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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

After the National Council had approved by 142 votes against 3 the Government decree providing for Switzerland to become a member of the European Free Trade Association, the Upper Chamber or States Council gave its unanimous approval. Thus the Federal Council has the necessary powers for ratifying the Stockholm Treaty.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of February 1960 amount to 93.8 million francs; of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 63.1 million francs, or 15.6 million francs more than in February 1959.

* * *

The Queen has approved the appointment of Sir William Montagu-Pollock, British Ambassador in Berne, to be Ambassador at Copenhagen. The Queen has also approved the appointment of Mr. P. D. Grey, Ambassador at Prague, to be Ambassador in Berne.

* * *

Dr. h.c. A. J. Ryniker, Director of the "Schweiz. Seeschiffahrtamt", has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted with thanks for the services he has rendered.

Dr. Ryniker was born in 1875 in Lauterbrunnen, and is a citizen of Habsburg. He obtained in 1898 the diploma of "Schiffbauingenieur" in Berlin. From 1925 to 1940 Dr. Ryniker was a lecturer (Privatdozent) at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. From 1941 to 1960 he was Director of the "Schweiz. Seeschiffahrtamt". In 1945 the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

* * *

Cantonal

Monsieur Tomas G. de Castro, Philippine Ambassador in Berne, has paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Schwyz. His reception at the

Town Hall by "Landammann" Fritz Husi (Einsiedeln) was followed by a luncheon and an excursion to the Stoss. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Superior Court of Zurich has sentenced Emil Toggenburger, a former President of the commune of Marthalen, to three and a half years' imprisonment for embezzling an amount of 195,000.—francs whilst manager of the branch office Marthalen of the Cantonal Bank Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The show-window of the jewellery firm of Kofmehl, in the Bahnhofstrasse Zurich, was smashed by a heavy instrument and rings and bracelets to the value of 20,000.—francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A postman of Bigenthal (Ct. Berne) reported to the police that he was attacked in the Wydimatt Forest above Bigenthal, and robbed of a large amount of cash. During his interrogation by a magistrate he confessed that no such attack occurred, and the missing money was recovered in full. The postman has been placed under arrest. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Fribourg for 1959 close with a deficit of 397,570.—francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

An auxiliary building of the sawmill "Jules Sallin" in Villaz-St. Pierre near Romont was destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated to exceed 100,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, 26th April 1960, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.,
at Dorchester Hotel (Orchid Room), W.1.

Agenda:

Minutes of last meeting.	Elections.
Resignations.	Auditor's Report.
President's Report.	Election of a new
Treasurer's Report.	Hon. Vice-President.
Admissions.	Any other business.

Members wishing to be present should send their slip to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, 25th April 1960.

THE COMMITTEE.

The accounts of the canton of Solothurn for 1958 show a debit balance of 1,044,746.—francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The seven members of the Government of the canton Basle-Town have recently been re-elected. They are: Dr. A. Schaller (Radical) 23,761 votes; Dr. Edwin Zweifel (Radical) 23,224 votes; Dr. Peter Zschokke (Lib. Dem.) 23,075 votes; Dr. Carl Peter (Cath.) 21,947 votes; Max Wullschleger (Socialist) 22,217 votes; Dr. Ed. Wyss (Socialist) 21,964 votes; Fr. Brechbühl (Socialist) 20,940 votes.

The strength of the various parties in the newly elected Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, numbering 130 seats, is as follows: Radicals 25 (21), Communists 8 (16), Liberal Democrats 21 (19), Evangelicals 5 (—), Socialists 39 (41), "Landesring" 9 (—), Cath. Pop. Party 20 (19), Independent Socialists 3 (—). [A.T.S.]

* * *

On 11th March a jewellers' establishment in the centre of Basle was entered and goods to the value of 100,000.—francs were stolen. With the close collaboration of the Basle and Vaudois police four foreigners were recently arrested. Some of the stolen property was found in their possession. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh. for 1959 close with a debit balance of 43,955.—francs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Oberuzwil (Ct. St. Gall) has bestowed honorary citizenship upon Mr. Edwin Braunschweig, manufacturer, of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. J. A. Caffisch, since 1951 Town President (Mayor) of the town of Chur, is vacating his office at the end of September next. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The village of Neuhausen a. Rheinfall has recently registered its 10,000th inhabitant, and will therefore be known in future as a "Town". [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the unveiling of a commemoration tablet to Dr. J. Ulrich Schmidt, born 100 years ago in Buch, founder of the "Institut Rosenberg", St. Gall, his son, Dr. C. H. Schmidt of Lutry, has been made an honorary citizen of the commune of Buch (Ct. Thurgau). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The West-German Ambassador in Bern, Dr. Ernst-Günther Mohr, paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Ticino. He was received at the Government building in Bellinzona by Dr. Franco Zorzi, President of the Cantonal Government. The distinguished visitor was entertained to a luncheon at Minusio by Dr. Zorzi. [A.T.S.]

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Professor Dr. med. Alfred Fleisch, Director of the Physiological Institute of the University of Lausanne, has been honoured by the University of Nancy (France) with the title of *doctor honoris causa*.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The show-window of a jeweller's shop in Lausanne was smashed and goods valued at 12,000.—francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A further arrest has been made in connection with the hold-up of a Geneva diamond merchant (reported in our issue of 11th March). A North African national has been taken into custody by the Vaudois police, who found on him a large number of diamonds. It has been ascertained that these diamonds were stolen from Vernain. Practically all the diamonds stolen have now been recovered. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The newly appointed British Consul-General in Geneva, Sir David Balfour, has paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. phil. Karl Schwaninger, for many years secretary of the "Gewerbe und Verkehrsdirektion" of the canton of Schaffhausen, in Stein a.Rh., at the age of 75.

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Oscar Bettschart, director and member of the board of the publishing concern "Benziger & Co., A.G." Einsiedeln, in Einsiedeln, aged 78.

Fräulein Ursula Schweitzer, a Lecturer (Dozentin) in Egyptology at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 43.

Frau Dr. h.c. Sina Saurer-Hegner, widow of the industrialist Hippolyt Saurer of Arbon, in Solothurn, at the age of 81.

Mme. Emilie Christin-Miauton, in Pully, aged 104.

Walter Kronauer-Stiefel, since 1948 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 56.

Gustav Payot, a partner of the publishing firm "Payot" Lausanne, in Paris, aged 76.

Mme. David Perret-Piguet, novelist, in Mont Pelerin, at the age of 94. The deceased received an award of the Schiller Foundation in 1952.

Paul von Wartburg, for 30 years manager of the printing works "Landschaefler A.G." Liestal, in Liestal, aged 62.

Gottfried Erni, from 1951 to 1955 President of the commune of Hergiswil, and a member of the "Landrat" Nidwalden, in Hergiswil, at the age of 51.

Benedikt Helfenberger, advocate, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau, and since 1954 "Bezirksammann" of the Gossau district, in Gossau, aged 60.

Jean Chuard, from 1921 to 1925 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and a teacher of Law at the Polytechnical University Lausanne, in Payerne, at the age of 74. He was a son of the late Federal Councillor Chuard.

Eric Wolff, well-known music critic, in Basle, aged 78.

Ing. agr. Jakob Landis, from 1946 to 1956 director of the "Eidg. Kriegsernährungsamt", in Berne, at the age of 65.

Rudolf Kellerhals-Pulfer, President of the "Kantonalen Steuerrekurskommission", in Berne, aged 62.

Dr. med. Lucien Dayer of Sion, whilst on a skiing excursion.

Dr. med. Charles Perret, from 1936 to 1951 Professor of Surgery at the University of Lausanne, and for many years director of the clinic "La Prairie" in Clarens, in Lausanne, at the age of 79. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. med. Fritz Suter (90) of Basle, eminent surgeon (still practising), and a specialist in urological diseases. The "Jubilar" has, apart from his large practice, a brilliant academic career. In 1906 he became a lecturer (Privatdozent) at the medical faculty of the University of Basle, in 1917 he was promoted to "Extra Ordinarius", and in 1935 to "Ordinarius".

Dr. ing. Alfred von Zeeleder (70) of Berne, since 1920 director of the Research Institute of the "Aluminium-Industrie A.G." Neuhausen, and an Assistant Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Professor René de Vallière (80) of Vevey, from 1916 to 1931 technical manager of the firm "Dubied & Cie", and from 1931 to 1950 Professor for Industrial Organisation at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.



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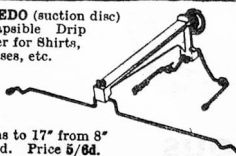
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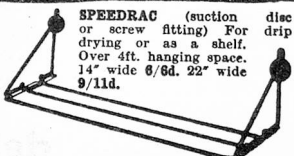


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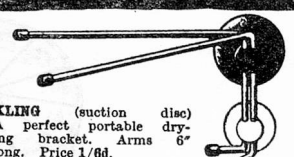


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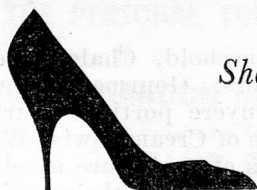
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Dr. Gertrud Kurz (70) of Berne, an untiring worker for refugees and world peace. In 1958 the theological faculty of the University of Zurich honoured her with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

[A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

Mrs. Berta Niklaus of Zofingen has made a donation of 80,000.— francs to the commune of Zofingen in remembrance of her late husband, Gottfried Niklaus, a farmer, of Zofingen. The money is to be used towards the costs of the building of a home for old people.

Mr. Agostino Nizzola, consulting engineer, of Lugano, has given a million francs towards the cost of building a cantonal technical school in the Ticino.

The school for Red Cross nurses, "La Source", in Lausanne, has received an anonymous donation of 100,000.— francs.

A native of the canton of Grisons — residing abroad, and wishing to remain anonymous — has made a donation of 250,000.— francs to the Oberengadin District Hospital at Samedan towards the cost of a new operation theatre.

The two deceased sisters, Eugenia and Selma Wunderly, of Zurich, have left an amount of 900,000.— francs to various charitable institutions.

The late Luise Gysler of Küsnacht (Zurich) has left the sum of 10,000.— francs to the Grisons League for Cancer Research.

Mr. Johannes Müller, who died in Zollikon, near Zurich, has left an amount of 100,000.— francs to his native commune of Oberengstringen for the erection of a home for old people. [A.T.S.]

ARMY.

Flight-Lieutenant Heinz Zaehler (25) of Gossau (St. Gall), of the 13th Flight Squadron, was killed when his Venom machine crashed in the Parsenn district. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. John Benoit of Buttes (Val de Travers), Mr. and Mrs. J. Sautier of Saxon, Mr. and Mrs. C. Chabloz of Auvernier.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Rohr-Habicht of Schaffhausen have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Two persons were killed and four seriously injured when a motor-car, on overtaking at excessive speed, struck another car. Both vehicles left the road and overturned. Those killed were Vicar Kaeppli (28), of Ebikon, and Miss H. K. Pernicone (59), of Merlischachen.

A motor-car, driven at an excessive speed, crashed into a stone wall at the village of Zuzgen (Ct. Aargau). Two of the occupants were killed and another was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Those killed were Herbert Richter (29), of Säckingen, and H. Rütshlin (22), of Badisch-Rheinfelden.

A motorist, Marcel Oberson (16), of Romont, was driving his father's car without his father's consent when, on taking a corner, the car left the road and overturned, between Corseray and Tornay (Ct. Fribourg). The driver and his passenger, Gerard Terrapon (21), received fatal injuries.

Mr. Oskar Graenacher (49), of Oberhofen (Fricktal), riding a motor-cycle, crashed into a tele-

phone pole near Mettau and was killed. He is the father of ten children.

A motor-car driven by Mr. Erwin Grimm (44), etcher, of Bümpliz, collided with an engine at a level-crossing between Bönigen and Interlaken. Mr. Grimm received serious injuries, and his wife, who was a passenger, was killed.

A twenty-year-old motor-cyclist, Bernhard Nigg, of Valens (St. Gall), collided with a motor-car on the road between Sargans and Bad Ragaz. He was killed.

Fifteen persons were injured, two seriously, when a lorry carrying a number of workmen collided with another lorry — in thick fog — on the road between Romanshorn and Kreuzlingen.

Xavier de Kalbermatten (75), of Visp, was killed outright when he was run over by a lorry. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

Professor Auguste Piccard, and his son Jacques Piccard, Swiss scientists, have been awarded the Draxel Science and Engineering Prize of the Draxel Institute, Philadelphia. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The entertainment "Sion à la lumière de ses étoiles", "Sion in the light of its stars", which proved so popular last year, is to have another run of several months in the capital of the Valais, starting on 17th April. Seated on the rocky eminence between the Valeria Church and the ruins of Tourbillon Castle, visitors from far and wide were able to relive the eventful history of the town and see its monuments picked out by floodlight. It may be confidently expected that the show will prove as big a draw this year as last.

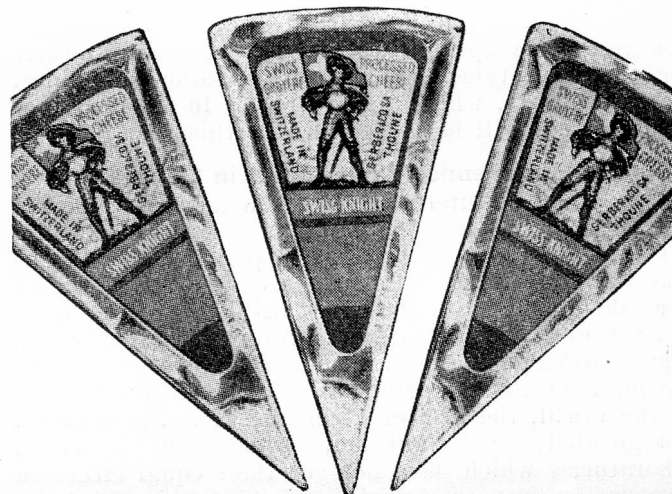
* * *

The time-honoured *Landsgemeinde* or plenary assembly of the people has retained its full authority in certain rural cantons, where cantonal elections and votes are not the sober and impersonal business they have become in the towns, but remain an impressive ceremony enacted by all the male voters gathered together to elect officials and pass legislation. Visitors come from far and near to witness these Sunday assemblies, which fall this year on 24th April (Sunday after Easter) in *Trogen, Appenzell, Sarnen* and *Stans*, and on 1st May at *Glarus*. On Thursday, 7th April, the people of Glarus celebrated their historic "Näfels Procession" in commemoration of the Battle of Näfels in 1388.

* * *

Zurich has always shown greater interest in its spring festival, the *Six o'clock Chimes*, than in the Shrovetide Carnival. Falling this year on 24th and

25th April, the celebrations take the form of a colourful children's parade on the Sunday, followed on the Monday by the grand pageant of the guilds, including many groups in historical costume, which winds up by the lake, where the "Böögg" or effigy of winter is burnt amidst general rejoicings. In the evening the various guilds go visiting each other and the narrow streets of the old town are alive with comings and goings and the romantic gleam of lanterns.



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