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Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1959)**

Heft 1345

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

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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. 46. No. 1345.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26th, 1959.

PRICE 11D.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

(Fortnightly issue.)

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Sven Steiner, deputy to the chief for International Organisations at the Political Department in Berne, to the post of Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Republic of Chile, in succession to Monsieur René Naville, who has been transferred to China.

The new Ambassador was born in 1910 and is a citizen of Unterehntfelden (Ct. Aargau). He studied Law at the Universities of Berne and Berlin, entering the diplomatic service in 1938. He held successively posts in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Peking, Madrid and Berne.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.2 million passengers during April 1959, or 2.9 million less than in April 1958. Receipts: 24.9 million francs (April 1958: 29.1 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.99 million tons, or 130,000 tons more than in the same period in 1958.

\* \* \*

The net "Volkseinkommen" of Switzerland for the year 1958 amounted to 28.3 milliard francs, or 1 milliard francs more than in 1957.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Mr. Reinhard Hoeppli, Honorary Swiss Consul at Singapore, owing to his departure for professional reasons.

\* \* \*

### Cantonal

The Spanish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Alonso Alvarez de Toledo y Mencos, on an invitation extended to him by the Historical Society of the canton of Schwyz, was received at the town hall of Schwyz by the members of the cantonal government.

The visit coincided with the 150th anniversary of the death of Theodor von Reding (1755-1809), who was in the service of Spain as "Generalkapitän" during the Spanish War of Independence. [A.T.S.]

The Pilatus cog-wheel railway has celebrated its 70th jubilee. The railway was opened on 4th June 1889, and up to 10th November 1958 4,137,696 persons had been transported. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Damage estimated to be between 300,000 and 400,000.— francs was caused by a fire which broke out at the "Schreinerei & Zimmerei" Karl Epting in Hombrechtikon (Zurich). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Criminal Court of Liestal sentenced a 23-year-old student of Basle University to 18 months' imprisonment and a fine of 80.— francs. Driving while under the influence of alcohol, he had caused the death of a 61-year-old cyclist. The delinquent (an American) drove on without stopping, leaving his victim lying in the road. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Rev. Gion Cadalbert of Danis (Ct. Grisons) has been made an honorary citizen of the commune of Danis Tavasana for conspicuous services he has rendered. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The commune of Vilters (Ct. St. Gall) has honoured the industrialist, Mr. E. Looser-Kraemer, and his wife with honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The 12th International Film Festival will take place at Locarno from 9th to 19th July 1959. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A motor-car, travelling at excessive speed, missed a bend at a road bridge between Augst and Rheinfelden, and was hurled on to a railway embankment. One of the passengers, Fräulein Lilian Vogt (34), of Menziken, was thrown on to the railway track and was killed by an oncoming train. [A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that no meeting is to be held during

AUGUST.

They will be advised in due course of the resumption in September next.

THE COMMITTEE.