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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## FEDERAL.

### GOTTLIEB BUEHLER †.

From Frutigen comes the news of the death of M. Gottlieb Bühler, late National Councillor, at the age of 82.

The deceased played an important rôle in the political sphere of the canton of Berne in pre-war days, and he at one time, together with his colleagues Army-Corps Commander Will, Bühlmann, Hirter, Usteri, Spahn, Forrer and Göttsheim, all prominent Liberals, greatly influenced the Policy of the Federal Government. M. Bühler was born in Brienz on the 13th of March, 1855, and after having studied law, established himself as a notary in Frutigen. At the early age of 26, he entered the Grand Council of the canton Berne, where he was one of the champions of the Railways expansion policy. In the year 1889 he entered Parliament (National Council) where he at once took a leading part, and when he vacated his seat, after 30 years of uninterrupted membership, his departure from the political arena was universally regretted.

M. Bühler was for many years a member of the Board of the Swiss National Bank; in the Army he reached the rank of Colonel of the Infantry, and he was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Federal Technical University in Zurich.

### WEVER AND CO. BANKRUPT.

Wever and Co., of Basle, has been declared bankrupt. In June, 1935, the bank had to stop payments and was granted a moratorium by the Court of Basle. The bank ascribed its difficulties to the general depression in trade and its frozen assets in Germany.

While the moratorium was still in force the bank submitted a reorganisation plan, providing for payment of a dividend of 19.4 per cent., to the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

It was established that between 1930 and 1935 the bank, the capital of which amounted to Frs.2,000,000, had lost Frs.2,100,000 (£100,000) as a result of speculative transactions. It was also found that further losses did not appear in the balance-sheet. The bank paid dividends up to 1932, but it is considered that these should have been stopped in 1930.

For these reasons the Supreme Court found that it could not approve the reorganisation scheme. The bank therefore had no alternative but to file a declaration of bankruptcy.

### SWISS GOLD RESERVE.

The latest weekly return of the Swiss National Bank shows the gold reserve unchanged at Frs.2,622,900,000 (£121,600,000 at current rates), following the reduction in the previous week of Frs.95,100,000 (£4,400,000).

Total commitments are covered to the extent of 97.63 per cent. by gold, as at 23rd April, compared with 97.32 per cent. a week earlier.

### HUGO MARTI †.

The death occurred at Davos, after a long illness, of Dr. Hugo Marti, author and literary editor of the "Bund."

He was born in 1893 at Basle, and studied Philosophy at the University of Berne and various German Universities. For some years, Dr. Marti was a private tutor in Rumania and Norway.

In 1922 he was appointed literary editor of the "Bund" in Berne.

Amongst his best-known works are the novels: "Das Haus am Hafl," "Ein Jahresring," and the anthology "Der Kelch." The untimely death of this young and promising writer is universally regretted.

### WILLY REHBERG †.

The death is reported from Mannheim, of the well-known Swiss pianist and composer Willy Rehberg, at the age of 73.

The deceased, who was born at Morges, was, from 1885-1917, a teacher of pianoforte at the conservatoires of Leipzig, Geneva and Frankfurt. During 1917-1921, Willy Rehberg occupied the post of Director of the Academy of Music in Mannheim, and from 1921-1926 he was head of the conservatoire at Basle.

### ROAD ACCIDENTS IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published, 629 people lost their lives through road accidents, 12,414 persons received injuries during the year 1936.

### LOCAL.

#### ZURICH.

At the age of 49, died in Zurich, Dr. Leopold Karner, since 1927 Professor at the Technical University at Zurich.

Dr. Emil Klöti, Mayor of Zurich has celebrated his 30th jubilee as a member of the Municipal executive.

One of the keepers at the Zoological Gardens in Zurich was attacked by a Polar Bear when cleaning the pit. He was badly mauled by the animal and he is at present lying in a critical state at the cantonal hospital.

#### BERNE.

M. Alfred Stauffer, for the last twenty years a member of the Cantonal Government, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

M. Ernest Scherz, since 1921 Manager of the Kantonal Bank in Berne, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. M. Scherz has been connected with this institution for the last 40 years.

Dr. Gottlieb Beck, from 1908-1924, Editor-in-chief of the "Berner Tagblatt" has died in Berne at the age of 85. He was, previous to his Editorial appointment, for many years a teacher at the "Freien Gymnasium" in Berne, and a member of the Municipal Council over which he presided in 1902.

M. Schnyder von Wartensee, General Manager of the Swiss National Bank has tendered his resignation.

M. Schnyder von Wartensee has been for forty years in the banking profession, 15 years of which he spent in banking firms abroad, eight years at the States Bank in Fribourg and 17 years at the Swiss National Bank.

Dr. Karl Jaberg, Professor of Philology at the University in Berne, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary, at the same time he has accomplished 30 years as a University teacher.

#### URI.

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Uri died in the person of Mme. Greppner-Eller, she reached the age of 103.

#### NIDWALDEN.

The "Landsgemeinde" in Stans has elected M. Remigi Joller, as representative in the States Council (Ständerat) in succession to M. Zumbühl who has resigned his seat in Parliament. M. Christen has been appointed "Landammann."

#### APPENZEL A-RH.

M. Altherr has been re-elected as "Landammann" at the "Landsgemeinde at Hundwil."

#### APPENZEL J-RH.

The "Landsgemeinde" in Appenzell has elected Dr. C. Rusch as "Landammann."

#### ST. GALL.

In St. Gall, died at the age of 72, Professor Gustav Werder, who was for 34 years a teacher of the Spanish and Portuguese languages at the Commercial University in St. Gall.

#### VAUD.

The canton Vaud government have forbidden all Communist public meetings in the canton's territory.

#### OBWALDEN.

M. Albert Omlin, since 1907 a member of the Cantonal Tribunal has retired from his post at the age of 84.

M. Zumbühl, since 1925 representative in Parliament (States Council) of the canton Obwalden, is shortly vacating his seat, for reasons of health.

M. W. Amstalden was elected "Landammann" on the occasion of the "Landsgemeinde" in Sarnen.

### NEUCHÂTEL.

The winner of the first prize of the Neuchâtel Lottery, amounting to 100,000frs. has anonymously sent the equivalent amount to the Authorities to be used for helping the unemployed and various other charitable institutions.

The following members for the cantonal government have been elected: Renaud (Nat. Progr.) 16,364; Beguin (radical) 16,206; Humbert (Liberal-Cons.) 16,170; Borel (Liberal-Cons.) 16,069 and Guinchard (Radical) 15,648. The Socialist candidates Graber and Perret have not been elected, thus the Bourgeois parties have won a complete victory. The Grand Council consists of members of the following parties: Radicals 32; Liberals 22; Socialists 33 and Progressists 11. The Socialists have thus lost seven seats.

### TICINO.

M. Zeli has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. M. Angelo Tarchini, a former National Councillor, was congratulated by the Council on reaching his 40th anniversary of having entered the Grand Council.

### SWISS SPORTS.

The Swiss Minister, Honorary President of the Swiss Sports Committee, has been asked by the Organising Committee to bring the following facts to the notice of the members of the Swiss Colony in London:

On April 8th, 1937, the Committee of the Swiss Sports held a meeting at Swiss House, under the presidency of M. C. A. Barbezat. After a lengthy discussion it was unanimously decided that this year's Sports Meeting should be postponed until 1938, owing to the forthcoming Coronation festivities, which come too near the date on which the Sports are usually held.

To the great regret of all those present M. Barbezat, the worthy and popular President of many years' standing, who has always been and it is hoped will continue to be an outstanding figure at the Sports, tendered his resignation. In gratitude for the great services he has rendered, M. Barbezat was with acclamation elected an Honorary Vice-President of the Sports Committee.

The following have been elected as Members of the new Organising Committee:

President: R. de Cintra.

Vice-President: H. Senn.

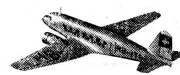
Secretary: H. H. Baumann.

Ass. Secretary: J. J. Schneider.

Treasurer: J. Ritzmann.

Ass. Treasurer: W. Burren.

Members: R. Dupraz, C. Mayr, P. Hiliker.



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