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

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

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

\* \* \*

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers (National and States Council) in a combined sitting, elected Dr. jur. Thomas Holenstein, chief of the public Economy Department, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1958.

The President was born in 1896, and is a citizen of Buetschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He studied law at various Universities in Switzerland and abroad, after which he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall. From 1933 to 1946 he was a lecturer at the Commercial University St. Gall. Dr. Holenstein entered the National Council in 1937 — he had been previously a member of the St. Gall cantonal Government — and in 1954 was elected a member of the Federal Government. He belongs to the R.C. Conservative party. In the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel.

\* \* \*

The new Vice-President is Mr. Paul Chaudet, chief of the Military Department, who is a Radical. He was born in 1904 and is a citizen of Corsier near Vevey. By profession a vine-grower, he became Mayor of Rivaz and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In 1946 he was elected a member of the cantonal Government. In the army he held the rank of Lt.-Colonel. Mr. Chaudet became a member of the Federal Government in 1954 as successor to Federal Councillor R. Rubattel.

\* \* \*

The National Council has elected Dr. Eugen Dietschi (Radical) as its Vice-President. He was born in 1896 and is a citizen of Lostorf, Olten and Basle. Dr. Dietschi has been since 1921 Editor of the "National Zeitung" Basle. He entered the National Council in 1941 and holds at present the office of Central President of the Swiss Liberal-Democratic Party.

The two Federal Chambers, owing to a heavy programme of work, will meet again from 27th to 31st January 1958.

\* \* \*

The Soviet Government presented a Note to the Swiss Ambassador in Moscow for transmission to the Federal Council.

The Note contains a similar text to the one addressed to the Member States of the United Nations; it is at present being studied by the Federal Council, who will reply in due course.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Fahrettin Kerim Gockay, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Turkey, and Monsieur Joseph Linton, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Israel, have presented their credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

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### The Annual Dinner and Dance

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The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Eduard Hofer, at present Swiss Consul in Teneriffe, to the post of Consul at Annecy in succession to Mr. Henri Zoller, who is vacating his office on reaching retiring age.

Mr. Hofer was born in 1905 in Ballmoos (Ct. Berne). He entered the service of the Political Department in 1926 and successively held posts at Milan, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vienna, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago de Chile and Algiers.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of November 1957 totalled 72.7 million francs, of which amount the Confederation receives 53.3 million francs, or 4.8 million francs less than in November 1956.

The receipts for the first eleven months of 1957 amount to 642.7 million francs, or 36.5 million francs more than for the same period in 1956.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Tribunal (supreme court) has upheld the summary dismissal from Government service of Colonel Hans Rieser, former Swiss military attaché in London and Washington.

### Cantonal

The 25 million francs loan at 4½ per cent issued by the "Centralschweizerischen Kraftwerke" Lucerne was heavily over-subscribed. Allocations had to be considerably reduced. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mlle. Aloisia Schönbächler of Bennau nr. Einsiedeln has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Mayor of the town of Lucerne has presented to Mr. August Blaesi, sculptor, the art prize of the town, amounting to 3,000.— francs. Rolf Brem, sculptor, and Robert Wyss, etcher, received 1,000.— francs each. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Schweizerische Gartenbau Austellung" (G. 59), organised by the "Verband Schweizerischer Gärtnermeister", will take place from April 25th to the middle of October, in Zurich, in the park near the Mythequai. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

An elderly lady, whilst taking a walk in Zurich, was robbed of her handbag containing the sum of 6,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The French Consul in Zurich, M. Wernert, has remitted to Dr. Werner Weber, President of the Board of the "Warenhaus Oskar Weber" Zurich, on behalf of the French President, the insignia of an officer of the Légion d'Honneur for services rendered to France during and after the last war. [A.T.S.]

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The town of Berne has awarded the Art Prizes for 1957 to the following: Walter Adrian, Berne (1,000.— francs), Erwin Heimann, Berne (500.— francs), Hermann Hutmacher, Wydimatt nr. Bigenthal (1,000.— francs), Emil Ernst Ronner, Berne (500.— francs), Erwin Schneiter, Zollikofen (500.— francs), Edgar Schumacher, Bolligen (1,000.— francs), Albert Streich, Brienz (1,000.— francs). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Marcel Benoist Prize for the promotion of scientific research has been awarded to Dr. Siegfried Rosin, Professor of Zoology at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The 10 million francs loan at 4½ per cent, of the Cantonal Bank of Fribourg, has been considerably over-subscribed, and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Paul Huber has been elected rector of the University of Basle for the year 1958. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. h.c. A. Wettstein, head of the pharmaceutical department of CIBA, Basle, has received a high distinction from the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Science, Stockholm. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The sawmill belonging to Gottfried Kuenzi, of Adelboden (Ct. Berne), was completely destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to reach several hundred thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

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The new President for 1958, Dr. Thomas Holenstein, received an enthusiastic reception when travelling by special train from Berne to his native canton of St. Gall, and his birthplace Buetschwil (Toggenburg). He was accompanied by the former President, Dr. Hans Streuli, Dr. Karl Kobelt, a late Federal-Councillor, and Members of Parliament.

A torchlight procession took place at St. Gall, and later a banquet which was attended by a large number of guests, amongst them the Presidents of the two Federal Chambers. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mgr. Dr. Johannes Vonderach has been appointed suffragan bishop of Chur and titular bishop of Aradi. A solemn service was held at the cathedral in Chur, in the presence of Federal Councillor Dr. Ph. Etter, the Papal Nuncio in Berne, Mgr. Gustavo Testa, the bishops of Sion and St. Gall, and representatives of the Governments of the cantons of Grisons, Uri, Schwyz, Nid-und-Obwalden and Glarus.

The community of Medels (Ct. Grisons) has elected the new bishop of Chur as an honorary citizen. [A.T.S.]

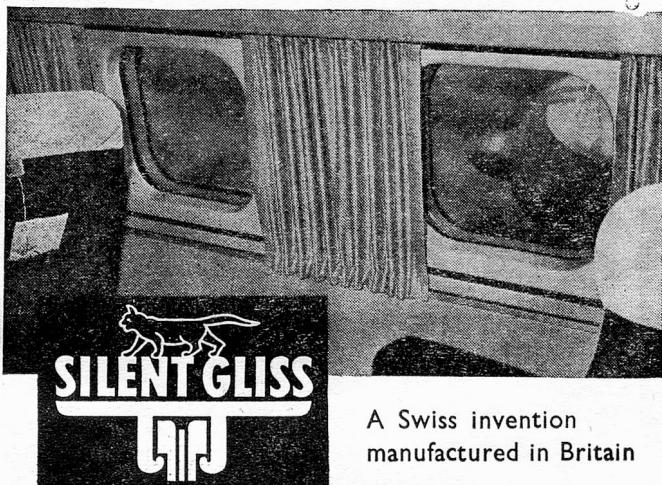
\* \* \*

The paper "Foegl Ladin", published at Samedan (Ct. Grisons), has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Walter Boveri, President of the Board of Brown, Boveri & Cie, A.G., Baden, has received a high decoration from the President of the Republic of Brazil. The presentation was made by the Brazilian Minister in Berne. [A.T.S.]

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Three masked bandits attacked a booking clerk at the office of the railway station in Montreux. On resisting he was bound and a shot was fired at him which slightly injured him. The thieves then rifled the till and got away with 400.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Madame Marie-Antoinette Douillot-Imer celebrated on 5th December her 100th birthday, in Lausanne. She was born at La Chaux-de-Fonds.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Eric Berthoud has been elected Director of the Municipal Library Neuchâtel, in succession to Mlle. Claire Rosselet. He was from 1946 to 1949 on the editorial staff of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mme. Bertha von Bergen, of La Sagne, has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Martin Müller, formerly director of the "Ostschweizerischen Mühlen, A.G.", and the "Bruggmühle, A.G.", Goldach, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, in Goldach at the age of 80.

Albert Etienne, director of the watch manufacturing concern "Octo", in Biel, aged 65.

Fritz Weyermann, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Berne, in Burgdorf, at the age of 102.

Hans Landolt-Scheuchzer, head of the "Weinhandlung Landolt & Co." Zurich, in Zurich, aged 62.

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Dr. Hans Beerli, a well-known journalist, in Geneva, at the age of 77.

Armin Rueger, pharmaceutical chemist and author, in Bischofszell, aged 71.

Professor Dr. phil. Franz Bruner, at one time Professor of Physics at the University of Berne, in Berne, at the age of 88.

Max Neuhaus, from 1910 to 1942 President of the Superior Court of the canton of Berne, in Bienne, aged 85. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**ARMY.**

Colonel Matthias Brunner has been elected commander of the "Schiessschule" Walenstadt. He was formerly in command of the Infantry Schools at Bellinzona. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**LEGACIES.**

The late Mme. Mangia Brasser, who recently died at Chur, has left the sum of 80,000.— francs to the Evangelical Church community of Chur, for a fund for a house for aged people. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**ANNIVERSARIES.**

Professor Dr. med. Felix Robert Nager (80), of Zurich, from 1915 to 1948 Professor of Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases at the University of Zurich. He is an honorary member of the British Royal Society, and holder of the Guyot Prize of the University of Groningen.

\* \* \*

Ernst Morgenthaler (70), of Ursenbach (Ct. Berne), eminent landscape painter. In 1953 he was awarded the Art Prize of the canton of Zurich, having resided in Zurich for many years. During the last twenty years various exhibitions of his works have been held at the "Zürcher Kunsthaus", the "Basler Kunsthalle", the "Kunstmuseum" Winterthur, and the "Kunsthalle" Berne.

\* \* \*

Mgr. Pius Emmenegger (70), of Fribourg, from 1920 to 1937 Professor at St. Michael College Fribourg, and since 1937 head of the Priests' Seminary Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**VARIOUS.**

The Federal Department of Justice and Police has published instructions it has sent to the police of the 22 cantons, urging them to adopt uniform regulations to reduce the noise of traffic. Cars and motor-cycles

are to be more carefully checked for noise when they are first put into service, and subsequently all mechanical devices likely to produce noise are to be liable to inspection.

Drivers will be fined or have their licences withdrawn if they do not make the alterations required to reduce noises, or if they drive in an unnecessarily noisy manner.

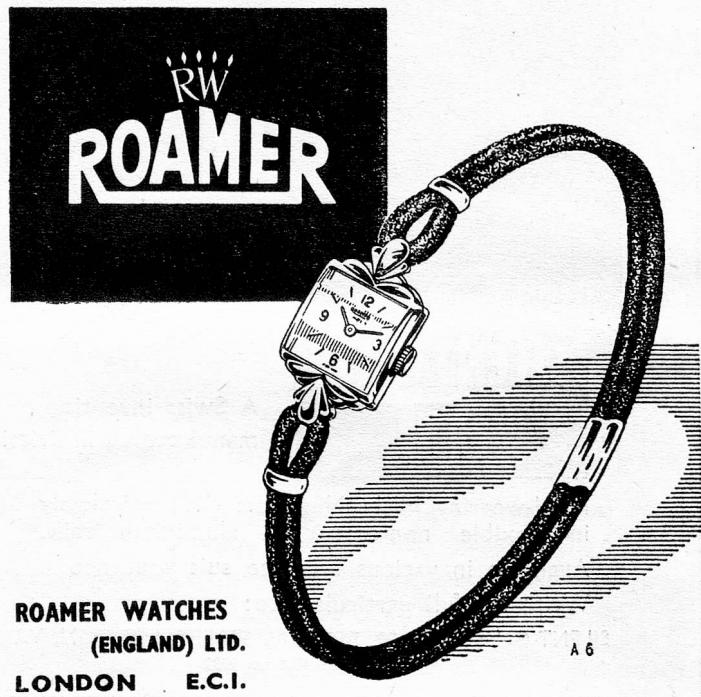
\* \* \*

As from January 1st 1958 a motorist whose permanent domicile is situated outside Switzerland can temporarily import his motor vehicle (car, motorcycle, etc.) without the usual Customs Documents, provided the vehicle is for his own personal use only. The motorist must, however, be in possession of a valid national or international Driving Licence.



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Furthermore, the motorist must produce, as before, an International Insurance Policy (green card) or an official cover note, valid for Switzerland, from his own Insurance Company. If he cannot produce either one or the other of these documents at the frontier, the usual charge of S.fr.3.— will be made. Foreign coaches, taxis, lorries, trucks and all other vehicles serving commercial purposes are not affected and still need all the usual Customs Documents. These facilities are new and will no doubt prove a great boon to motorists. Both formalities at home and delays at the frontier points are reduced to a minimum.

\* \* \*

There are 606,753 motor vehicles with Swiss licence-plates, i.e. some 320,000 passenger-cars, 2,594 motor-coaches and 235,207 motor-cycles, motor-scooters and mopeds, which means that every eighth Swiss owns a motor vehicle. In 1956 more than 8 million foreign motor vehicles entered Switzerland, 2,135,000 of which carried licence-plates of overseas and distant countries not bordering on Switzerland. The country's road network totals approximately 25,000 miles of which about 10,600 miles are cantonal highways. During the last 30 years some 3,000 million Swiss francs have been spent on the extension and improvement of these cantonal roads. The Swiss alpine roads are world-famous. They have a total length of 962 miles of which nearly 40 per cent have been completely modernized and over 650 miles are

paved or dustfree. Up to 1970 a road-building programme costing almost 3,000 million francs is to be carried out within the national highway network, including over 460 miles of four-lane super highways, 155 miles of alpine roads, 47 miles of lowland highways and numerous city express-highways.

\* \* \*

*Official Swiss time-table.* The time-table for the winter period 29th September — 31st May 1958 is now on sale at the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London W.C.2, price 5/- per copy.

\* \* \*

*International students' ski-ing competitions — St. Moritz, 1958.* The Ski-ing Competitions for the Alpenlaender Cup will take place in St. Moritz from the 10th to the 16th March 1958, in conjunction with the International Race of the Swiss Academic Ski Clubs and the 34th Swiss University Ski-ing Championship. The programme will comprise: two slalom races, two relay races, two descents, a giant slalom, a long-distance race and a jumping competition. These events will pave the way for an unofficial academic World Ski-ing Championship.

\* \* \*

*New cabin-cableway at Zweisimmen.* The longest cabin-cableway in Europe is now being built and will be ready for use by the middle of December 1957. The journey from the lower station at Zweisimmen (3,100 feet above sea level) to the top of the Rinderberg (6,580 feet above sea level) takes 29 minutes. 350 persons can be carried to the Rinderberg in an hour. Excellent downhill runs are available for ski-ing.

In the summer the Rinderberg, with its grandiose panorama of neighbouring mountain tops, will be a favourite centre for excursions.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 31st 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: E. Baumann, E. Kern, P. Pfeiffer, Armin Daeniker, Swiss Ambassador, H. W. Schneider, R. Reinhard, R. Schweizer, O. Braga, J. J. Huber, Willy Fischer, (Meisterschwanden), J. Moser, E. Ritzmann (Arlesheim), J. C. Wetter, C. J. Bernheim, J. Schmid, A. P. Gubeli, W. Walter, A. von Dach, O. Rohn, T. Bussman, E. A. Muller, Jules Zimmermann.

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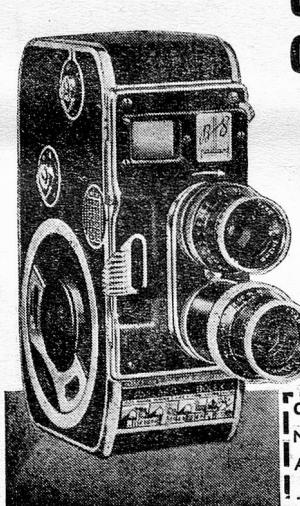
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