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The Swiss Observer

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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, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss and Swedish Governments, whose representatives, together with Poles and Czechs, form the Neutral Armistice Commission in Korea, have asked that all observer teams be permitted to withdraw to the neutral zone since their task has become futile.

* * *

M. Streuli, Swiss Finance Minister, has made an urgent appeal to the country to help stop the present inflationary trend. Speaking at the annual Congress of the Swiss Radical-Liberal Party in Fribourg, he said the Swiss franc had lost 50 per cent of its real value because of events since the second war. If the present trend continued he warned that Switzerland would become the most expensive country in Europe.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of March, 1956, amounted to 74.9 million francs, or 6.9 million francs more than in March, 1955.

During the first three months of the current year the receipts totalled 144.8 million francs, which exceeds by 15.5 million francs the receipts during the same period in 1955.

* * *

The Swiss Government has agreed to make an interest-free loan of 3,400,000.—frs. to the International Labour Office for the extension and improvement of its present headquarters in Geneva.

* * *

The Federal Council is putting before the Federal Chambers a proposal to take up new shares to the value of 2,023,000.—frs. in "Swissair", which company has recently decided to increase their capital from 14 million francs to 42 million francs. The Government is already the holder of 4,350 shares at 350.—frs.

* * *

The trial of four Rumanians who raided their Legation in Berne, and exposed it as the Cominform nerve centre, has been fixed to start on June 11th

before the Federal Supreme Court at Lausanne. The charges include manslaughter, robbery and political espionage. The trial will be in public.

Cantonal

Mr. Josef Bösch of Ingenbohl-Brunnen, has tendered his resignation as a member of the Government of the canton of Schwyz, to take effect on June 30th, 1956. Mr. Bösch has been a member of the Government since 1920, and belongs to the Conservative Party.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts for 1955, of the canton of Nidwalden close with a credit balance of 58,059,—frs. The accounts of the canton of Obwalden show a credit-balance of 52,905.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mlle. Babette Wolfensberger, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Winterthur, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, 2nd JUNE, 1956

at

THE POLYTECHNIC STADIUM, CHISWICK
from 2.15 to 7 p.m.

The programme includes

ATHLETIC EVENTS
BOYS' and GIRLS' RACES
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PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WINNERS.

Admission free no tickets required.

Covered Stand in case of rain.

Refreshments available.

Programmes with full details will be on sale on the Grounds.

How to reach the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick:

By Train from Waterloo to Chiswick S.R. Station thence a few minutes walk.

By Underground District Line to Turnham Green Station thence by No. 55 bus to Chiswick S.R. Station.

By Bus No. 71 from Hammersmith to Polytechnic Sports Ground.

Mr. Heinrich Joss has been elected Vice-President of the Superior Court of the canton of Berne, in succession to the late Mr. Loder, he will preside at the same time over the Commercial Tribunal. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The Canadian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur George Magann, has paid an official visit to the University of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The Government of the canton Basle-Country has accepted the accounts for 1955, showing a credit-balance of four million francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The Russian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Pawel J. Jerschow, has paid an official visit to the town and Government of the canton of Basle. He was received by the members of the cantonal Government at the Town Hall, followed by a luncheon at the Wildt'schen house. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The accounts of the canton of Schaffhausen for 1955, close with a credit balance of 26,579.—frs. Those of the canton of Thurgau, show a credit balance of 77,500.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell a.Rh. took place at Trogen on April 22nd. Mr. Jakob Bruderer "Landamann" has tendered his resignation on reaching retiring age, his successor will be nominated later on. [A.T.S.]

* * *
An explosion which occurred in the laboratory of the "Sprengstofffabrik Dottikon" (Ct. Aargau) caused the death of two workmen, and considerable material damage. [A.T.S.]

* * *
Burglars entered the premises of the jewellery firm Bolognini in Lucarno, and decamped with goods to the value of 6,000.—frs.

* * *
M. Louis Demierre (85) a former station-master of Sâles, was run over by a train at a level-crossing near the station of Siviez, and killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *
On the 1st of April, 1956, the population of the town of Lausanne numbered 115,238 (April, 1955: 114,575). [A.T.S.]

* * *
Major Hans Fasler (40) an Instructor in the Swiss Air Force, was killed when his Venom machine crashed at the Ambri Military Airport (Ct. Ticino), he leaves a widow and two children. [A.T.S.]

* * *
Julius Supersaxo (30) mountain guide of Saas-Fee fell into a glacier crevasse at the "Alphubel" (4,200m.), and was killed, he leaves a widow and two children. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The Neuchâtel cantonal court has acquitted four Swiss industrialists accused in a case concerning the alleged counterfeiting of 11,000 Saudi Arabian gold sovereigns. The court held that Swiss law on counterfeit currency was inapplicable as the accused openly made and exported the gold coins, which they were told were to be used as medals. Moreover it could not be proved that at the time there was an official gold currency in Saudi Arabia. [A.T.S.]

* * *
181,166 persons visited the "Palais de Nations", Geneva, in 1955 (1954: 101,321). [A.T.S.]

A delegation comprising three States Councillors, and three National Councillors, headed by Dr. E. Speiser (Baden) have paid a visit to the Cointrin Airport (Geneva) to discuss security arrangements with the airport authorities. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Josef Fassbind, a member of the well-known Hotelier family, in Lugano, at the age of 71.

Marcel Bloch, Manager of the watch manufacturing works "Juvenia", La Chaux-de-Fonds, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 65.

Werner Feuz, portrait and landscape painter, in Montreux, at the age of 74.

Theodor Strübi, Editor of the paper "Murtenbieter", in Lausanne (whilst on holiday), aged 62.

Dr. Johann Bossi in Chur, aged 82. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons from 1905-1915. From 1915-1920, he was a member of the cantonal Government. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1919-1943.

Dr. Josef Muff, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Hitzkirch, of the age of 74.

Dr. Bruno Amiet, since 1931 a teacher of History, Geography and German at the "Kantonsschule", Solothurn, in Solothurn, aged 53.

Pierre Kohler, since 1932, Professor of French literature at the University of Berne, and author of a number of essays, amongst them "Madame de Staél et la Suisse", "Madame de Staél au Château de Coppet", and "L'art de Ramuz", in Muri, nr. Berne, at the age of 69.

Gustav Haug, composer and conductor, in St. Gall, aged 85.

D. Brügger, Head of the firm of art publishers, "Brügger, A.G.", in Meiringen, at the age of 73.

Albert Hug, formerly Director of the Fribourg orphanage, and Professor at the College St. Michel, in Fribourg, aged 82.

Jakob Wäckerlin, formerly "Erziehungsrat" in Neunkirch (Schaffhausen), at the age of 78. [A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The commune of Morges which was mentioned in the will of the late eminent pianist, Paderewski, has now received the amount of 50,526.—frs. This sum will be added to a Fund for school buildings.

Victor Näf, a citizen of the commune of Küsnacht

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(Ct. Zurich), who died last November, has left two properties to the commune, as well as an amount of 10,000.—frs. A number of charitable institutions have received various donations amounting altogether to 20,000.—frs. His large collection of graphic art has been left to the "Schweiz. Landesmuseum", the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and the "Kunsthaus" Zurich, in equal parts.

The heirs of the late Ernst Züst, "Gemeindehauptmann" in Speicher (Ct. Appenzell), have made a donation of 12,000.—frs. to the commune of Speicher.

The late Mlle. Rosa Gloor of Oberkulm (Ct. Aargau), has given a legacy of 15,000—frs. to the school at Oberkulm. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. Jacques Chenevière (70) of Geneva, writer, and Vice-President of the International Red Cross Committee.

Mr. Karl Anneler (70) of Berne, well-known landscape painter.

Edgar Chappuis (70) of Chexbres (Ct. Vaud), author and journalist. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. A. de Haller-de Cérenville of Moudon, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Barraud-Monnet of Clarens, Mr. & Mrs. Hunkeler-Busman of Kaltbach-Sursee, Mr. & Mrs. Rüegsegger-Werren of Hapkern nr. Interlaken, Mr. & Mrs. Frehner-Rohner of Herisau. [A.T.S.]

Switzerland is the chief foreign investor in the United States. She holds a quarter of the American securities in foreign ownership.

The United States atomic reactor of the "swimming pool" type, bought by Switzerland, is to be erected this year at Wuerenlingen, Canton Aargau.

The reactor, which was a prize exhibit at the United Nations conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Geneva last year, will be used for research.

Construction will also begin on the same site of an experimental heavy-water reactor of the P34 type for further research and training of personnel.

The Wuerenlingen site belongs to the Reactor S.A. Group, a private enterprise receiving State subsidy. The shareholders are 125 different concerns, of which industrial firms represent 49 per cent, electricity companies 31 per cent, and banks and insurance companies 20 per cent.

The State has allocated a subsidy of about £400,000 for construction of the heavy-water reactor and the purchase of five tons of uranium bars for use. Further subsidies will help to cover administration and running costs.

Most Swiss glaciers are receding, it has been discovered by the Swiss Society for Nature Research, which reports that 46 of the 71 glaciers in the country receded during 1955.

Swiss police chiefs, meeting in Winterthur, have approved a resolution supporting a 30 m.p.h. speed limit in built-up areas. At present there is no speed limit in most Swiss towns and villages.

Canton Geneva, to enable jet airliners to use its airport, proposes to extend its runways from 1,830

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to 3,476 yards. The airport is situated at Cointrin, along the French border, and no extension could be made without encroaching upon French territory. An agreement has been signed in Paris between the Swiss and French representatives providing for an exchange of territory covering a total area of 103 acres.

Because of the geographical situation, the Cointrin runways are set up in one direction only — namely, south-west to north-east, as at the end of Lake Geneva there are only two main currents of wind, south-west and north-east.

Reports received from Switzerland estimate that 34,000 of Geneva's rose trees were killed during the severe weather earlier this year. It is feared that the traditional rose week celebrations held in June may have to be cancelled, according to the Horticultural Association in Lausanne. Damage to plants is believed to be six million Swiss francs, about £490,000.

A total of 15,377 students, of whom 4,047 were foreigners, attended Swiss universities in 1955.

The Federal Polytechnic Institution in Zurich headed the list with 2,646 students, followed by the universities of Zurich with 2,594 and Geneva with 2,810.

Of the foreign students, 1,020 came from North America, mostly from the United States.

More than two million Swiss watches are believed to have been smuggled into Brazil in 1953 and 1954, according to a spokesman for the Brazilian trade office in Berne. The discovery was made by comparing official Swiss and Brazilian trade statistics. In 1953,

Switzerland exported 941,085 watches to Brazil and 1,210,297 in 1954; but, according to Brazilian statistics, only 23,051 watches were imported in 1953 and 48,309 in 1954.

SWITZERLAND.

In Europe's mosaic a precious stone
Is set, a land of beauty, small in size,
By nature fashioned like a paradise,
Where mighty mountains rear their silvery throne.

Within its borders slaves were never known,
Its people, blessed with leaders strong and wise,
Hold liberty a nation's richest prize
And have, indeed, secured it as their own.

Here, social mankind's destiny and fate
Are mirrored in a free community
Which lacks the bond of common tongue or creed,
Yet thrives, contented, as one happy breed,
Industrious, peaceful and in harmony,
A micocrosm of the perfect State.

J.J.F.S.

SWISS STAMPS AID NATIONAL COLLECTION.

Five special stamps with an extra charge for the benefit of the 1956 Swiss National Day Collection will be issued again on June 1st.

In accordance with the chief object of this year's collection the 5c. stamp pays tribute to the work of the Swiss woman in the domestic circle. The four other values terminate the "Lakes and Watercourses" series begun in 1952.

As stipulated, 90 per cent of the net proceeds from the extra charge will go to the National Day Collection, which this year is intended for the women in the service of the people. The remaining 10 per cent will be used in equal parts for the Swiss National Library in Berne and for the founding of an Academy of Arts and Letters in Switzerland.

The 5c. depicts symbols of feminine work and will be in one colour only, greenish blue. It will be rotary line-engraved by the Stamp Printing Office of PTT, Berne. The remaining four, depicting lakes and watercourses, will be in two colours, rotogravure process by Courvoisier S.A. Switzerland.

In compliance with numerous requests the National Day Committee for the Canton of Berne will issue a special envelope. In the lower left hand corner this year's National Day badge will be depicted.

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