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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, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Franco Brenni, at present Swiss Minister in Cuba, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Haiti with residence in Havanna.

The Consular Agency in Boston (U.S.A.) has received the status of a Consulate. Mr. Georges-Henry Barrel has been appointed Honorary Consul. He was born at La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1895 and is a citizen of this town. The new Consul has been in Boston for many years and occupies an important post in a commercial concern. In 1936, he was appointed Swiss Consular Agent.

The following diplomats have presented their credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation and to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne: Monsieur Fernand Seymaeve, Belgian Ambassador, and Monsieur Petar Grigorow Bulgarian Minister.

The Federal Council has decided to raise the Swiss Consulates in Monrovia (Liberia) and Accra (Ghana) to the status of Consulates General. Mr. Rudolf Scheurer has been nominated Honorary Consul General, and Mr. Eduard Brugger has been promoted to the rank of Consul General.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.6 million passengers in the month of July, 1957, or 200,000 more than in July, 1956. Receipts: 36.8 million francs. (July, 1956: 36.5 million francs.)

2,420 million tons of goods traffic was transported, an increase of 109,000 tons over last year's July figures. Receipts 44.9 million francs. (July, 1956: 43.3 million francs.)

Customs receipts for the month of July, 1957, totalled 89.3 million francs; of this amount the

Confederation receives 66.6 million francs or 4.9 million francs more than in July, 1956.

The Swiss Government has offered a luncheon to Monsieur Habib Burgiba, President of the Republic of Tunisia, who is on holiday in Switzerland.

The Swiss Confederation has during the year 1955, paid the amount of 420 million francs in subventions.

Professor Dr. Theodor Heuss, President of the German "Bundesrepublik", who has spent his holiday in Switzerland, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation. The distinguished visitor was the guest of the Federal Council at a luncheon.

#### Cantonal

Three persons lost their lives on a mountaineering excursion into the "Fluhberggebiet" (Ct. Schwyz).

The victims are: August de Lazzer (55) his wife, and the latter's brother Hermann Erzinger (43) all of Fehraltorf (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

Mr. Josef Maria Bruhin, a former President of the commune of Schwyz and a member of the District Court of Schwyz has celebrated his 100th birthday.

[A.T.S.]

### Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

#### OPEN MEETING

Tuesday, 17th September, 1957 at 7.45 p.m.

at the Swiss Hostel for Girls,

9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

DR. HANS CONZETT

National Councillor of Zurich

will speak in English on

THE SWISS PARLIAMENT, CULTURAL  
PROBLEMS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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The population of the town of Lucerne numbered at the end of July 1957, 68,031. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the "Pferdehaar-spinnerei Schnwyder A.G." Waedenswil caused damage exceeding 400,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

Burglars who entered the jewellery establishment of Emil Kofmehl in Zurich decamped with goods to the value of 60,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

One person was killed, and two seriously injured, when two motorcars collided in Dietlikon (Zurich). The name of the victim is Mrs. Erna Enderli (47) of Winterthur. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Max Stamm-Grob, co-founder of the firm Stamm & Co., Eglisau (Ct. Zurich) has been made an honorary citizen of Eglisau. [A.T.S.]

A collision between two motor-cars at the crossing of the Niederglatt and Buelach-Dielsdorf roads near Neeracher Riet (Ct. Zurich), caused the death of two persons, six people were injured. The names of the killed are Franz Brunner (28) of Breitenbach and Henry Virieux (59) of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The town of Bienne numbered on July 30th 1957, 57,023 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Bernese painter, etcher and sculptor Karl Stauffer, an exhibition of his works will be held from September to October 1957, at the "Berner Kunstmuseum." [A.T.S.]

The little town of Wangen and der Aare has celebrated the 700th anniversary of its foundation, and the 550th anniversary of union with Berne. [A.T.S.]

The names of the three mountaineers who lost their lives at the "Bluemlisalphorn" (Bernese Oberland) are Walter Jakob, Edi Jakob, and Juerg Basler of Thun. [A.T.S.]

A German national aged 24, who drove by car from Lustenau into Switzerland made an armed attack at the local agency of the "Leih and Sparkasse des

Linthgebietes" in Weesen (Ct. St. Gall). Threatening the cashier with a revolver he demanded the contents of the safe. The latter at once got to grips with the intruder and during the scuffle a shot was fired which fortunately did no damage. The cashier was able to sound the alarm, and the assailant took to his heels, he was pursued by passers by, and ultimately arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Kasper Huonder (40) medical practitioner in Disentis (Ct. Grisons) on the way to visit a patient, was killed when his car hit a kerb. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Theophil Nigg, (78) for many years "Gemeindeammann" of the commune of Pfäfers and a teacher in Vaettis was killed on an excursion in the Vaettner mountains. [A.T.S.]

The "Jura — Cement Works Aarau and Wildeg" has celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

The little town of Diessenhofen (Ct. Thurgau) has celebrated the 1,200th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

The Statistical office of the canton of Ticino states that the population at the end of 1956 numbered 186,506. (Lugano: 20,730; Bellinzona: 12,867; Locarno: 8,680; Castagnola 3,522; Ascona: 2,808; Minusio: 3,296; and Muralto: 3,032). [A.T.S.]

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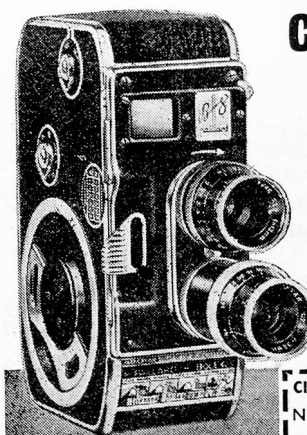
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Dr. med. Louis Vauthier, founder of the University Clinic Leysin has been made an officer of the "Légion d'Honneur". [A.T.S.]

Goods valued at 65,000.— frs. were stolen from a jewellery establishment in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Jean Spiro, president of the lawyers association, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton Vaud, in Lausanne, at the age of 84.

Professor Alderige Fantuzzi, in Mendresio. The deceased was for ten years Director of the Agricultural Institute, Mezzana, and for many years Professor of Agronomy in Locarno.

Julius Pentman, a well-known Journalist, in Geneva, at the age of 73.

Hans-Ulrich Akeret-Ribo, partner in the publishing firm Akeret, Buelach, aged 28.

Sylvestre Pilloud, President of the commune of Chatel Saint-Denis, and a member of the Grand Council from 1926 to 1951, in Chatel St. Denis, at the age of 67.

Fritz Ringwald, Vice-President of the Board of the "Central-Schweizerischen Kraftwerker" Lucerne, and President of the Board of the "Elektrizitaets Werke Altdorf und Schwyz", in Lucerne aged 83.

Divisional Colonel Gustave Combe, in Orbe, at the age of 75. The deceased was from 1935 to 1940, commander of the 1st Division. From 1940 to 1948, he occupied an important post on the General Staff.

Ernest Landry, Director of the slaughter-house Geneva from 1927 to 1955, in Geneva, aged 62.

Dr. Ulrich Diem, a former Director of the Municipal Theatre of St. Gall, in St. Gall at the age of 86.

Dr. Victor von Castelberg, from 1931 to 1953, a member of the management of the "Schweiz Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft" Zurich, in Zurich aged 67.

Rudolf Huber, in Altdorf at the age of 75. The deceased was from 1934 to 1952 a member of the Government of the canton of Uri. From 1926 to 1946, he occupied the post of "Platzkommandant" of the town of Altdorf with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Charles Nicoud, for many years Manager of the PTT administration. (District Neuchâtel), in Corcelles, aged 82.

Dr. med. Léon Picot-Roux, a well-known surgeon and for seven years commander of the "Militär Sanitaets-Anstalt 2" with the rank of Colonel, in Mont-La-Ville at the age of 69.

Dr. med. Jean Olivier, head of the Butini hospital, and general-secretary of the Geneva medical association, in Gryon-sur-Bex, aged 82.

Mlle. Ida Ingold, a well-known painter, in Hilterfingen (Ct. Berne) at the age of 76.

Walter Wyss, President of the Tribunal Thalgaen (Ct. Solothurn), and from 1941 to 1945 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Solothurn, in Solothurn aged 58.

Mario Chiattonne, a well-known architect, in Lugano, at the age of 66. [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Ernest Wetter (80) of Winterthur. The "Jubilar" is in the real sense of the word a self-

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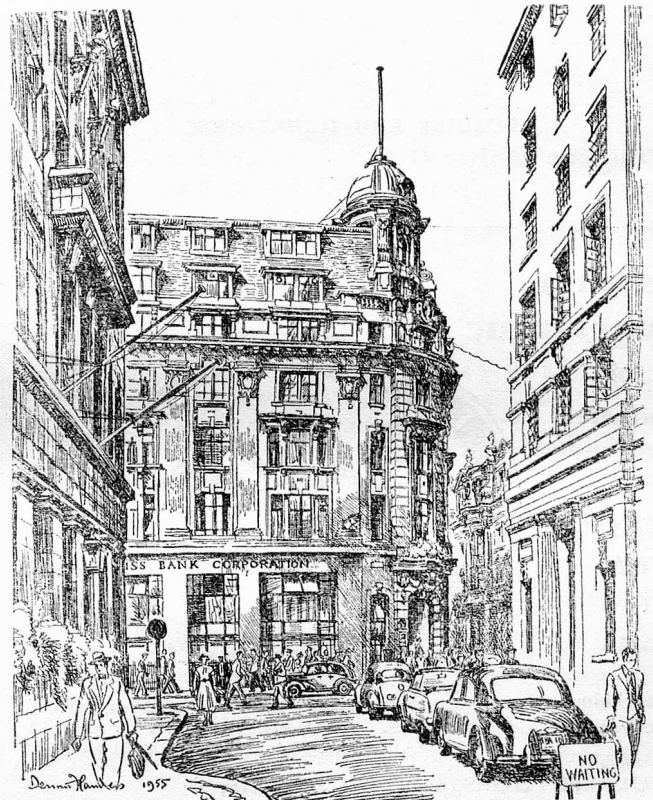
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made man; born in humble circumstances, he started as a teacher at the secondary schools in Uster and Winterthur after having saved enough money he studied National Economy at the Universities of Zurich, Paris and London, and for a number of years he was a "Privat Dozent" at the University of Zurich.

From that post he was called by the former Federal Councillor, Dr. Schulthess to the Federal Economic Department, where he occupied the office of general secretary, and later on he became Director of the commercial division. In 1924, he left the Civil Service to enter the administration of the "Vorortes des Schweiz. Handels und Industrie Vereins" of which he became ultimately its President.

Dr. Wetter started his political career in the year 1924, when he was elected a member of the "Kantonsrat"; from 1929 to 1938, he was a member of the National Council. On December 1938, he was elected a member of the Federal Government. Dr. Wetter was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1941, and two years later (1943) he relinquished his post.

After his resignation he became President of the "Schweiz. Rentenanstalt" and of the "Aluminium — Industrie A.G."

Charly Clerc (75) of Berne, author and formerly Professor of French literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Dr. Werner Fehlmann (70) of Schaffhausen, Professor of "Fischereiwissenschaft" at the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, and from 1918 to 1952 a teacher of natural science at the "Kantonschule" Schaffhausen.

Brigade-Colonel Dr. Hans Meuli (60) of Nufenen (Ct. Grisons) since 1946 "Oberfeldarzt und Chef der Abteilung für Sanität" at the Federal Military Department.

J.E.S.

\* \* \*

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Walter Grob, a former civil servant of Degersheim (Ct. St. Gall), has left to the community

of Degersheim the amount of 155,000.— frs. for charitable and cultural purposes.

\* \* \*

The *Pro Juventute* of Uri has received a donation of 50,000.— frs. from an anonymous donor, the interest to be used to assist needy students.

\* \* \*

Mr. Emil Michel of Winterthur who died in 1954 has left the sum of 34,000.— frs. to the town of Winterthur.

\* \* \*

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Baumgartner of Eggersriet (Ct. St. Gall), Mr. and Mrs. Straubhaar-Trachsel of Bubikon (Ct. Zurich), and Mr. and Mrs. A. Meylan-Audemars of Le Brassus. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### VARIOUS.

The 35th "Auslandschweizertag" opened its session at the Institute Ingenbohl-Brunnen on August 31st, under the Presidency of Mr. Olivier Reverdin. About 300 members from many countries attended the deliberations amongst them representatives of the Federal administration.

Amongst the many speakers were National Councillor Olivier Reverdin, Fritz Husi "Statthalter des Landes Schwyz", Professor Dr. Egli, Central President of the N.H.G. "Gemeindepräsident Auf der Maur," Brunnen, Mr. R. Bratschi, Vice-President of the National Council, and Mr. M. Jaccard of the Federal Political Department, etc. etc.

The "Auslandschweizertag" ended with a social evening at Brunnen, and a patriotic celebration on the Rütli on which occasion Federal-Councillor Dr. Ph. Etter, delivered an address and the greetings of the Swiss Government. (We hope to publish an account of the "Auslandschweizertag" in one of our next issues.)

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 27th, 1957. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Minister, Dr. E. Bernath, Bangkok, E. Eha, R. Pfenninger, Basle, L. S. R. Asch, C. Pulfer, J. J. Wetter, Ch. Valon, J. Sohm, Mrs. W. Habersaat, A. M. Themans, E. E. Rognon, M. Lindemann, J. P. Locher, O. Wuest, H. Mock.

#### NATIONAL COUNCILLOR DR. HANS CONZETT. An N.S.H. Lecture.

The London Group of the N.S.H. was fortunate enough to secure a prominent Swiss Parliamentarian and Publisher of Zürich Dr. Hans Konzett for the opening lecture for the new season of Meetings. It will take place on September 17th at the Swiss Hostel for Girls (full details see advertisement). The lecturer will speak in English on the questions with which he occupies himself particularly in Parliament: Swiss cultural problems and foreign affairs. It is hoped that this talk and the subsequent discussion on such interesting questions will attract the support they deserve.

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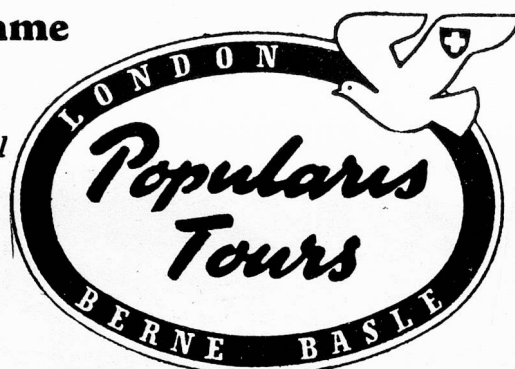
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