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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Swiss Ambassador in Vienna, Monsieur Reinhold Hohl, on reaching retiring age, will leave his post at the end of this year.

The Federal Council has appointed as his successor Monsieur Beat von Fischer, at present Swiss Minister in Portugal. The new Ambassador was born in Berne in 1901, and studied Law at the Universities of Berne, Fribourg, Munich and Paris. He received his doctorate in 1926 from the University of Berne.

Monsieur von Fischer entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1929. Three years later (1932) he was sent as Attaché to the Swiss Legation at The Hague, and in succession held posts at Buenos Aires, Warsaw, Bucharest, Riga and Helsinki. In 1949 he was appointed Swiss Minister in Egypt, and since 1954 he has represented the Confederation in Portugal.

Dr. Reinhold Hohl, the retiring Ambassador, was born in 1893, in Rheineck, and is a citizen of Heiden (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.). After having studied Law at the Universities of Zurich, Berne, and Geneva — where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Law — he entered the Swiss Foreign Office in 1919, where he occupied various important posts, amongst them head of the Department of Legal, Financial and Traffic Affairs. In February 1948 he received the title of Minister. In the same year the Federal Council appointed him Swiss Minister in Prague, and four years later (1952) he was transferred to Tokio in the same capacity. In 1954 Dr. Hohl was nominated Swiss Minister in Vienna, and whilst there he was promoted in 1957 to the rank of Ambassador.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Willy Dinkelmann, at present Consul at the Swiss Embassy in Paris, to the post of Swiss Consul at Cape Town, in succession to Mr. Gabriel Naville, who is retiring.

Mr. Dinkelmann was born at Hellsau, and is a citizen of Heimiswil (Ct. Berne). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department in 1941.

Mr. W. Erich Straessle has been appointed Honorary Swiss Consul in Cali (Colombia). Consul Straessle was born in 1910 in Buetschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He has been since 1937 in a leading position with the firm "Cia Croydon del Pacifico".

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of October 1958 total 86.3 million francs; of this amount the Confederation receives 62 million francs, or 3.1 million francs less than in October 1957.

During the first ten months of the current year the receipts amount to 587.2 million francs, or 2.3 million francs less than during the same period in 1957.

\* \* \*

The following diplomats have presented their credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne: Monsieur M. Sloven, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, and Monsieur Camilo Belisario Porras, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Panama.

\* \* \*

Two candidates have so far been mentioned as possible successors to the late Federal Councillor Dr. Markus Feldmann, namely, Mr. W. Siegenthaler, President of the Government of the canton of Berne, and Professor Dr. F. T. Wahlen.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has nominated Monsieur Julien Rossat to the post of Swiss Minister in Dublin, in succession to Minister Jean Decroux.

Minister Rossat was born in Lausanne in 1901, and is a citizen of Granges-Marnand (Ct. Vaud). In 1923

### Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

#### ANNUAL FILM SHOW on

Saturday, January 17th 1959, from 2.30 p.m.  
at

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The Film Show will include "La vie du Pays",  
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Free admission to all Swiss and friends. Children  
especially welcome.

he entered the service of the Federal Military Department, and shortly afterwards was transferred to the Federal Finance and Customs Department. In 1929 M. Rossat became attached to the Foreign Office, and successively held appointments in Mulhausen, Marseilles and Tokio. In 1940 he returned to the Foreign Office in Berne, and two years later (1942) he acted as Chargé d'Affaires in Colombia. Returning to Berne again, Monsieur Rossat occupied an important post at the Political Department. He was appointed Swiss Minister to Ankara in 1951.

### Cantonal

The William Tell plays at Altdorf, started in 1899, will be resumed next summer. [A.T.S.]

The "Spinnerei Ibach" in Schwyz has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Mr. E. Scheech, President of the "General Direktion" of "Union Helvetia" Lucerne, has retired from his post, which he had held for 37 years. On the occasion of the General Meeting, which took place at Basle, he was elected Honorary President. [A.T.S.]

The Zurich police have arrested a 21-year-old man who had recently committed no less than 26 burglaries. Goods and money stolen amounted to over 26,000.—francs, and were hidden in a wood. Most of the goods and money were recovered. [A.T.S.]

The Art Prize for 1958 of the town of Lucerne has been awarded to the composer, Fritz Brun, a citizen of Lucerne residing at Morcote. The recipient is 80 years of age. [A.T.S.]

All the seven members of the Government of the canton of Zug have been re-elected. The poll shows the following results: Dr. E. Steiner (Cons.) 4,763 votes, Dr. Alois Hürlimann (Cons.) 4,990 votes, Dr. Hans Hürlimann (Cons.) 4,986 votes, Silvan Nussbaumer (Cons.) 4,939 votes, Bonaventura Iten (Liberal) 3,644 votes, Dr. Hans Straub (Liberal) 3,455 votes, Clemens Meienberg (Socialist) 2,156 votes.

Dr. Augustin Lusser (Cons.) and Alois Zehnder (Cons.) have been re-elected as members of the State Council. [A.T.S.]

The "Erziehungsdirektion" of the canton of Berne has awarded the Literature Prizes for 1958 to the following authors: Ernst Morgenthaler (1,500.—francs), Markus Kutter (1,000.—francs), Carl Seelig (750.—francs), Elisabeth Müller (500.—francs), Peter Lehner (350.—francs). [A.T.S.]

Dr. Walter Gloor, Trade Union Secretary, of Dürrenäsch, has entered Parliament (National Council) in succession to the late Dr. Arthur Schmid. He is a member of the Socialist Party. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor Hermann Leuenberger has been elected President of the V.H.T.L. (Verband der Handels-Transport- und Lebensmittel Arbeiter der Schweiz). He has been a member of the National Council since 1939. [A.T.S.]

M. Louis Barras (Lossy-Belfaux) has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg for 1959. [A.T.S.]

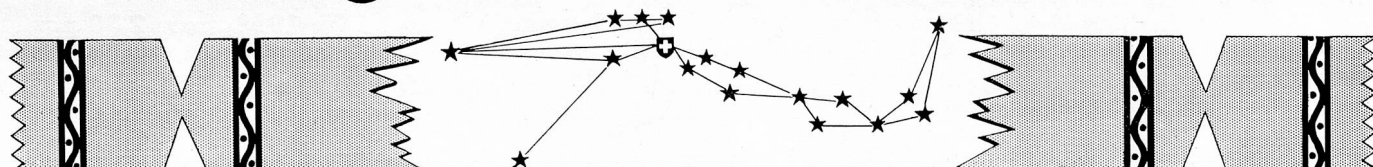
Two tramcars collided at the Heuwageplatz in Basle. Two persons were slightly injured and the material damage is considered to be substantial. An investigation into the cause of the accident has been ordered. [A.T.S.]

A masked individual entered the house of Mr. Hans Basler-Wehrli, of Rombach, near Aarau, in the night. He burst into the bedroom of Mr. and Mrs. Basler, demanding that they hand over their money. When Mr. Basler leapt from his bed he was attacked with a piece of gas piping. A fight ensued in which Mrs. Basler took part, and they managed to evict the intruder, and he ran away. Both Mr. Basler and his wife received serious injuries and were taken to hospital. [A.T.S.]

Mme Emilie Christen-Miauton, of Pully (Ct. Vaud), has celebrated her 103rd birthday. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the Marcel Benoist Foundation for Scientific Research has awarded the Prize for 1957, amounting to 20,000.—francs, to Dr. Jakob Seiler, formerly Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, for his biological studies. [A.T.S.]

# REETINGS



from

**SWISSAIR**  
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Three houses at Pully (Ct. Vaud) were burgled, and jewellery and furs to the value of 600,000.— francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

National Councillor Dr. Arthur Schmid, in Oberentfelden, at the age of 69. The deceased was a former member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich and of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau. He was also editor of the "Freien Aargauer". Dr. Schmid sat in the National Council from 1925 to 1936, presiding over it from 1930 to 1931.

Fritz Schwarz, editor of the paper "Freies Volk", and from 1934 to 1958 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, in Berne, aged 72.

Mme. Moise Schwob, in Berne, at the age of 90. Born at La Chaux-de-Fonds, she played for many years a role in art circles of her home town.

Dr. jur. Robert Senn, from 1913 to 1937 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau, in Baden, aged 89. He was at one time one of the best known personalities in the political sphere of the canton of Aargau.

Secondo Reali, ing.agr., in Lugano, aged 75; in the army he held the rank of Colonel (cavalry).

Jakob Spreng, General Manager of the "Securitas" (Schweiz. Bewachungsgesellschaft) Berne, in Berne, at the age of 65, following an accident.

Deacon Gottfried Binder, in Solothurn, at the age of 74. The deceased was from 1911 to 1922 a priest in Lengnau, and afterwards in Brugg. He was for several years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau.

Karl Bruggmann, a former member of the "Kantonsrat" St. Gall, and for 32 years editor of the "Fürstenländer", published at Gossau, and of the "Untertoggenburger".

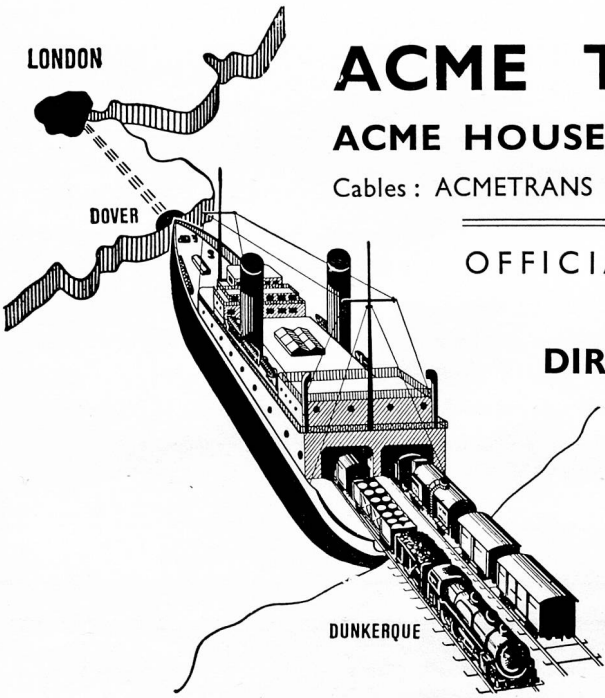
Pierre Bordier, formerly President of the commune of Versoix (Geneva), and co-founder of the Private Bankers Association, in Geneva, aged 86.

National Councillor Ernst Aebersold, in Hünibach (Thun), at the age of 71. The deceased was a former teacher at Ittigen and subsequently held the post of Primary School Inspector. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne for 13 years, and had sat since 1947 in the National Council as a Socialist.

Fritz Schneider, General Manager of "EURO-FIMA" (Europäische Gesellschaft für die Finanzierung von Eisenbahnmateriale), Basle, aged 56.

Hermann Farner, in Oberstammheim, at the age of 73. The deceased was for many years President of the District Court Andelfingen and President of the commune of Oberstammheim. From 1947 to 1955 he sat in Parliament (National Council).

Dr. h.c. Richard Doetsch-Benziger, noted art collector, in Basle, aged 81. In 1953 the University of Basle conferred on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.



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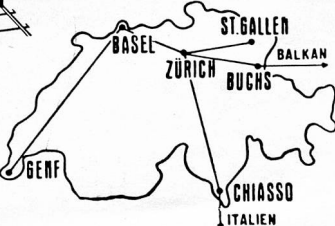
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Dr. phil. Guntram Saladin-Hürlimann, from 1933 to 1957 editor of the "Schweizerdeutschen Wörterbuch", in Walchwil, at the age of 71. [A.T.S.]

#### ARMY.

The Tribunal of the 6th Division, sitting in Zurich, has sentenced Lieutenant Hans Ulrich Berli to four years' imprisonment, degradation and expulsion from the army, for having handed over to the 3rd Secretary of the Czecho-Slovakian Legation in Berne documents of military importance.

Lt. Berli is the son of a late Divisional Colonel and "Waffenchef" who died in 1952.

The 3rd Secretary of the Czechoslovakian Legation in Berne has been ordered to leave Switzerland.

[A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARY.

Hermann Hiltbrunner (65), the noted writer, of Biel-Benken (Ct. Basle Country). [A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES.

The late Mr. Max Geldner, a merchant, of Basle, has left his valuable collection of pictures to the "Kunstmuseum" Basle, and an amount of 5 million francs to the University of Basle.

The Evangelical Church community of Siebnen (Ct. Schwyz) has received a legacy of 10,000.— francs from the late Mr. Hans Wirth, manufacturer, of Siebnen.

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambelet-Wuillamoz, of Vevey, Mr. and Mrs. E. Herzog-Schulz, of Frauenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hoffmann, of Richterswil, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brunner-Hediger, of Eschlikon, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hinderberger, of Thonex.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Fesselet-Fossel, of Sonceboz, have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65).

[A.T.S.]

#### VARIOUS.

According to statistics published in the periodical "Die Alpen", 53 mountain accidents occurred during the period 1st May 1957 to 30th April, 1958, costing the lives of 75 people.

During the winter season 10 accidents occurred with the loss of life of 17 persons. [A.T.S.]

A total of 3,200 hotels and guest-houses (pensions) with 76,000 beds will be available this winter in Switzerland's 150 mountain resorts scattered all over the Alps, the Pre-Alps and the Jura mountains. These figures show that the typical Swiss winter sports hotel is by no means a "palace" but a small enterprise with an average of less than 25 beds. Winter holidays in Switzerland — which is known for the stability of its prices — are no luxury, and very favourable all-in rates are within the reach of everybody.

A new skilift, Schuls-Tarasp (extension to the cable-car Motta Naluns) will be inaugurated before Christmas 1958. The terminal will be near the Schlivera Hut, at 7,800 feet above sea-level, where skiing is possible from December till April.

The well-known Swiss mountain guide and skiing instructor, Mr. Hch. Zurbriggen, Saas-Fee, Valais, has published his programme for the High Alpine Ski Tours to be organised during the period 22nd March — 25th May 1959. Full details may be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 459 Strand, London W.C.2.

Alongside Switzerland's Alpine roads the Automobile Club of Switzerland maintains more than 300 special "SOS" telephone stations, which can be used free of charge for emergency calls. The A.C.S. suggests some "golden rules" for happy and trouble-free motoring in Switzerland. About boiling radiators: "Going over an Alpine pass, keep your car in low gear to avoid overheating of the engine. Should the radiator start boiling, stop the car at a suitable siding but keep the engine running, which means that water pump and radiator fan can continue to do their cooling work. Open the hood of the engine compartment, but not the radiator cap". About motoring in winter: "From September to May, keep snow chains ready in your luggage boot when venturing up higher than 2,500 feet. All winter resorts are situated above this critical altitude, but all major cities are below it. Remember that one car, helplessly stuck on a mountain road without snow chains, can impede traffic for one or two hours."

### CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 6th, 1959**. As no circulars will be sent out for this meeting will members kindly note the date and advise the Dorchester Hotel of their intention to be present by the day previous to the Meeting. (This can be done by telephoning Miss Martin at the Dorchester Hotel, Telephone: MAYfair 8888).

Th. von SPEYR,  
Hon. Secretary.

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