

Prepaid subscription rates

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1940)**

Heft 977

PDF erstellt am: **25.09.2024**

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: Clerkenwell 2321/2.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD ST., E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 22—No. 977.

LONDON, AUGUST 10th, 1940.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	{	3 Months (13 issues, post free) - - - -	3/6
		6 " (26 " " ") - - - -	6/6
SWITZERLAND	{	6 Months (26 issues, post free) - - - - Frs.	7.50
		12 " (52 " " ") - - - -	14.-

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto
Basle V 5718).



NEWS AT RANDOM

On the 1st August the Swiss Broadcasting station gave a programme from all the transmitters in Switzerland, consisting in the main of Folk Songs. From 10-11 o'clock in the evening, a special transmission was given on the short wave for Swiss abroad, including speeches by M. Pilet-Golaz, the Swiss Consul General in New York, M. Naef, and General Guisan. Patriotic songs were given by various male choirs.

M. Pilet-Golaz addressed a special greeting to the Swiss Army, the women and the youth of Switzerland. In variation of a well-known proverb, he stressed inter alia " S'il est beau de mourir pour la patrie, il faut avoir d'abord le courage de vivre pour elle."

Consul General Naef in New York spoke in the name of the Swiss abroad and underlined their gratitude to their country and above all to the Swiss Army, which in the hour of danger stood ready at the frontier — and is still ready. He also expressed their thankfulness that Switzerland had succeeded in remaining free from direct entanglements.

General Guisan's speech was relayed in German and consisted of a repetition of what he had said earlier in the day regarding the military preparedness of Switzerland and loyalty to the flag.

The Federal Fête was celebrated, as was stressed by the speaker from Beromünster, in a dignified manner, as fitted the graveness of the hour. In most towns, passages from the Federal letter were read out by wish of the Federal Government, and were supplemented by an address by a representative of the local government. In most speeches the democratic and peace loving ideals of Switzerland were underlined. A patriotic meeting took place in Geneva in honour of those who fell serving their country. Perfect weather crowned the day.

The B.B.C. in London mentioned the Swiss Fête day and gave five minutes of Swiss music. A programme of music ranging from Folk Songs to a modern composition by Arthur Honegger, was broadcast. The B.B.C. announcer in a few sympathetic words said that Switzerland was the best proof that various minorities could live together in perfect harmony.

In the evening a big military Federal fête took place, in which a whole Brigade took part. General Guisan was present, as well as members of the Cantonal Governments of St. Gall, Glarus and Graubünden. The outstanding feature was military sport. The Commander of the Brigade gave an address and General Guisan read out the order of the day.

According to information received, the 1st of August was particularly well celebrated in the Swiss colonies in New York, Berlin and in Madrid. In Berlin more Swiss took part than in peace time. In New York about 8,000 persons participated.

The Turkish and Egyptian Chargé d'affaires presented their credentials to M. Pilet-Golaz on Saturday, August 3rd.

The Département Fédéral de l'Economie Publique have given out a ruling which will come into force on the 8th, according to which steam rollers over 8 tons in weight are prohibited. The explanation for this measure is given as being the shortage of liquid fuel.

The President of the German Red Cross stayed in Geneva for a few days last week and visited the Central Agency for War Prisoners, Civil internees and Refugees of all countries.

On August 2nd, the General Secretary of the League of Nations was received in audience by M. Pilet-Golaz at 12 o'clock, to take his leave. A luncheon was given by the Federal Council to the departing diplomat.

On the 6th of August the Federal Council drew up a draft for a decree on the subject of measures against communist and anarchist activities. Every form of propaganda, including individual propaganda, is forbidden in this draft and the punishment may be prison up to three years and/or fines up to Frs. 5,000.

On the same day, the Federal Council made a decree for the protection of the Silk Ribbon Industry, the export markets having suffered serious decline through the war. The duty is being increased from 400 to 2,000 Frs.

The Government of Schaffhausen has welcomed a social democratic motion demanding the creation of a Labour Council as well as a committee for the regulation (standardisation) of prices.

The Government of Canton Graubünden have elected Dr. Canova, a member of the Social Democratic party, as President.