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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Mr. Trygve Lie, General Secretary of UNO, who arrived in Geneva in order to study the question of housing some of the special Departments at the Palais des Nations, had an interview with Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre in Geneva.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has given a farewell dinner at the "Wattenwyl Haus" in Berne, to the Greek Minister, Monsieur Pierre Metaxas, who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service. He represented his country in Berne for the last three years.

\* \* \*

The Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne has received news that the Swiss in Bangkok (Siam) are quite safe and not affected by the recent unrest in this country. The Swiss Legation in Nanking has advised the Swiss Foreign Office that all Swiss nationals living in Tientsin (China) are unhurt.

\* \* \*

A monetary Bill revising the regulations of 1931 has been published by the Federal Government. The gold equivalent of the Swiss franc will be 203.22 milligrammes, which puts the value of the gold kilogramme at Frs.4,920 40-63rds. This parity has actually been in force since the Devaluation Act of 1936.

The reason for fixing it by law is that the Devaluation Act — which foresaw a variable equivalent of 190 to 215 milligrams — is only valid until the end of 1949.

As a consequence of the new law, new gold coins are going to be minted, one of Frs.25 and one of Frs.50 worth. The size will be according to the newly fixed gold content of 20 and 25 millimeters respectively.

It was not felt convenient to change the size of the present 10, 20 and 100 francs worth gold coins, the nominal value of which does not correspond any more to the gold content nor to the actual market price.

\* \* \*

An Indian trade mission headed by Mr. K. Chattur, of the Ministry of Commerce, is travelling to Berne to negotiate an agreement with the Swiss Government.

### Cantonal

The collection made throughout Switzerland for the victims of the fire which broke out last year at the village of Auen, near Linthal (Ct. Glarus), when a large number of dwelling houses were destroyed, has resulted in an amount of 54,157.—frs. having been subscribed.

[A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Glarus for the year 1948, close with a deficit of 214,328.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The late Heinrich Kubli, from Netstal (Ct. Glarus) has left an amount of 50,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor, Dr. Edgar Meyer, head of the Physical Institute of the University of Zurich for the last 33 years, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. F. J. Voltz-Sprüngli, head of the firm Lindt & Sprüngli of Kilchberg, Chocolate Manufacturers, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. He has, for many years played a leading rôle in the Swiss Chocolate Industry. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Walter Ott, at present assistant surgeon at the District Hospital Männedorf, has been appointed surgeon-in-chief of the surgical section at the "Kantonsspital" in Winterthur. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor, Dr. Emil Feer, Director of the University Clinic in Zurich from 1911-1929, and until recently President of the "Stiftungsrates" of the Childrens' Clinic in Zurich, has celebrated his 85th birthday anniversary. Professeur Feer is the author of a number of books on medical science. [A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members kindly note that a

### SPECIAL MEETING

is being held on **Tuesday, 5th April, 1949**, at the **Dorchester Hotel, London, W.1**, at **6.30 p.m.** Dinner starting at **7 pm.**

Our Principal guest of Honour and Speaker will be Mr. MORGAN PHILLIPS, who is the Secretary of the Labour Party.

Those wishing to take part should send their card to the Manager, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday morning, 4th April, 1949.

P. A. MOEHR,  
Hon. Secretary.

The juridical faculty of the University of Zurich has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon Charles J. Steiger, of Winterthur and Dagmersellen. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Carl Vogler, at one time, Director of the "Kon-servatorium" Zurich, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Mayor and honorary citizen of the town of Porrentruy, Achille Merguin, has left an amount of 170,000.—frs. to the District hospital, 145,000.—frs. to the town and 28,000.—frs. to various Societies of Porrentruy. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Hans Stähli, a former member of the government of the canton of Berne, has been elected President of the Board of the "Kantonal Bank" Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A serious motoring accident happened in Berne, when the driver of a Zurich motor-car, who was under the influence of alcohol, collided with a wall. Four lady passengers and a ten years old boy were seriously injured. The driver escaped injuries, but the car was totally wrecked. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mgr. Hubert Savoy of the Cathedral Church St. Niklaus in Fribourg, and formerly rector of the College St. Michel and editor of the paper "La Liberté", has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mgr. Lucien Bossens, Dean of the Cathedral of Fribourg, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1948 of the canton of Fribourg show a credit balance of 982,995.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1948, of the canton of Solothurn, show a credit balance of 1,875,244.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The 12,000,000.—frs. Loan issued by the "Schweizerische Reederei A.G.", in Basle, at 3½ per cent., has been fully covered. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The General Meeting of the "Schweiz. Muster-messe" took place in Basle under the Presidency of States Councillor G. Wenk.

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The accounts for 1948, which show a surplus of 1.2 million francs (1947: 686,302.—frs.) were accepted. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Furniture Manufacturing firm, Bruno Martignoni of Roveredo (Ct. Grisons), has been completely destroyed by fire. The damage caused is supposed to exceed 100,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Arnold Büchli, the well-known writer, who was born in Lenzburg (Ct. Aargau), has received a cheque amounting to 3,000.—frs. from the cantonal government in appreciation of his work. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Madame Bébié-Rietmann, of Castle "Liebenfels" (Ct. Thurgau), has left a legacy of 300,000.—frs. to the "Krankenhaus" in Frauenfeld. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The President of the community of Sirnach (Ct. Thurgau), has been arrested owing to irregularities in the accounts of the community. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late industrialist Pietro Molinari, of Lugano, has left an amount of 67,000.— for charitable purposes. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, and reached the age of 87. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

William Mosley, an Englishman, who has lived in Brissago for the last thirty years, has been made an honorary citizen of the town of Brissago for the continued financial support he has given to old people in the district. [A.T.S.]