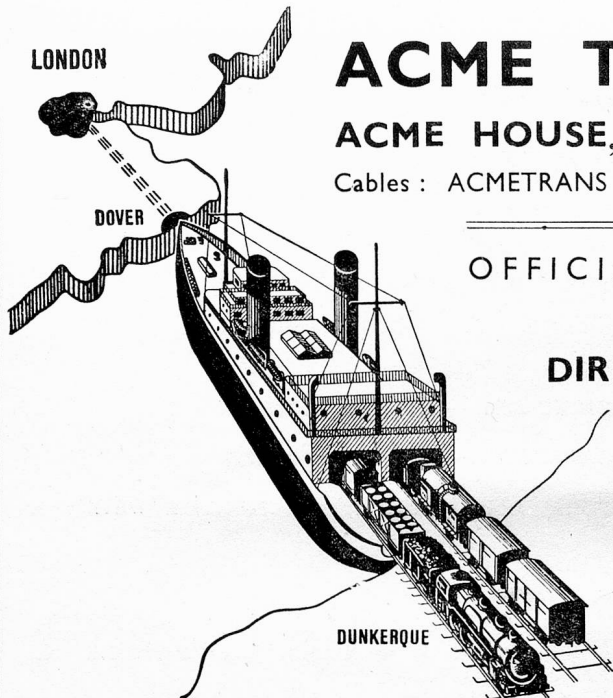
At the annual general meeting of the Cresta Club, Lord Brabazon took his farewell as president after 15 years of devoted service which involved keeping the club in being during the war and then restarting it. In his speech he dealt with the necessity, provided the snow conditions allow, of an earlier opening of the run in plenty of time for the Christmas holidays. He then spoke of the new relationship between the club and the local Swiss authorities.

Lord Brabazon is succeeded by his old friend and colleague Colonel J. Coates, one of the great classical riders of the past and five times winner of the Grand National. In his hands the tradition and well being of the Cresta are indeed safe, while the committee will still have the benefit of Lord Brabazon's vast executive knowledge. (Times)

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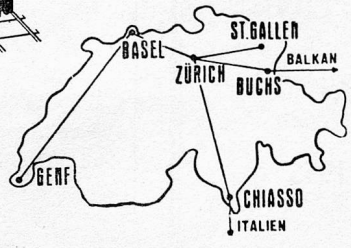
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Canton Berne Government is asking the cantonal parliament for a subsidy of 45,000 francs to bore in the Eiger north wall a cave to store the canton's archives.

* * *

A completely automatic telephone exchange, of the latest type, has just been inaugurated at Zermatt in the Swiss Alps. It is 10 years since the underground connection was completed between Zermatt-Visp-Brigue, thus ensuring that tourist resorts should not be cut off by avalanches from the rest of the world. A telephone link has also existed for some time now by radio, between the village, the Theodule Pass, and the Monte-Rose hut, as well as with the Belvedere Hotel at the foot of the Matterhorn.

* * *

The Bank Leumi le-Israel and the Swiss Kreditanstalt have concluded an agreement designed to increase the annual rate of Swiss exports to Israel by 5,000,000 francs (about £420,000). Under the agreement, the proceeds of certain Israeli exports to Switzerland will be earmarked for Israeli purchases of Swiss goods.

Israel's exports will consist mainly of artificial fertilisers, plywood, motor-car tyres, cotton and woollen yarns, wines, and certain finished textile and leather goods.

The main Swiss exports will be machinery, copper wire, electrical insulation materials, high quality synthetic textiles and cotton goods, and aniline dyes.

THE RUMANIAN LEGATION AFFAIR IN BERNE.

This unfortunate, and for the Swiss Government highly embarrassing happening needs at present no further comment in this paper, as it has been fully reported in the Daily Press.

We consider that the Swiss authorities have handled a delicate situation with discretion and propriety.

Switzerland, like this country, has always given asylum within her borders to all those who have been persecuted for their political creed, but it is expected that such *émigrés* strictly adhere to the laws of our country.

How these men have been able to cross our frontiers undetected, and fully armed, will, no doubt, have to be cleared up, and before putting any censure upon our immigration authorities we prefer to await the investigations of the competent courts.

"SCHWEIZERBUND" (Swiss Club)

The
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will take place at

74, Charlotte Street, W.1,

on

Saturday, February 26th, 1955

at 3 p.m.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The Swiss Bank Corporation announce that after writing off Sfcs.3,070,642 the net profit for 1954 amounts to Sfcs.21,772,796, against Sfcs.20,531,685 last year. The total assets amount to Sfcs.2,984,776,835 against Sfcs.2,980,818,485.

At the General Meeting to be held in Basle on the 25th February, 1955, it will be proposed to make a contribution of Sfcs.1,500,000 (last year Sfcs.1,000,000) to the Pension Fund, to allocate Sfcs.2,500,000 (last year Sfcs.2,000,000) to the reserve for new buildings and to place Sfcs.4,000,000 (same) to a Special Reserve Fund. It is further proposed to pay a dividend of 8% as last year and to carry forward Sfcs.3,037,603, against Sfcs.2,553,446 last year.

Before closing the accounts for 1954 the Board transferred Sfcs.4,000,000 from tax-paid internal reserves to a Special Reserves, as last year.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, March 11th, 1955. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: M. Lienhard, F. Kibiger, M. Ernst, Miss G. S. Moore, A. Wegmuller, E. von Bergen, Mrs. E. Gledhill, E. Oggier, C. Reverdin, E. Siegrist, H. E. Messmer, J. A. Donat, A. Baenziger, E. F. Stuber, A. Im Obersteg, Mrs. G. Nicholls, A. Engelbert, Mrs. A. Dimier, Miss B. Sandmeyer, E. P. Banderet, A. C. Stahelin, C. Voegeli, A. J. Gomiero, E. Ulmann, R. Weist.

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