

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: - (1960)
Heft: 1361

Rubrik: News at random

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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, 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. 1361.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29th, 1960.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Max König, at present Swiss Ambassador in Pakistan, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Republics of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador, with residence in Guatemala.

Dr. König was born in 1911 and is a citizen of Bettenwil (Ct. Aargau). He studied Political Science at the University of Berne, and in 1938 entered the service of the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office). He held successively posts at Berlin, Baden-Baden, Paris, and Teheran. In 1948 Dr. König returned to Berne to take over the appointment as Head of the Office for European Economic Co-ordination, and in 1955 he became assistant to the chief of the section for International Organisations. In 1956 he received the title of Minister and was sent to Cairo, where he was in charge of Foreign Interests. A year later followed his appointment as Ambassador to Pakistan.

* * *

On the occasion of the death of General Guisan, Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. P. Chaudet, Head of the Federal Military Department, paid a visit to Madame Guisan to express their sympathy in her bereavement.

The President of the Confederation and Chief of the Federal Military Department have received a large number of messages of condolence, amongst them those from General de Gaulle and President Eisenhower.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 17.5 million passengers in the month of February 1960, or 300,000 fewer than in February 1959. Receipts: 25.8 million francs.

Goods traffic is returned as 2.15 million tons, or 460,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 43.8 million francs (February 1959: 36.3 million francs).

* * *

Cantonal

The accounts of the canton of Schwyz for 1959 show a deficit of 20,379.—francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Astrid chapel near Küsnacht (Rigi), with the consent of the Belgian authorities, has been moved from the mountain site to a lake site, owing to the widening of the Lucerne—Küsnacht road.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Lucerne for 1959 show a deficit of 738,729.—francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Frau Barbara Honegger, at the "Altersheim Schlössli" in Rüti, has entered her 100th year.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Bäretswil (Ct. Zurich) has bestowed honorary citizenship on Frau Anna Schaufelberger-Diggelmann on her 50th jubilee as a primary-school teacher. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Rudolf Meier (B.G.B. party) has been elected a member of the States Council, representing the canton of Zurich, with 76,048 votes. His opponent, Dr. Paul Meierhaus (Socialist), received 73,729 votes.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town has voted a credit of 75.5 million francs towards the costs for the extension of the Basle-Mülhausen airport.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

On 4th April the University of Basle could look back on 500 years of its existence. This event will be duly celebrated during 29th June to 2nd July 1960.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A safe containing 500,000.—francs — for wages — was forced open by thieves at the offices of Durand & Huguenin A.G. in Basle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Eduard Rothen (Socialist) has been elected "Stadtmann" of Grenchen with 2,449 votes. His opponent, Erwin Berger (Liberal), polled 2,259 votes. 95.3 per cent of the electorate went to the poll.

[A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Basle-Country show a credit balance of 3,479,432.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

As a result of the elections for the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, the strengths of the various parties are as follows. Conservative-Christian Socialist Party, 92 (89); Liberal and Young Liberal Party, 59 (60); Socialists, 31 (32); "Landesring" Party (Duttweiler), 10 (12); Free Conservative Party, 1 (0). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. ing. agr. E. Braunschweiler-Haegi, of Illnau, headmaster of the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule" Strickhof, has been promoted to the post of director, in succession to Mr. B. Peter, who has vacated his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Berne for 1959 close with a credit balance of 102,727.— francs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A bag containing jewellery and precious stones to the value of 200,000.— francs was stolen from a car in a garage at Lugano. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. Adolf Ritter, since 1932 chief surgeon at the cantonal hospital Münsterlingen (Ct. Thurgau), has tendered his resignation for health reasons. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A fire which broke out at the Benedictine College Bartolomeo Papio at Ascona destroyed the library — consisting of 10,000 books. Heavy damage was caused also to other parts of the building. — [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Nidwalden for 1959 show a deficit of 18,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The board of the "Walliser Volksbank" have decided to sell their entire share capital to the "Schweiz. Bankverein". [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Pierre Jaccoud, the former President of the Geneva Bar Association, and a politician, who was recently sentenced in Geneva to seven years' imprisonment for murder and attempted murder, has attempted suicide in his cell. He was thwarted by one of the warders. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Federal Singing Competition will take place this year at Geneva from 17th to 28th June. More than eight thousand singers are expected to take part in this competition. Various guest choirs from France, Germany, Holland, and Austria will be in attendance. [A.T.S.]

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The Mayor of Geneva, Mr. L. Billy, has presented the gold medal, "Genève reconnaissante", to the following: Willy Aeschlimann, since 1924 publisher of the "Almanach du vieux Genève", Louis Blondes, cantonal archaeologist, and Marcel Sues, radio commentator. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On 1st April 1960 the town of Lausanne numbered 123,827 inhabitants. The accounts of the canton of Vaud for 1959 closed with a credit balance of 5,052,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Dr. jur. Philipp Thormann, from 1903 to 1944 Professor of Law at the University of Berne, and at one time a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and the "Kleinen Burgerrates", in Berne, at the age of 85.

Dr. Andreas Klein, a well-known sociologist, in Zurich, aged 56.

Professor Dr. Karl Muelly-Graf, a former teacher at the Cantonal Commercial School Zurich, and Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 83.

A. E. Lombard, for forty-eight years a director



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of the banking house Lombard, Odier & Cie, Geneva, and from 1927 to 1933 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 80.

Professor Robert Rittmeyer, eminent architect, and from 1899 to 1933 Professor at the "Bauschule" of the "Technikum" Winterthur, in Zurich, at the age of 92.

Pastor Gotthold Emanuel Appenzeller, in Solothurn, aged 78.

Dr. med. Max Brunner-Nadolny, owing to an accident, in Pfäeffikon, at the age of 67. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Erwin Huerlimann (80), of Zurich, from 1909 to 1919 sub-manager, from 1919 to 1921 manager, and from 1921 to 1930 general manager of the "Schweiz. Rückversicherungsgesellschaft" Zurich, later becoming a member of the board, of which he was elected President in 1942.

Dr. ing. and Dr. h.c. Arnold Roth (70), of Teufen, president of the board of the "Fabrik elektrischer Apparate Sprecher & Schuh. A.G." Aarau. In 1951 the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The following firms have donated 100,000.—francs each towards the costs of a new hospital in Thun: Gerberkäse, A.G. Thun, Oel- und Fettwerke Astra, Steffisburg, and Maschinenfabrik Fr. Studer, A.G., Steffisburg-Glockental.

Miss Anna Luise von Büren, a former secondary-school teacher has left 10,000.—francs to the town of Solothurn, the interest to be used for charitable purposes.

The late Roland Schacht, of Heiden, has left 22,200.—francs to the commune of Heiden. (13,500.—francs for the poor, and 8,700.—francs to the primary school).

The municipal "Altersheim" Bienne has been left real estate to the value of 100,000.—francs by the late Mlle. Elisabeth Sele. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

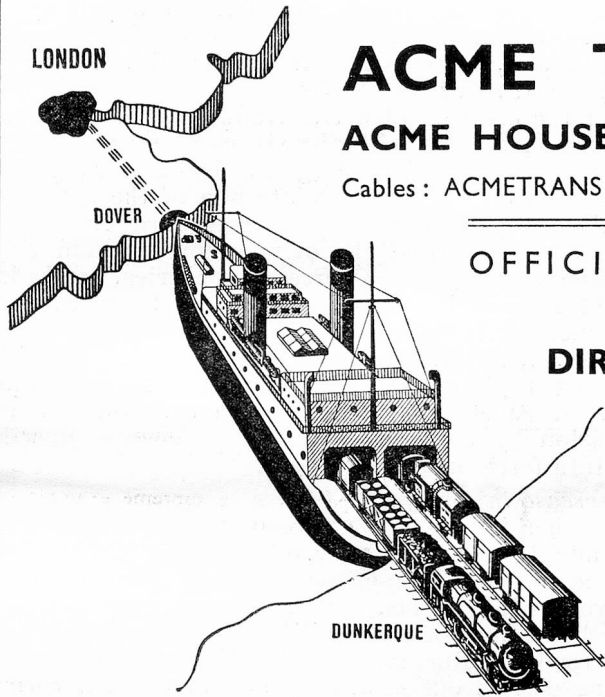
Mr. and Mrs. A. Schwarmann-Gebhardt of Schaffhausen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Duerst-Heiz of Strickberg near Braunwald, Mr. and Mrs. Frisch-Stickling of Basle, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sommer-Tschudin of Zurich, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ziörjen-Haensel of Zweisimmen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Whilst cycling on the road from Oberriet to Altstätten (Ct. St. Gall), two schoolboys were run over by a car. One, Kurt Enzler (11), was killed outright, and his companion, Peter Stadler (9), was taken to hospital in a serious condition.

A motor-car, driven at excessive speed by Wilhelm Kuster (42), chauffeur, of Zurich, got out of control and crashed near Birmensdorf, the driver receiving fatal injuries. A nineteen-year-old woman passenger was seriously injured. [A.T.S.]



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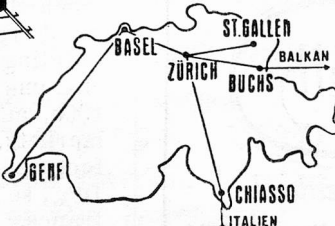
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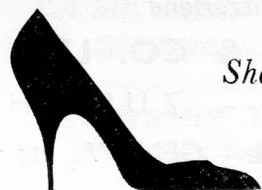




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VARIOUS.

At the end of 1958 the number of Swiss without dual nationality living abroad and registered at Swiss Embassies, Legations and Consulates numbered 160,291, and the number with dual nationality was 95,317; altogether 255,608 registered "Ausland-schweizer".

Switzerland exported in February 1960 2,996,800 watches to the value of 85.5 million francs. [A.T.S.]

LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND.

The economic situation in 1959.

For western Europe, the main feature of the past year was once again economic integration. As everyone knows, in 1956 Western Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the Rome Agreement marking the start of the European Economic Community (E.E.C.). The other eleven members of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (O.E.E.C.) sought to conclude an agreement with E.E.C. with a view to creating a free-trade area covering all the countries in question; unfortunately, the negotiations met with no success. The E.E.C. actually came into effect on 1st January 1959.

Switzerland and economic integration

These events created an altogether new situation for the western European countries outside E.E.C. Switzerland — which had always backed the efforts of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation towards greater freedom of trade — remained convinced of the necessity of negotiating with E.E.C. once again. From the start, this country sought a solution in keeping with European aspirations, but one which would not oblige it to abandon its principles of neutrality and political and economic independence. Like Austria, Denmark, Great Britain, Norway, Portugal and Sweden, it envisaged this solution in the form of the creation of a free-trade area as the basis of future agreement with the six members of E.E.C.

Trade is enjoying a great boom throughout western Europe. The immediate aim of the Seven is to maintain this boom and to safeguard European economic co-operation, the driving force behind this economic expansion. Overseas countries, and in particular those in the process of development, can only benefit from such a situation. On the firm basis of O.E.E.C., negotiations between the seven countries concerned rapidly met with success. A pact was signed in Stockholm on 4th January. Subject to ratification by these countries' governments, it will enter into force on 1st July next.

Big increase in foreign trade

Another important feature of the year 1959 was the gradual overall recovery of Switzerland's foreign trade, after the falling-off recorded the previous year, and even as late as last spring. Imports rose 13%, to reach the amount of 8,300 million Swiss frs. This upward trend was due, among other things, to the stock building carried out in anticipation of the new Swiss customs tariff due to come into force on 1st January 1960, as well as to the evolution of prices on world markets. The increased demand for Swiss manufactured products led to a rise in exports of almost 10%, so that the total amounted to 7,300 million Swiss francs. From the point of view of volume, imports increased 8% and exports 26%. With regard to both