

**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:** - (1959)

**Heft:** 1341

**Rubrik:** Prepaid subscription rates

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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.

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.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON

Vol. 44. No. 1341.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24th, 1959.

PRICE 11d.

### PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

(Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	6 issues, post free . . . . .	6/-
	12 issues, post free . . . . .	11/6
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Basle V 5718.)



### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Swiss National Bank in 1958 has made a profit of over six million francs. From this profit each canton receives 80 centimes per head of its population.

Monsieur Salvador Auguste Toriello, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Guatemala, has presented his credentials to M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.9 million passengers during the month of February 1959, or 200,000 more than in February 1958. Receipts: 23.5 million francs (February 1958: 22.8 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.67 million tons, which is 20,000 tons more than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 33.6 million francs.

#### Cantonal

After an interruption of two years, the "Wilhelm Tell Festspiele" will be performed again at Altdorf, from 19th August to 13th September 1959. [A.T.S.]

A group of twelve skiers on descending the south-eastern part of the Jochpass (7,265 feet) above Engelberg started an avalanche and several of them were carried away. All were rescued alive except a 21-year-old student from Basle, Miss Monica Hoffmann.

[A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Nidwalden for 1958 close with a credit balance of 8,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Fritz Keller, chief editor of the "Luzerner Tagblatt", has retired from his post. He has been connected with the paper for the last 46 years. On his retirement he has been appointed a member of the Board. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Lucerne close with a deficit of 1,852,978.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Last month a valuable picture of the Rimini school (14th century), which was acquired in 1940 for 30,000.— francs by the "Kunstmuseum" Zurich, was stolen.

A Paris art dealer recently informed the museum, that the stolen picture was left with him for examination by a K. H. Bergk — of German nationality — with the object of selling it. The art dealer communicated with the police, who confiscated the picture. The would-be seller, however, did not return to conclude the deal. The picture has now been returned to the "Kunsthaus". [A.T.S.]

The Philippinian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Tomas G. de Castro, paid a visit to the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon", in Oerlikon, which concern has several important orders in hand for the National Power Corporation in Manila. [A.T.S.]

A 17-year-old student, Werner Kyburz, of Dullikon near Olten, lost his life on a ski-ing excursion to the Lauberhorn (Bernese Oberland). [A.T.S.]

The renowned "Hotel Schweizerhof" in Berne (Proprietor Mr. Jack Gauer), has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Frieda Amstutz, for 32 years a member of the editorial staff of the paper "Der Bund", Berne, has retired from her post. [A.T.S.]

The District Court of Greyerz (Ct. Fribourg) has sentenced two motorists to six months' imprisonment for having caused the death of a 19-year-old motorcyclist. The delinquents did not stop after the accident. [A.T.S.]

A deficit of 1,487,013.— francs is reported in the accounts of the canton of Fribourg for 1958. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Reinhard H. Fischer (39), at present chief surgeon at the cantonal hospital St. Gall, has been appointed chief surgeon at the "Krankenhaus" Wattwil (Ct. St. Gall), in succession to the late Dr. med. Andreas Christ. [A.T.S.]

The "Verkehrsschule" St. Gall, founded by Mr. Theodor Curti, has celebrated the 60th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]