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# The Swiss Observer

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The death has taken place in the Anglo-Swiss Hospital in Cairo, after an operation, of Monsieur André Boissier, the Swiss Minister to Egypt. He was 52.

Born in Paris, he came of a well-known Genevan family, and it was in that city that he first studied, later going to Cambridge and Paris, and finally took his degree in law. He entered the Swiss Diplomatic service in 1942, and served for the next five years in Washington. For two years he was chief of protocol in Berne, and then in 1951, returned to the United States as 1st Counsellor of Legation. In 1954 he was appointed Minister in Cairo.

The Boissier family has given many eminent servants to the public, cultural and scholastic life of Geneva. The late Minister was a cousin of Professor Leopold Boissier, Chairman of the International Red Cross Committee.

\* \* \*

The Diplomatic Corps in Berne has given the traditional Dinner to the members of the Federal Council. The following Federal Councillors were present: M. Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, Messieurs Petitpierre, Streuli, Holenstein, Chaudet and Lepori. Amongst other guests were: the Presidents of the Federal Chambers (States and National Council), representatives of the Bernese Government, Colonel de Montmollin, Chief of the General Staff, and high functionaries of the Federal administration, all with their Ladies.

\* \* \*

The newly appointed Persian Ambassador, M. Abolghassem Forouhar, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.1 million passengers during March, 1956, or 200,000 more than in March, 1955. Receipts: 24.7 million francs (March, 1955: 24.4 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.87 million tons, or 80,000 tons less than during the same period in 1955. Receipts: 36.6 million francs (March, 1955: 37.2 million francs).

#### Cantonal

All former members of the Government of the canton of Uri have been re-elected. They are: F. Arnold, Liberal (Flüelen), 3,451 votes; Peter Tresch, Liberal (Amsteg), 3,491 votes; L. Daniöth, Conservative (Andermatt), 3,579 votes; Alois Müller, Conservative (Altdorf), 3,622 votes; Hans Villiger, Conservative (Erstfeld), 3,372 votes; Dr. M. Huber, Conservative (Altdorf), 3,617 votes; and J. Müller, Christian Socialist (Flüelen), 3,515 votes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The result of the election for the Government of the canton of Schwyz is as follows: Cäsar Bachmann, Liberal (Wollerau), 8,305 votes; Clemens Dober, Conservative (Küssnacht), 7,591 votes; Josef Heinzer, Socialist (Goldau), 11,088 votes; Stefan Oechslin, Con-

## ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

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servative (Einsiedeln), 11,609 votes; Dr. Vital Schwander, Conservative (Galgenen), 7,504 votes; Dr. Rudolf Sidler, Liberal (Schwyz), 7,806 votes; and Fritz Husi, Christian Socialist (Einsiedeln), 10,845 votes.

\* \* \*

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden was held at Stans, the following guests were present: Federal Councillor, Dr. Lepori, the Belgian Ambassador in Berne, M. Forthomme, the members of the Government of the canton of Glarus, Army-corps commander Louis Montmollin, and Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich.

Dr. Joseph Odermatt (Buochs) was elected "Landammann", and Mr. Ernst Zraggen (Hergiswil) as "Statthalter". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Obwaldner "Landsgemeinde" took place at Sarnen. Amongst the visitors present was Army-corps commander Corbat. Dr. G. Odermatt was re-elected as "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the Delegates Meeting of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Verein", which took place in Basle, National Councillor Ph. Schmid-Ruedin, has retired from his post as General Secretary. He is succeeded by Mr. Arnold Meier-Ragg.

Mr. Schmid-Ruedin was unanimously elected as Central President in succession to Mr. K. Strickler, who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for the Federal Gymnast Festival, which took place at Zurich in 1955, and in spite of the bad weather conditions which prevailed, show a credit balance of 148,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Ernst Vaterlaus, has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Zurich for 1956/57, as Vice-President Dr. Walter König was elected. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The arts prize given by the town of Zurich, amounting to 8,000.—frs. for 1956, has been awarded to the sculptor Mr. Otto Charles Baenninger of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) has honoured Dr. Fritz Stüssi, Professor at the Federal Institute

of Technology (ETH), Zurich, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Frau Christine Jenny-Jenny of Ennenda (Ct. Glarus) has celebrated her 102nd birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The population of the town of Bienne on April 30th, 1956, numbered 54,008. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A motorist, who through reckless driving caused the death of a 64-years-old man, was fined 300.—frs. (!) by the Tribunal of Morât. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. was held at Trogen, amongst the guests were present the French Ambassador in Berne, M. Dennery, and the members of the Government of the canton of Thurgau. Mr. Adolf Bodmer (Trogen) was elected as "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh. took place at Appenzell. Mr. Armin Loder (Oberegg) has been re-elected as "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The firm "Eisen-und Stahlwerke Oehler & Cie., A.G., Aarau", employing a staff of 440, has celebrated their 75th anniversary. President of the Board is Mr. Alfred Oehler-Wassmer. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

At a meeting of the commune of Lenzburg (Ct. Aargau) a proposal to buy the castle of Lenzburg, which belongs to the heirs of the American scientist Ellsworth, was accepted by a large majority. The price paid is 500,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Lausanne composer, Julien-François Zbinden, head of music section of Radio Lausanne, has received 3rd prize at the International Music Competition at Warsaw. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mme. Vuichod-Girard of Montreux has celebrated her 101st birthday. Born in 1855 at Yverne, she has lived since 1876 in Montreux. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Marius Lampert has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Valais for 1956/57. M. Marcel Gross has been elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

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A sports plane piloted by the well-known glider pilot, Alwin Kuhn (32) of Colombier, crashed at the Planeyse airport; Kuhn was seriously injured, and later on succumbed to his injuries. He leaves a widow and two boys. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
**DEATHS.**

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Mgr. Dr. Richard Felti, for 17 years a teacher of religion at the "Kantonsschule", St. Gall, and priest at Wil.

Lucien Naville, Manager of the Naville Paper Agency, Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 75.

Hans Blattner, Director of the Customs District 1 (Basle), in Basle, aged 64.

Dr. Paul Burchhardt-Lüscher, from 1927-1938, rector of the "Mädchengymnasium", Basle, in Basle, at the age of 84.

Hans Dick, President of the "Kantonalen Krankenkassen", Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen, aged 44.

Jakob Hartmann, dialect writer, in Rehtobel, (Appenzell A.Rh.), at the age of 80.

Fritz Walther, from 1938-1956, President of the Board of the "Verbandsdruckerei", Berne, in Berne, aged 73.

Dom Aristide Redaelli, Director of the Institute "Elvetico" founder of the "Oratorio", and the College Dom Bosco, Maroggia, in Novaro, at the age of 80.

Dr. Emil Amrein, a well-known medical practitioner, in Lucerne, aged 59.

Mario Soldini, President of the Government of the canton of Ticino, in Mendrisio, at the age of 39.

Born in 1917, he received his schooling at the Benedictine College, Sarnen, and afterwards studied law at the University of Fribourg. In 1941, he established himself as an advocate and notary in Mendrisio. In 1955, he entered the cantonal Government in succession to Mr. Giuseppe Lepori, the latter having entered the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
**LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.**

The late Mlle. Katharina Zweifel of Linthal (Ct. Glarus) has left an amount of 16,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
**ANNIVERSARIES.**

Guglielmo Canevascini (70), of Lugano, for 34 years a member of the Government of the canton of

### CITY SWISS CLUB

We have much pleasure in announcing that on **Monday, 11th June** next, at the Dorchester Hotel (Orchid Room), we shall have a Dinner (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.), after which Dr. F. W. HUMMLER from Berne, will kindly give us "A TALK on SWISS ECONOMIC POLICY DURING the PRESENT BOOM".

The Committee.

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Ticino. He was at one time a Member of Parliament (National Council), and Editor of the Socialist paper "Libera Stampa".

Professor Karl Barth (70) of Berne, Professor of Theology at the University of Basle. A native of Berne, Karl Barth soon became one of the most reputed theologians on the Continent. After 1934 he started publishing his main work, *Ecclesiastical Dogma*, the successive volumes of which made a great impression in theological circles. He stirred up the will of resistance of the Swiss during the war, and showed them that there was no moral neutrality.

Dr. Paul-Louis Mercanton (80) of Riex, formerly Professor of Meteorology and Topography at the University of Lausanne, and from 1934-1941, Director of the "Meterologischen Zentralanstalt", Zurich.

[A.T.S.]

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Bütler-Elmiger of Gelfingen, (Ct. Lucerne), Mr. & Mrs. G. Wilhelm-Wilhelm of Zofingen, Mr. & Mrs. G. Pally-Mandal of Compesières, Mr. & Mrs. E. Wüst-Zäch of Oberriet (Ct. St. Gall), Mr. & Mrs. A. Menzi-Kobelt of Tramelan, Mr. & Mrs. E. Richner-Heberlein of Morât.

Mr. & Mrs. W. Zeller-Aellig of Liestal have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65).

[A.T.S.]

On February 15th, 1956, 194,534 foreign workers were employed in Switzerland (90,328 males and 104,206 females). (February, 1955: 166,210.) [A.T.S.]

Third party insurance for dogs is now compulsory in Geneva. The Cantonal Parliament passed a law providing that no dog licence will be issued in future unless the owner has an insurance policy.

A Swiss airman, Mr. Matti, has landed recently his Bell G52 helicopter on a narrow rock ledge on the Furggen ridge, at a height of 10,500ft., at the foot of the Matterhorn rock wall. An Italian photographer, who was a passenger in the helicopter, was able to climb from the ledge to the upper station of the Breuil Furggjoch cable railway. The object was to discover whether the bodies of the Italian climbers Cazzaniga and Maggioni, who were killed during the snowstorm of March 20, were still on the Matterhorn. It was found that the two bodies are near the shoulder of the mountain held fast by the ice, from which it

will not be possible to free them until the summer thaw.

\* \* \*

The Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors has awarded the sum of £6,000 to the Swiss firm J. R. Geigy in Basle, for the discovery of D.D.T. insecticide.

\* \* \*

What is probably the world's smallest regular army as well as its oldest, the Swiss Guard at the Vatican, recently celebrated its 450th anniversary by military ceremonies with pipes and drums, and a parade in its traditional yellow, orange, and dark blue striped uniforms — reputed to have been designed by Michael Angelo or Raphael. For the occasion they also wore their heavy medieval armour, instead of the lighter armour customarily used.

The origins of the guard go back to the fourteenth century, when a number of Swiss and other foreign mercenaries took service with the reigning Pope. But, apart from occasional references to the recruitment of Swiss mercenaries, little is known of its history until 1505, when Pope Julius II decided to establish a permanent Swiss corps for the personal protection of the Pope and the papal palaces — a function which, with the addition of certain police functions laid down in the Lateran Treaty of 1929, it still fulfils.

The regular foundation of the guard, therefore, dates from January 21, 1506, when 150 Swiss soldiers, led by Peter von Hertenstein, arrived in Rome and were given the solemn blessing of the Pope in St. Peter's Square. Twenty-one years later the guard was almost wiped out in the sack of Rome.

It is on the anniversary of this event each year that new recruits take their traditional oath to "serve faithfully the reigning Pontiff and his legitimate successors or, in periods when the throne is vacant, the Sacred College of Cardinals". Recently, when the anniversary celebrations were held in conjunction with the oath-taking ceremony, there were 21 new recruits from 10 Swiss cantons, bringing the strength of the guard to 83. The captain commandant is Colonel Baron Heinrich de Pfyster d'Altishofen, the 27th commander since the corps was established.

Before the ceremony, and the laying of a wreath on the memorial in the Vatican of the 147 Swiss guards who were killed in the sack of Rome, the

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members of the corps attended mass in St. Peter's. Later, together with many Swiss who had come to Rome for the celebrations, they were received in audience by the Pope, who conferred on members of the guard a special medal commemorating the 450th anniversary.

**ALLES LEBEN STROEMT AUS DIR.  
(Appenzeller Landsgemeinde Lied.)**

Lord, all life streams forth from Thee.  
Never ceasing, like a river,  
Flow Thy blessings, gracious Giver,  
Fashioned by Thy hands are we.

To Thy greatness owe I all,  
All my being, ev'ry feeling,  
At Thy feet I'm humbly kneeling,  
Thou whom Father I may call.

May Thy comfort, limitless,  
Fill my heart with joy unbounded,  
Knowing that I am surrounded  
By a father's tenderness.

Thou art near, with me abide  
As I worship at Thy altar —  
Lest my halting feet should falter  
Let Thy angels be my guide.

(Transl. by J.J.F.S.)

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