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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 Swiss electorate in a referendum voted on March 13th, to continue existing controls over food prices and rents until the end of 1956. Here are the results of the poll:

|                         | Yes     | No      |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| Zürich . . . . .        | 88,215  | 71,761  |
| Bern . . . . .          | 64,673  | 49,973  |
| Luzern . . . . .        | 14,304  | 23,169  |
| Uri . . . . .           | 1,883   | 3,107   |
| Schwyz . . . . .        | 3,587   | 7,530   |
| Obwalden . . . . .      | 483     | 2,251   |
| Nidwalden . . . . .     | 1,158   | 2,153   |
| Glarus . . . . .        | 3,149   | 3,529   |
| Zug . . . . .           | 2,337   | 3,350   |
| Fribourg . . . . .      | 6,860   | 9,196   |
| Solothurn . . . . .     | 14,216  | 15,206  |
| Basel-Stadt . . . . .   | 22,733  | 12,641  |
| Basel-Land . . . . .    | 9,864   | 8,374   |
| Schaffhausen . . . . .  | 6,842   | 6,888   |
| Appenzell A.Rh. . . . . | 3,358   | 5,353   |
| Appenzell I.Rh. . . . . | 339     | 1,284   |
| St. Gallen . . . . .    | 20,126  | 37,298  |
| Graubünden . . . . .    | 7,707   | 11,357  |
| Aargau . . . . .        | 32,306  | 35,703  |
| Thurgau . . . . .       | 13,106  | 17,582  |
| Ticino . . . . .        | 9,583   | 8,912   |
| Vaud . . . . .          | 29,130  | 17,752  |
| Valais . . . . .        | 7,503   | 10,086  |
| Neuchâtel . . . . .     | 14,951  | 7,893   |
| Genève . . . . .        | 14,868  | 8,565   |
| Total                   | 393,281 | 380,913 |

53 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Max Wirz, as Honorary Swiss Consul in Guayaquil (Ecuador).

Consul Wirz, was born in 1904 in St. Gall, and

is a citizen of Tobel, Affeltrangen (Ct. Thurgau), for 30 years a resident in Guayaquil he occupies the post of Manager of the firm Max Müller & Cie., in that town.

\* \* \*

The Federal Military Department with the agreement of the Political Department has appointed Major Werner Koch of the General Staff to be the successor to Colonel Gygli, who is shortly to leave London to take over a new command in the Swiss army.

\* \* \*

Receipts of customs duties for the month of February, 1955, amounted to 54.3 million francs, or 8.1 million francs more than in February, 1953.

#### Cantonal

On February 26th the population of the town of Zurich numbered 414,589, or 4,482 more than a year ago. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Hans Schonlau of Zurich (28), and Gunther Fries of Aachen (34) both scientists employed by the Alpine research station, Jungfrauoch, lost their lives on an ascent to the Jungfrau. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

All five members of the Government of the canton of Ticino have been re-elected, they are: Nello Cerio (radical), 30,336 votes; Brenno Galli (radical), 27,895 votes; Adolfo Janner (conservative), 21,739 votes; Mario Soldini (conservative), 22,115 votes; Guglielmo Canovascini (socialist), 10,398 votes. [A.T.S.]

### CITY SWISS CLUB

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, April 26th, 1955, at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m., at Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Agenda: Minutes of last meeting.

Admissions.

Resignations.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Elections.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than, Monday, April 25th, 1955.

THE COMMITTEE.

The Austrian Minister in Berne, Herr Nikolaus Schleinitz-Prokesch, paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Ticino. [A.T.S.]

M. Samuel Roulet of Missy (Ct. Vaud), since 1928 a member of the National Council has resigned his seat for reasons of health. He will be succeeded by Albert-Brochon of Thierrens, who was a member of the National Council from 1943-1947. [A.T.S.]

Figures just published by the Federal Statistical Office in Berne in connection with the census taken on the 1st of December, 1950, show that the population of the canton of Neuchâtel numbered 128,152 inhabitants (67,850 females and 60,302 males).

Neuchâtel: 27,998 inhabitants, La Chaux-de-Fonds: 33,300, Le Locle: 11,979, Fleurier: 3,413, Peseux: 3,338, Couvet: 2,897. [A.T.S.]

M. Charly Guyot, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Neuchâtel has been appointed rector for the years 1955/56. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Siegfried Ziegler, President of the Board of the "Papierfabrik Ziegler, A.G.", Laufen, in Grellingen, at the age of 73.

Joseph Kaiser, well-known sculptor, in Delsberg, aged 69.

Theodor Scherrer, from 1938-1946, a member of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen, and for twenty-five years a member of the Grand Council, in Neuhausen, at the age of 75.

Johann Wyss, from 1939-1954, a member of the Government of the canton of Zug, in Steinhausen, aged 67. The deceased held the post of President of the commune of Steinhausen, nr. Zug for 25 years.

William Ritter, author and painter, in Melide, at the age of 88.

Dr. Fritz Neefe, Founder and co-proprietor of the Institute Minerva, Basle, in Basle, aged 69. [A.T.S.]

#### NEW AIR ROUTE TO DAMASCUS.

On the 17th April Swissair will open a new Air Route to Damascus. This flight will be operated once weekly, i.e. every Sunday from London or Manchester via Geneva or Zurich to Istanbul, Beirut and Damascus, and every Monday from Damascus over the same route return. The aircraft will be a DC-6B with First class and Tourist class accommodation.

| Fares               | single  | return   |
|---------------------|---------|----------|
| First class .....   | £93 0 0 | £167 8 0 |
| Tourist class ..... | £69 0 0 | £124 4 0 |

#### A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.

(We have much pleasure in re-producing below a notice which has appeared in the "Tablet", on April 2nd, 1955.)

Last week Catholic representatives, together with others from most of the relief organizations in London, gathered together at the Great Russell Street Y.M.C.A. to say an official farewell to one of the best friends that refugees can have had, if length of service be any criterion. Dr. Kullman, a Swiss citizen, though described perhaps more accurately by one of the speakers as a citizen of the world, has been working for refugees for over twenty-five years, and up till the end of last year as representative of the High Commissioner for Refugees in London. At this tea-party he was presented with a wallet by Dame May Curwen — inside was a cheque — and representatives of various groups paid tribute to him and his selfless work all through his years in London and before. His work has been of the highest professional quality, in spite of the fact that he described himself as essentially a "voluntary society man". He has none of that warm-hearted vagueness that can be the curse of this type of work, and he will be greatly missed on his retirement."

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