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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. EUSERIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

All the seven members of Federal Council were re-elected by the two Chambers.

\* \* \*

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers of Parliament sitting together, elected Dr. Markus Feldmann, Head of the Justice and Police Department, as President of the Confederation for 1956.

The President was born in 1887 in Thun (Ct. Berne). He received his schooling in Thun and Berne, and afterwards studied law at various Universities. In 1924, he became a member of the editorial staff of the "Neuen Berner Zeitung", and in 1928, he was promoted to Editor-in-Chief of this paper. Seventeen years later (1945) he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Berne. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1935-1951. On the 13th of December, 1951, he entered the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor von Steiger. From 1933-1935, Dr. Feldmann occupied the post of "Zentral President" of the Swiss Press Association.

\* \* \*

Dr. Hans Streuli (Zurich) has been elected Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Vice-President was born in 1892, and is a citizen of Wädenswil and Richterswil. He studied architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and the University of Munich. From 1928-1935, he was President of the commune of Richterswil. In 1935, Dr. Streuli was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich where he took over the Finance Department, which position he held until his election to the Federal Council. In 1940, the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in recognition of the work he had rendered as President of the organisation committee of the "Landesausstellung" in 1939. In the army he held the rank of Colonel (Engineering Corps).

Mr. Rudolf Weber (B.G.B. Party), Berne, has been elected President of the States Council (Ständerat). He was born in 1887, and is a farmer by profession. From 1914-1946, Rudolf Weber was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, over which he presided in 1946. He was a member of the National Council from 1919-1935, and has since been a member of the States Council.

\* \* \*

Mr. Kurt Schoch (Radical), Schaffhausen, has been elected Vice-President of the States Council.

\* \* \*

Mr. Paul Burgdorfer (B.G.B. Party) Berne, has been elected President of the National Council for 1956. He was born in 1903, and is a citizen of Vinelz (Ct. Berne). He received a commercial education, and spent several years abroad. In 1936, Burgdorfer was appointed Principal of the "Gewerbeverbandes" of the canton of Berne, and since 1943, he sat in the National-Council.

\* \* \*

Dr. Joseph Condrau (Disentis), has been elected Vice-President of the National-Council. He was born in Disentis (Ct. Grisons) in 1894, and for several years held the post of President of the commune of Disentis. Condrau is since 1923, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, over which he presided in 1930. He entered the National Council in 1935. Dr. Condrau is Editor of the "Gazzetta Romantscha".

\* \* \*

The outgoing as well as the newly appointed Federal Government is composed of three Radicals, three Catholic Conservatives, and one representative of the Peasant party. Of the 196 seats in Parliament the Socialists now hold 53, the Radicals 50, the

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THE COMMITTEE.

Catholic Conservatives 47, and the Peasant party 22, other parties 24.

\* \* \*  
The Federal-Council has submitted to Parliament a "Botschaft" concerning the elevation of some of the Swiss Legations abroad to Embassies.

\* \* \*  
The Swiss Government has bestowed the title of Minister on Dr. Edwin Stopper, Delegate for Commercial Treaties.

\* \* \*  
Dr. Pietro Mona, of Ambri (Ct. Ticino), born in 1908, has been elected President of the Federal Insurance Court.

\* \* \*  
Customs receipts for the month of November, 1955, totalled 69.9 million francs, or 8.9 million francs more than in November, 1954.

Receipts for the first eleven months of the current year amounted to 631 million francs, which is 66.1 million francs more than during the same period in 1954.

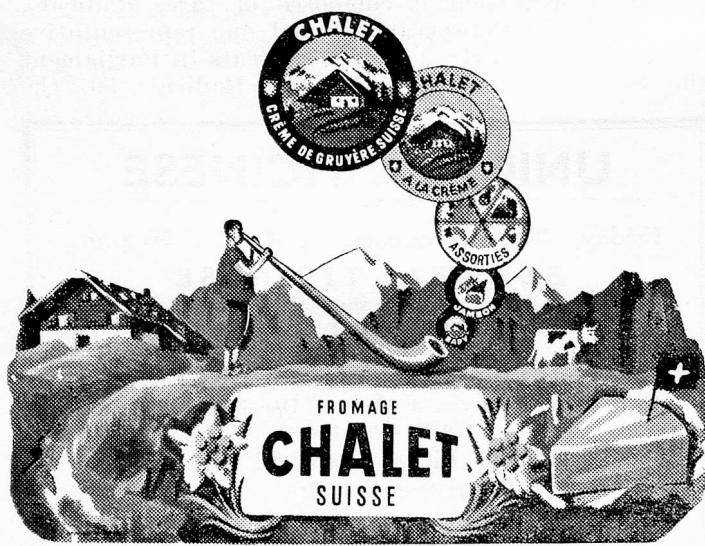
\* \* \*  
The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Angelo Berla Head of the diplomatic agency at Trieste. He was born in Berne in 1912, and is a citizen of Ponto Valentino (Ct. Ticino). He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1946. Five years later (1951) he was promoted to the rank of 2nd Secretary of Legation, and transferred to Rome. In 1954, he returned to Berne, where he occupied a post in the Swiss Foreign Office.

\* \* \*  
Dr. Elmar Paul Mäder, of Wuppenau (Ct. Thurgau), a lawyer, has been appointed Head of the Federal Aliens Police (Fremdenpolizei).

**Cantonal**

The Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Maurilio Coppini, has paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Schwyz. After a visit to the "Bundesbriefarchiv" a reception was held at the Town Hall in Schwyz followed by a dinner. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
Mr. Otto Steiger has been re-elected as Mayor of the town of Berne for the next three years. [A.T.S.]



The 1955 Art Prize given by the town of Lucerne, amounting to 3,000.—frs. was awarded to the Lucerne writer Cécile Lauber. [A.T.S.]

The Manager of the Zurich Kloten Airport, Mr. William Bethge, has relinquished his post on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich, Mr. Anton, Joseph Jud, died in Zurich, at the age of 104. He was a citizen of Krummenau (Toggenburg). [A.T.S.]

Professor Arnold Steiger "Ordinarius" for "Romanische Philologie" at the University of Zurich has been made an Honorary Member of the "Instituto de Cultura Hispanica", Madrid. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Paul Stucki, until recently Head of the medical clinic of the University of Berne, has been nominated surgeon-in-chief of the "Ziegler" hospital in Berne. [A.T.S.]

Dr. R. Frei, a member of the editorial staff (commercial) of the "Basler Nachrichten" has relinquished his post. He is succeeded by Dr. Willi Zeller, until recently commercial correspondent of this paper in London. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Otto Hürzeler (Socialist) has been elected President of the commune of Aarwangen (Ct. Aargau) with 395 votes, his opponent Trösch (B.G.B. party) received 221 votes. [A.T.S.]

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The C. F. Ramuz Prize, amounting to 10,000.—frs., was awarded to the Genevese writer P. L. Matthey. [A.T.S.]

**DEATHS.**

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor, Dr. h. c. Hermann Weyl, from 1913-1930, Professor of Mathematics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. In 1945, the above mentioned Institute honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. He died in Zurich at the age of 71.

Dr. med. Paul Deucher-de Soto, a well-known medical practitioner, and "Privat-Dozent" at the University of Berne, in Berne, aged 89. He was the son of a former Federal-Councillor.

Gaston Amez-Droz, Director of the cantonal Chamber of Commerce, Neuchâtel, and President of the "Comptoir", Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 65.

Professor L. V. Furlan, from 1912-1952, commercial editor of the "Basler Nachrichten", and Professor of Statistics at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 69.

Julius Dubs, former editor of the "Zürichsee-Zeitung", and "Toggenburger Boten", in Männedorf, at the age of 90.

Hans Schnellmann-Aegger, President of the Criminal Court, Schwyz, and for 20 years a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Lachen, at the age of 68.

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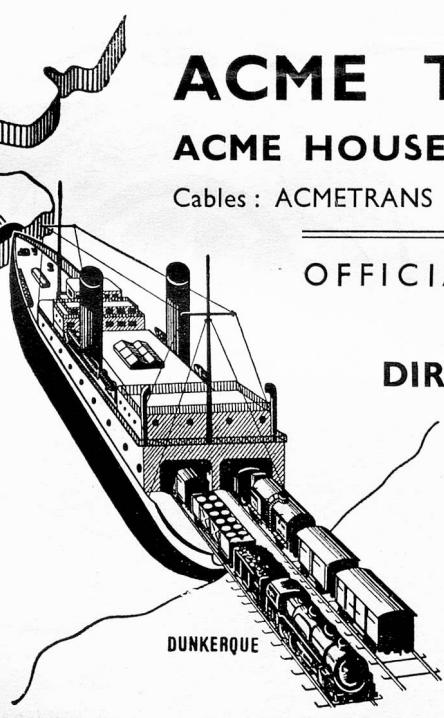
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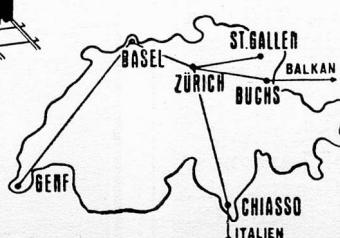
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Jakob Minder-Zimmermann, since 1943, a member of the Municipal Council Baden, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau, in Baden, at the age of 65.

Georges Schaeffer, Industrialist, and a former member of the Grand Council and Communal Council of Fribourg, in Fribourg, aged 69.

Professor, Dr. Alfred Walther, from 1939-1955, Professor of "Betriebswirtschaftslehre" at the University of Berne, in Berne, aged 70.

John Rochaix, from 1915-1918, and from 1924-1927, a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, and from 1917-1943, a member of Parliament (National Council), at Mies, at the age of 77.

Colonel Jean de Haller, from 1939-1951, President of the commune of Choulex, and since 1936, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Gland, owing to a motoring accident, aged 59.

Johannes Züblin in Flawil, aged 88. The deceased was for 20 years "Gemeindeammann" of Megelsberg, a member of the "Kantonsrat", St. Gall. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1919-1927.

Jacques Steffen, Founder and Director of the "ERPAG", Erdölprodukte, in Basle, at the age of 67.

Hermann Wiget-Hess, at one time President of the commune of Brunnen-Ingenbohl, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Brunnen, aged 72.

Werner Cueni, well-known Philatelist, in Basle, at the age of 58.

Joseph Tresch, for over 40 years a mountain guide, in Altdorf, aged 88.

Dr. Jules Bourquin, from 1906-1945, a teacher of mathematics at the "Mittelschule" Avenches, and President of the Society "Pro Aventico", in Avenches, at the age of 75. [A.T.S.]

#### ARMY.

Various transfers and promotions have recently taken place in the high command of the Swiss army.

Divisional-Colonel Robert Frick, in command of the 5th Division, will take over the command of the 1st Division.

Divisional-Colonel Fred Künzy, Assistant chief of staff on the General Staff, is taking over the command of the 5th Division.

General Staff Colonel Friedrich Rünzi (1904), hitherto chief of the mobilisation section on the General Staff, has been appointed Assistant chief of staff on the General Staff with promotion to the rank of Divisional-Colonel.

General Staff Colonel Jaques Boissier (1905) former commander of the "Zentralschulen" has been appointed Assistant chief of staff on the General Staff, with promotion to the rank of Divisional-Colonel.

General Staff Colonel René Dubois, has been entrusted with the command of the 1st L. Brigade, with promotion to Brigade-Colonel.

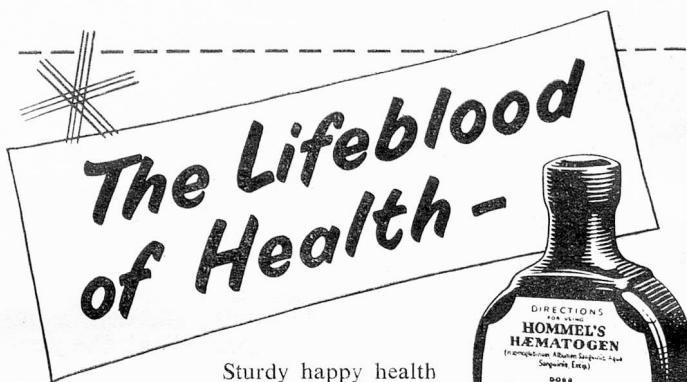
General Staff Colonel Carlo Fontana (1906) has been promoted to the rank of Brigade-Colonel.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Alois Genton-Laurent of Lausanne, Mr. and Mrs. E. Christen (Pasteur) of Geneva, Mr. and Mrs. J. U. Fässler-Kast, of Rehetobel (Ct. Appenzell a.Rh.). [A.T.S.]



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