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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

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

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Minister Ch. de Bavier, at present Swiss Minister in Iran, to the post of Minister in Mexico, in succession to Monsieur Fumasoli, who was recently transferred to Buenos Aires.

Minister de Bavier was born in 1893 and is a citizen of Chur and Zurich; he studied law at Swiss and French Universities, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1918, he subsequently held appointments at the Legations in Paris, Rome, Istanbul, Athens and Berlin. In 1933, Monsieur de Bavier was appointed Counsellor of Legation, and in 1947, Swiss Minister in Teheran.

Mr. Jakob Ott (born in 1898) of Zoll (Ct. Zurich), has been appointed head of the Federal "Baudirektion" in succession to Mr. L. Jungo, who is vacating his post, having reached retiring age.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 14.67 million passengers during the month of November, 1950, or 1.03 million passengers less than in November, 1949.

Goods traffic during November, 1950, has increased by 389,000 tons and is returned as 1.81 million tons. The receipts are given as 29.69 million francs or 3.16 million francs more than in November, 1949.

### Cantonal

Dr. med. Hans Portmann, the well-known historian, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary at Eschholz-matt (Ct. Lucerne). [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eduard Korrodi, a member of the Editorial Staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" has retired from his post as "Feuilleton Redaktor," which he has held since 1915. He recently celebrated his 65th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Albert Bächtold, the popular dialect writer, who was born in 1891 in Wilchingen im Klettgau, and

who lives in Zurich, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Emil Steiner, has been elected "Landamann" of the canton of Zug for 1951/52. Mr. Leo Iten (Unterägeri), has been appointed to the office of "Statthalter." [A.T.S.]

A parcel of watches to the value of 11,500.—frs. sent by the Berna Watch Company, has been lost between St. Imier and Bienne. [A.T.S.]

W. Burgunder, Manager of the branch office at Moudon of the "Banque Populaire de la Broye", has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement. About 20,000.—frs. will have to be accounted for. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Chardonne (Ct. Fribourg) has conferred an honorary citizenship on Colonel of brigade Roger Masson, for the eminent services which he has rendered our country during the last war. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Oskar Stampfli, has been elected "Landamann" of the canton of Solothurn for 1951, and Dr. Max Obrecht has been appointed "Vizelandammann" for the same period. [A.T.S.]

Two people were killed, when a motor-car, skidded and fell into the Birs, near Bärschwil (Ct. Solothurn).

The names of the victims are: Albert Ducammun, manufacturer of Tramelan, and Mme. Aubry-Jolidon, proprietress of the Hotel "Pomme d'Or" in Montfaucon. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eduard Graeter, for many years member of the Editorial Staff (Auslandsdienst) of the "Basler National Zeitung", has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Basle.

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Mr. A. H. Pellegrini, a well-known painter and writer, living in Basle, has celebrated his 70th birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Heinrich Ryffel, a former Sub-Manager of the "Schweiz. Bankverein" has been elected Manager of the "Basler Kantonalbank" succeeding Mr. Rudolf Wittmer, who is relinquishing his post for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Alfred Kessler, a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall, will retire from his post on June 30th, 1951. He entered the Government in 1942, as representative of the socialist party. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

States-Counsellor Ernst Flückiger, Editor-in-Chief of the "St. Galler Tagblatt" for the last 15 years, has relinquished his post. He joined the editorial staff of this paper in 1912. Dr. Ernst Burkhardt has been appointed Editor-in-Chief. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Airport Samedan (Samaden), has been taken over by the Swiss Confederation for the sum of 270,000.—frs. The Swiss Government will spend another 1 million francs for the enlargement of the aerodrome. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Bishop of Chur, Mgr. Dr. Christianus Caminada, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary in Chur. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mme. Berthe Léderrey-Howald, the mother of Colonel Léderrey (Berne), has celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary at the hospital of Lavaux (Ct. Vaud). The "Jubilarin" was for fifty years, proprietress of the "Auberge du Monde" in Grandvaux. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mme. Charles Demierre, née Oltramare, has celebrated her 99th birthday in Genèra. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Avalanches in Cantons Grisons, Uri, and Valais are known to have caused the deaths of at least 59 persons and serious injuries to 20, and another 20 are missing. Fifteen villages and hamlets have suffered damage, including the loss of 25 houses and 50 stables. Zermatt, Arosa, Davos, and the Engadine had been isolated for several days.

Snowfalls have ceased and the general situation has slightly improved, but there is still danger of further avalanches. The snowfall is the heaviest recorded since meteorological observations were begun about 80 years ago.

It is now known that nine out of 10 persons buried under the snow at Sankt Antoenien, in the Grisons, were rescued by a search party. At Vals, in the same district, the bodies of five persons were recovered, but 14 are still missing. At Zuoz only one of the four children buried by an avalanche has been found alive. At some distance from Davos an avalanche swept away a house, killing three persons. Two others were dug out of the snow after five hours. Huge avalanches have fallen on the village of Hospenthal, on the St. Gotthard road, destroying six stables. The village was evacuated.

The Swiss Red Cross has made arrangements for helping the inhabitants of the stricken districts.

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The Swiss Avalanche Bureau stated that the danger of fresh avalanches in the Swiss Alps was receding as temperatures fell and the snow hardened.

### Army

The Federal Council has appointed Colonel Charles Rathgeb (born in 1897) to the post of chief of the newly created section for "Genie und Festungswesen" with promotion to the rank of Colonel of division.

Colonel of division, Othmar Büttikofer (born in 1897) from Reiben near Büren a. A., has been appointed "Waffenchef" for the section for "Übermittlungstruppen."

Colonel Jaques Boissier (born in 1905) a member of the Federal Instructors Corps, has been nominated Commander of the "Zentralschulen" in succession to Colonel Züblin, who has recently been promoted to the rank of Colonel of Division. [A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Dr. Otto Weiss, Professor of history at the cantonal *Gymnasium* and Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, at the age of 60.

Franz, Carl Schuler-Hürlimann, a former "Rats-herr" in Steinen (Ct. Schwyz), aged 60.

Dr. med. Ernst Ruppaner, from 1909-1947, Surgeon-in-Chief of the District Hospital in Samaden (Ct. Grisons) in Zurich, at the age of 75. The deceased enjoyed the highest reputation as an eminent surgeon.

Maxim Reymond, Journalist and Historian, in Lausanne, aged 79. He was for many years connected with the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne" and the

"Tribune de Lausanne". From 1921-1945 he was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Paul Staeli, Mayor of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds from 1924-1936, and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, over which he presided in 1924/25, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 82.

Dr. phil. h.c. Hans Morgenthaler, historian and teacher at the "Längass" school in Berne, aged 65.

Charles Berner, watch manufacturer in Peseux, aged 62.

Robert de Traz, a well-known writer, in Nice, at the age of 66.

The deceased was a prolific and successful author of novels and essays; after the first world war he founded the "Revue de Genève" he was also a critic of dramatic art of the "Journal de Genève." The University of Geneva honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Jakob Hefti, a former National-Councillor, and at one time Editor of the "Echo vom Rheinfall" in Glarus, aged 77.

Georges Moschard, a former Banker of Delsberg, and honorary citizen of the town of Delsberg, in Berne, aged 95.

Johann Bruggman-Rutz, from 1912-1930 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and for 24 years a member of the District Court, Neutoggenburg, in Lichtensteig, at the age of 89.

Dr. jur. Jakob Wagner, Chief of the Police Force of the canton Basle-County, in Liestal, age 54.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

According to a recent census the population of the undermentioned cantons is as follows:— Schwyz: 71,246 (1941: 66,555); Uri: 28,563 (1941: 27,302); Obwalden: 22,070 (1941: 20,340); Lucerne: 223,409 (1941: 206,608); Glarus: 37,674 (1941: 34,771); Solothurn 170,325 (1941: 154,854).

The population of Switzerland, according to latest figures published, is 4,696,000, which is 430,000 inhabitants more, than in 1941, when the last census was taken. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A Swissair machine has, for the first time, flown the route New-York-Zurich (6,450 km.) without inter-

mediary landing. The flight took 16 hours and 44 minutes. The machine was piloted by Commander H. Kuhn. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. & Mme. Jules Robert of Chardonne, have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60).

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Stutz et Cie, of Kempten, celebrate their centenary this year. Founded in 1850 by Johannes Mueller, the grandfather of the present owner, Mr. Walter Stutz, the firm first made sewing machines but later expanded on to heald knitters and machines for the production of reed wires and for the binding of reeds.

Since 1923, when Mr. Walter Stutz took control, the firm has concentrated on the manufacture of machines for stripping pirns and hobbins of all kinds and they also make reed cleaning and polishing machines, and shuttle trueing machines. As a result of greatly increased business during the past few years, extensions have been made to the factory at Kempten, now three times its pre-war size.

To mark the firm's centenary, Mr. Hans Stutz — representing the fourth generation of the family in the business — has been appointed a partner with his father.

\* \* \*

Circumstances have forced the Board of the Federal Railways to budget for a deficit of fr.41,000,000 in 1951. The deficit will be due to extraordinary expenditure and not to current costs. The building programme has been reduced to necessities, and further capital should, in the opinion of the railway administration, be provided from public funds. Thus the major reconstruction plans for the stations of Zürich and Berne must be deferred until the problem of finance has been tackled.

The current programme for new construction provides solely for the continuation of work on the Geneva junction line (Cornavin-Eaux Vives) and for the continuation of double-tracking on certain sections. The electrification of the lines from Winterthur to Wald and of the old Hauenstein line (the original route of the Gotthard line between Sissach and Olten and since 1915 superseded by the new Hauenstein line and tun-

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nel) is to be continued. Some savings are expected under the heading of permanent way renewals, due to lower prices for materials.

The budget figure for new rolling stock has been increased as payments become due for rolling stock ordered in 1947-49; but new orders will be reduced. Amounts have been set aside for extensions of the existing railway-owned power plants at Ritom, Vernayaz, Barberine, and Massaboden, and for the extension and modernisation of the workshops at Yverdon. The total expenditure is expected to amount to fr.767,000,000, compared with a total revenue of fr.726,000,000.

Switzerland has now notified the Football Association of Wales that she has definitely accepted the invitation to play Wales in a Festival of Britain match in May. The game will, therefore, be played at Wrexham on Wednesday, May 16th.

Negotiations between the two countries have been going on for a long time, and originally the Swiss had been invited to play in Wales last November, but they were unable to accept.

Wales, therefore, have Portugal and Switzerland as Festival of Britain visitors — a most attractive prospect.

The hot summer of 1950 has accelerated the recession of Alpine glaciers. Of 100 glaciers only four have grown longer while 96 have retreated, some up to 60ft.

A £2½ million barter deal has been concluded between Switzerland and Indonesia.

The International Refugee Organization announces that Switzerland has undertaken to provide homes for 200 or more "hard core" refugee cases now in I.R.O. hospitals and institutions. These are to include at least 50 displaced persons who are suffering from tuberculosis. The arrangements on the Swiss side will be made by the "Swiss aid to Europe" and 620,000 Swiss francs have been allocated for expenses in the first year.

We have already given some information about the great festivities which will mark the celebration, in April, 1951, of the sixth centenary of Zurich's entry as a canton into the Swiss Confederation, linked with the town's annual Spring Festival, known throughout the world under the name of the "Sechseläuten."

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This tradition is faithfully upheld by the twenty-five City Guilds of Zurich, many of which are over 600 years old. For the 600th anniversary of Zurich's entry into the Helvetic Confederation, they will organise a sumptuous procession on Sunday the 22nd April at 2 p.m.

Performers in historical costumes will evoke the town's history and that of the canton since the latter's entry into the Confederation in 1351 until the proclamation of the Federal Constitution in 1848. The procession of 3,000 performers and many decorated carriages will be four km. long and take one hour and a half to parade through the principal City Streets.

The artistic production of the procession will be in the hands of talented painters and costumiers. Special attention has been paid to the harmony of the costumes. A number of bands, on foot and on horseback, will accompany this wonderful procession.

Thanks to the energetic encouragement of its mayor, Mr. Jean Pietrequin, the Municipality of Lausanne has recently resolved to undertake television tests which will probably commence at the beginning of 1951. After a visit to Holland by Mr. Peitrequin and Mr. Méroz, the very active director of Radio-Lausanne, the Lausanne authorities have obtained on loan from the Philips works, free of charge, most of the necessary equipment, in particular a transmitting station and a dozen receivers. The general management of the Federal Post Office has granted permission for tests over a period of six months. The Ecole Polytechnique of the University of Lausanne and the French-Swiss Broadcasting Company are co-operating, the former by taking on the technical responsibility and the latter will be responsible for the programmes. Receiving sets will be set up in various parts of the

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town, in particular in the hall of the Central Railway Station, in the hall of the Post Office, in a window of the Municipal theatre, etc.

At certain favourable times of the day, the public will be able to follow the programmes free of charge, probably three or four times a week, every other day, during the evening. The programmes will include films and direct transmissions in which well-known artists have already promised to take part.

The British European Airways and Swissair have decided by mutual agreement to carry on their activity separately with effect from 1st January, 1951. From that date the two companies will cease to act as the other's General Agents in their respective countries. B.E.A. will establish in Switzerland its own organisation with administrative and reservation offices in Zurich and Geneva. Swissair will do the same in Great Britain, establishing a general agency in London, with offices in Manchester and Glasgow. Under this new arrangement, B.E.A. will also act in Switzerland as General Agent for the passenger traffic of B.O.A.C., Qantas Empire Airways and Cyprus Airways, which have until now been represented by Swissair.

For freight, on the other hand, B.E.A. and Swissair still act as agents for each other. The Air Freight Agreement remains in force both in Switzerland and in Great Britain.

The changes in no way alter the friendly relations which exist between B.E.A. and Swissair. The two companies will continue in future as in the past their

co-operation with a view to offering passenger a first-rate service between Switzerland and Great Britain.

The Swiss Curling Association which has its headquarters at Pontresina under the Presidency of Mr. Jakob Hitz, has issued its 1950/1951 calendar of events.

Space prevents us from giving details of all the competitions arranged at Arosa, Celerina, Davos, Flims, Klosters, Lenzerheide, Pontresina, Samedan, Silvaplana and St. Moritz in Eastern Switzerland; at Adelboden, Berne, Engelberg, Grindelwald, Kandersteg, Kleine Scheidegg, Mürren and Wengen in Central Switzerland; and at Caux, Château d'Oex, Crans-sur-Sierre, Gstaad, Lausanne, la Lenk, Montana, Saanen, Saanenmooser, Villars-Chesières and Zermatt in Western Switzerland.

The following dates are printed in italics in the Association's calendar: AROSA, Silver Dolly 17th/18th February. DAVOS, Bianchi Cup 15th/18th January. Eastern Swiss Championships 19th/22nd January. PONTRESINA, Jackson Cup 23rd/24th January; Pontresina Curling Week 10th/15th February. SAMEDAN, Muottas Muragl Cup 3rd/4th February. ST. MORITZ, Olympic Stone 27th/28th January. ENGELBERG, Curling Week 22nd/25th January. GRINDELWALD, Central Switzerland Championships 19th/21st January, 7th Grindelwald Curling Week 22nd/28th January. MUERREN, Bernese Oberland Championships 26th/28th January. WENGEN, Swiss Curling Championships 9th/11th February. GSTAAD, Gstaad Village and Palace Curling Week 14th/21st January. LAUSANNE, Montagny Challenge Trophy 20th/22nd November. ZERMATT, Western Swiss Championships 9th/10th January; Zermatt Curling Week 27th January/4th February.

—xxx—

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

*"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).*

Le Dr. Rambo, médecin en chef d'une clinique ophtalmologique de l'Inde, a visité celle de l'Université de Zurich. Il s'est rendu ensuite à Schaffhouse où il a acheté des instruments pour la chirurgie des yeux chez le réputé fabricant Ernst Grieshaber.

Le gouvernement de la république de San Salvador a passé à des maisons suisses une importante commande de turbines à eau et de générateurs, malgré la forte concurrence étrangère.

Le plus récent appareil à mesurer le temps, créé par la fabrique suisse de montres Longines, pour les concours sportifs, transmet le signal du départ par sans fil et enregistre le résultat sur un film, avec une précision de 1/100e de seconde.

Bâle est, comparativement, le port où le travail est le plus intensif qui sort au monde. En novembre, a été atteint le chiffre record de 3 millions de tonnes pour l'année (record précédent: 2.96 millions de tonnes).

La "Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung" a accueilli au nombre de ses membres l'écrivain et critique littéraire suisse Max Rychner.

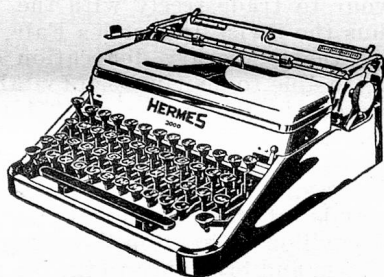
Une exposition de l'architecture suisse a eu lieu à Belgrade, où elle a éveillé un grand intérêt dans les milieux professionnels et dans le public.

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Le corps médical yougoslave a invité le Dr. G. Maurer, du sanatorium Davos-Schatzalp à faire des conférences à Belgrade, Zagreb et Lioubliana sur sa méthode nouvelle pour le traitement des cavernes tuberculeuses. Il a fait à Zagreb trois démonstrations d'opérations.

\* \* \*

L'université de Strasbourg a créé une chaire de radioactivité et de chimie atomique, la seconde en France, et l'a confiée à une vaudoise, le Dr. Marguerite Perey.

\* \* \*

L'université de Goettingue a décerné le doctorat honoris causa à M. Bénigne Mentha, directeur du Bureau international de la propriété industrielle, littéraire et artistique, à Berne. Le Prof. W. Schopfer, directeur de l'Institut de botanique de l'Université de Berne, a reçu la même distinction de l'Université de Nancy.

\* \* \*

Le gyrobus que construit la fabrique de machines d'Oerlikon a poursuivi avec succès ses courses d'essai à Aarau. Il est possible d'appliquer le même principe à des tracteurs de manœuvre, à des locomotives pour les mines, à des bateaux ou à des bacs. Une entreprise minière sur-africaine vient de faire la première commande de locomotives de chantiers.

\* \* \*

A l'occasion d'un voyage en Suisse, l'ancien président du Pérou, M. Manuel Prado, a témoigné de son admiration pour le travail suisse. En qualité de banquier, le Dr. Prado joue dans son pays un rôle

économique très important. Il a en particulier créé l'industrie hôtelière péruvienne avec la collaboration de personnel suisse. Par l'assouplissement des droits d'entrée, les produits suisses peuvent trouver de nouvelles possibilités d'écoulement au Pérou.

### THE SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

At a time when Europe is organizing its economic forces, the Swiss Industries Fair which will be held from 7th to 17th April, 1951, will provide evidence of the price which Switzerland attaches to economic liberalism, to free competition on the world's markets, to the untiring effort demanded of her by the acquisition and the retention of commercial outlets. This is achieved by devoting attention to the most profound scientific and industrial research work, by maintaining the products of the watchmaking, electrical and precision tool industries at the highest level of technical progress throughout the world, and by adapting her textile products to the ever-changing tastes of fashion. Consider, for example, that Switzerland exports 60% of the chemical products she manufactures, 70% of the machines she constructs, 95% of the watches that come out of her factories; the part played by textile exports is also of considerable economic importance. The Swiss Industries Fair alone can give an overall picture of the diversity of these goods.

Those interested are invited to apply to the Swiss Legations, Consulates and Chambers of Commerce in foreign countries for full details.

### THE SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR AND THE EUROPEAN PAYMENTS UNION.

In the autumn of 1950 the Swiss Houses of Parliament approved, with an overwhelming majority, Switzerland's joining the European Payments Union. There is no doubt that this important decision will enable a number of customers and suppliers in foreign countries to open new business relations with this little country or establish them even more closely than before. Switzerland has always been opposed on principle to the economic isolation resulting from efforts to make countries self-sufficing and has kept her customs tariff at a remarkably low level, for it is her endeavour to trade freely with the whole world.

Thus the Swiss Industries Fair, which neither the war nor the temporary dislocation of business conditions were able to deprive of its vitality or importance, will present in the spring of 1951 a new interest for Europe. The Fair is really a wholesale market embracing all the biggest groups of industrialists particularly interested in the international exchange of goods. The stands of the watchmaking industry and the special pavilion "Creation" dealing with fashions add their charm and brilliance to the impression of strength and high precision aroused by the purely technical aspect of the Fair.

In addition to the cordial welcome it extends to the whole business world, the Swiss Industries Fair offers a remarkable display of Swiss industrial production accessible to all the members of the European Payments Union.

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