

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1958)

Heft: 1314

Rubrik: News at random

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1666^a 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.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegams: FREPRINCO, LONDON

Vol. 43. No. 1314.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 1958.

PRICE 11D.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss and Israeli Governments have decided to raise their respective Legations in Berne and Tel Aviv to the status of Embassy.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Emil Bisang to the post of Ambassador in Israel, in succession to Minister Schnyder, who has been recently appointed as Observer at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Ambassador Bisang was born in Geneva in 1900 and is a citizen of Ettiswil (Ct. Lucerne); he entered the Diplomatic Service in 1929 and successively held posts in Lyons, Sidney and Melbourne. In 1940 he was appointed Attaché at the Swiss Legation at The Hague, and afterwards was head of the American and Japanese section (Foreign Interests) in Berne.

In 1945 Monsieur Bisang was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and sent to Washington. Two years later (1947) he was nominated 1st Counsellor of Legation at Ottawa, and in 1954 he took over the direction of the Swiss Legation in Karachi with the rank of Chargé d'Affaires. In 1955 he was appointed Swiss Minister in Pakistan.

* * *

The Swiss Consulate in Leopoldsville (Belgian Congo) has been raised to the status of a Consulate-General, and Monsieur Th. Curchod has been promoted to the rank of Consul-General.

* * *

Counsellor of Legation Monsieur André Dominicé will shortly relinquish his post as head of the Swiss Delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea. He will be succeeded by Counsellor of Legation Monsieur Edmond Deslex.

* * *

The Federal Council has fixed the poll for the Federal Finance Reform ("Bundesfinanzordnung") to take place on May 11th 1958.

The King and Queen of Greece will pay an official visit to the Federal Council from 10th to 12th September of this year.

* * *

During the month of December 1957 the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.6 million passengers, or 600,000 more than in December 1956. Receipts: 27.9 million francs (December 1956: 27 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.88 million tons, or 250,000 tons less than in December 1956. Receipts: 38.5 million francs.

* * *

The Federal Council has elected Mr. Walter Baumann to the post of Vice-Director of the Federal Finance Control.

Cantonal

The accounts for 1957 of the canton of Zurich close with a credit balance of 12,633,349.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. Josef Andres, *Ordinarius* of the Veterinary Medical Faculty of the University of Zurich, has been elected rector of the University for 1958 to 1960. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. Otto Jaag, Director of the Federal Institute for "Wasserversorgung & Gewässerschutz" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* from the Technical University of Stuttgart. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A motorist knocked down a pedestrian in Attiswil (Ct. Berne), causing serious injuries. He drove on

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 4th, 1958.** 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.

without attending to his victim, but was later arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

The American Ambassador in Berne, Mr. Henry J. Taylor, has paid a courtesy visit to the University of Fribourg, on which occasion he presented to the University a number of American historical works. [A.T.S.]

M. François Esseiva, at present Vice-President of the District Court Saane, has been elected a member of the Cantonal Court Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Deitingen (Ct. Solothurn) has conferred honorary citizenship on Gustav Meister, for 45 years a teacher, and on Mme. Frey-de-Vigier, in recognition of their services rendered to education. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1957, 1,827 traffic accidents (1956: 1,704) occurred in the canton of Basle-Town. 1,378 persons were injured (1956: 1,267). 23 persons succumbed to their injuries (1956: 16). [A.T.S.]

The collection on behalf of the village of Peiden-Schuders (Ct. Grisons), which suffered heavy damage through flood and fire in 1957, totalled 315,785 francs. [A.T.S.]

The 4½ per cent loan of the "Nordostschweizerischen Kraftwerke A.G." Baden was heavily over-subscribed, and allocations had to be considerably reduced. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Karl Alfons Deisenroth, Kurdirektor of Bad Ragaz (Ct. Grisons), has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

Mademoiselle Alzire Robert of Chardonne (Ct. Vaud) has celebrated her 100th birthday; she was for many years a teacher of French in the United States of America.

The canton of Vaud numbers at present three inhabitants who are over 100 years of age. They are: Mme. Vuichond of Montreux, born 1855; Mlle. A. Robert, born in 1858; and Mlle. Elise Graz of Jogny, born 1858. [A.T.S.]

Damage estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 20,000.—frs. was caused through fire at the Hotel Metropole in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor phil. & theolog. h.c. Albert Debrunner, in Berne, at the age of 74. The deceased was from 1920 to 1925 and from 1935 to 1954 *Ordinarius* of classical philology at the University of Berne.

Charles Schnider, since 1917 manager of the hotel "Schweizerhof" Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 66.

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Lukas Christ-Wackernagel, for many years Pastor of the church commune Pratteln-Augst, in Weggis, at the age of 77. In 1939 the University of Basle honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Mrs. Marie Wüthrich-Blaser, in Bowil (Ct. Berne), aged 101.

Dr. Johannes Hofmann, in Zurich, at the age of 82. The deceased was from 1917 to 1941 director of the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule Strickhof", and from 1907 to 1917 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich.

Edgar Chappuis, author and journalist, in Zurich, aged 72. Amongst his works are best known "Im Garten der Kindheit", "Das Lied der Heimat", "Wo das Alphorn klingt" and "Die Liebe zur Scholle."

Gianbattista Mantegazzi, in Zurich, at the age of 69. He was born at Riva San Vitale (Ct. Ticino), and was a well-known composer. Since 1923 he had been conductor of the town band Schaffhausen, and since 1928 he has also conducted the municipal band Zurich.

Raymond Buchs, landscape and portrait painter, in Fribourg, aged 80.

Hans Muri, for over 40 years a school-teacher at Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 83.

Dr. Arthur Hausmann, President of the Board of the "Schweizer Medizinal & Sanitätsgeschäftes Hausmann, A.G." St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 85.

Hans Zürcher, well-known landscape painter and for many years a teacher at the "Kunstgewerbeschule" Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 78.

André Reichler, consulting engineer, constructor of the "Talsperre" of Rossens (Ct. Fribourg), in Fribourg, aged 63.

Walter Bretscher, secretary of the National Sports Commission of the Swiss Automobile Club, in Berne, at the age of 64.

Dr. jur. Henri Derron, notary, in Morât, aged 75. He was a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg; until his death he was President of the Board of the "Teintureries réunis Morât et Lyonnaise, S.A.". [A.T.S.]

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ARMY.

At the invitation of the American army command in Germany, the commander of the 4th division, Colonel Immanuel Roesler, and three officers of the Federal Instructors Corps have attended the recent manoeuvres of the American army which took place in the Würzburg-Wertheim district.

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The Government of the canton of Schwyz has given a reception — followed by a dinner — to a number of high ranking officers who at the end of 1957 relinquished their commands. Amongst the guests were three army-corps commanders, Colonels Richard Frey (retiring), Hans Thomann and Georg Züblin.

“ Landammann ” Dr. Vital Schwander expressed, on behalf of the cantonal Government, thanks to the retiring officers for the services they had rendered to the army and the country, welcoming their successors.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Ernst Loepfe-Benz (80) of Rorschach. Publisher of the “ Ostschiizerischen Tagblatt ” and the “ Nebelspalter ”, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, President of the Liberal-Democratic party of the canton of St. Gall, and from 1931 to 1945 a member of the States Council, over which he presided in 1938/39.

Dr. Hedwig Anneler (70) of Luins s. Rolle, writer; together with her brother, the late Karl Anneler, she published the well-known work “ Loetschen, Landes- und Volkskunde des Loetschentales ”.

Men Rauch (70) of Scuol, author, editor, and publisher of the papers “ Gazetta Ladina ” and the “ Foegl Ladin ”.

Karl Adolf Laubscher (70) of Sigriswil (Ct. Berne), author and painter.

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Jakob Schwarzenbach, master painter, of Rueschlikon (Ct. Zurich), has left various amounts

totalling 32,000.— francs to a number of charitable institutions, and to the commune of Rueschlikon his property and land for the foundation of a home for old people.

Two former pupils of the Egg school (Ct. Zurich) residing abroad, have made a donation amounting to 11,000.— francs to the Egg school administration.

Sixteen donors residing in Uster have made a combined donation amounting to 31,000.— francs to the commune, for the artistic embellishment of the “ Hotz platz ”, at the entrance of the village of Nänikon.

Two honorary citizens of Eglisau (Ct. Zurich), Heinrich Schmid and Max Stamm-Grob, have donated 10,000.— francs each to the commune of Eglisau, for the embellishment of the town. [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. K. Bollinger-Bechtel of Beringen (Ct. Schaffhausen), Mr. & Mrs. H. Frutig-Morand of Grenchen (Ct. Solothurn). [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

There were 40,529 traffic accidents in Switzerland in 1957.

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The University of Geneva announces its 67th Summer Course for French Language and Literature which will be organized in four series, each lasting three weeks, from July 14th to October 4th, 1958. At the same time the 7th Seminary on International Institutions will be held, dealing with a subject which is particularly topical in Europe's most cosmopolitan convention capital.

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