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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, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The final figures in connection with the Federal census, which was held in Switzerland last year, are as follows:

Cantons.	Inhabitants.
Zurich	777,002
Berne	801,943
Lucerne	223,249
Uri	28,556
Schwyz	71,082
Obwalden	22,125
Nidwalden	19,389
Glarus	37,663
Zug	42,239
Fribourg	158,695
Solothurn	170,508
Basel-Stadt	196,498
Basel-Land	107,549
Schaffhausen	57,515
Appenzell A.-Rh.	47,938
Appenzell I.-Rh.	13,427
St. Gallen	309,106
Graubünden	137,100
Aargau	300,782
Thurgau	149,738
Ticino	175,055
Vaud	377,585
Valais	159,178
Neuchâtel	128,152
Geneva	202,918
TOTAL	4,714,992

* * *

Customs receipts during the month of May, 1951, have reached 53.8 million francs or 7.8 million francs more than in May, 1950. The receipts during the first months of the current year amounted to 260.3 million francs which is 57.5 million francs higher than during the same period in 1950.

Cantonal

The 600th anniversary of Zurich's entry into the Confederation was celebrated in the cantonal capital at the beginning of this month.

The members of the Federal Council arrived *in corpore* by special train from Berne together with delegations from the two Federal Chambers, the army, the Federal Tribunal, the National Bank and other high officials.

All the cantons were represented by members of their respective governments.

A historical procession, in which over 1,000 persons took part passed through the gaily beflagged streets to the "Grossmünster" where a solemn service was held. Speeches were made by M. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor E. Nobs, H. Streuli, President of the government of the canton of Zurich and Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of Zurich.

The celebrations were concluded with a "Volksfest" until early in the morning, dances in the streets and public places were held. [A.T.S.]

The late H. Weber-Zoller of Rüti (Ct. Zurich), has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the home for aged people in Rüti. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Werner Kämpfen, Journalist (Berne), has been elected Director of the Tourist Office, Zurich, in succession to Dr. Arnold Ith, who is shortly vacating his post. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Schaffhausen for 1950 show a credit Balance of 332,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. C. Dreyfus, co-founder of the international Celanese concern has made a donation amounting to

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100,000.— francs to the University of Basle on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his receiving the title of doctor from the Philosophical faculty of the University. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Jakob Gabathuler, a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall, has entered Parliament (National Council) in succession to Mr. Andreas Zeller (Wallenstadt) who has vacated his seat. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Bally Shoe Company of Schoenenwerd (Ct. Solothurn) has recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

This event was celebrated in Schoenenwerd; and the works which employ over 5,000 hands were closed for one day. At a luncheon, late States Councillor Iwan Bally, greeted the invited guests numbering 200 amongst them being Federal Councillor Rubattel, Minister Hotz, and representatives of the cantons of Solothurn, Aargau, Basle County and Uri, and he then described the development of the concern since its inception. Federal Councillor Rubattel delivered the greetings and congratulations of the Federal Government and Dr. O. Stampfli, "Landammann" of the canton of Solothurn thanked the management for the efforts they had made in keeping this important industry in Schoenenwerd. [A.T.S.]

Army

The newly erected military barracks Poya, in Fribourg, were inaugurated recently in the presence of Federal Councillor, Dr. Kobelt, army-corps commanders Corbat and Frick and Colonel of division Beerli, etc.

The barracks were built by the canton of Fribourg at the cost of 5½ million francs, and can accommodate 450 officers and men, space for 120 vehicles is also provided. [A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Conrad, C. Bäschlin, for 40 years a teacher, and from 1927-1947, Director of the "Neuen Mädchenschule", Berne, in Berne, at the age of 73.

Alfred Mong-Marti, Hotelier, and at one time President of the communal council of Vevey, in Vevey, aged 74.

Albert Geissberger, contractor, and for several years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town, in Basle, at the age of 58.

Martin Schuler, administrator of the Federal army stores Seewen-Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 58.

Paul Tissot, Member of the Board of the firm Charles Tissot & Fils, S.A., watch manufactures, in Paris on his return from a visit to London, at the age of 61. The deceased was also closely connected with the Omega and Lemania concerns.

Léon Bolle, Professor at the University of Lausanne, in Geneva, at the age of 63.

Dr. Max Moser, rector of the "Real-Abteilung des städtischen Gymnasiums", Berne, in Berne, aged 40. [A.T.S.]

The following birthday anniversaries are announced from Switzerland:

Mr. Ernst Kunz (60), Olten, composer and conductor of a number of Male Choirs, who has played a leading rôle in the musical life of the town of Olten.

Mr. Ernst Weber (70), from 1925-1939, General

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Manager, and from 1939-1947, President of the General Direction of the Swiss National Bank, in Erlenbach (Ct. Zurich).

Professor J. Staehelin (60), Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Psychiatric clinic at the University of Basle.

Dr. Richard Zollikofer (80), formerly surgeon-in-chief at the cantonal hospital in St. Gall.

Paul Vischer-Geigy (70), a well-known architect, and from 1935-1948, President of the "Comité permanent international des architectes" in Basle.

Dr. Ignaz Hess (80), since 1898 keeper of the archives of the monastery at Engleberg.

Jean Frey (90), Publisher and head of the Printing Works "Jean Frey, A.G., Zurich.

[A.T.S.]

The undermentioned couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60), in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. E. Lutz-Kobelt, of Walzenhausen; Mr. and Mrs. A. Kunz-Haemmig, of Uster, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bettens, of Chavennes-le-Veyron (Ct. Vaud); Mr. and Mrs. A. Zwahlen-Rueggesser, of Berne. [A.T.S.]

It is reported that the collection for the victims of the avalanche disasters, which occurred in Switzerland early this year has amounted to 14 million francs. Ninety-two persons and 530 animals were killed, 894 buildings were destroyed and 165 damaged. 250 hectares of agricultural land and 750 hectares of forests were either destroyed or heavily damaged.

[A.T.S.]

The following traffic accidents have been reported during the months of May, 1951: *Ct. Berne*: 463 (May, 1950: 435) 9 persons killed and 378 injured; *Ct. Thurgau*: 67, 1 person killed and 22 injured; *Ct. Fribourg*: 117, three persons killed and 37 injured.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Federal Council has asked Parliament for a credit to install a trial television transmitter which would reach about 1,000,000 subscribers from Zurich.

* * *

The Income of the Swiss people in 1950 was 17.4 billion francs, or almost as much as in the peak prosperity year of 1948. This sum is 400 million frs. above the one in 1949. Swiss economists are calculating that the value of income in 1950 was the biggest in history because all prices were below those of 1948. The wages in October 1950 show an average value including all type of workers, helpers and journeymen alike, the following figures: Graphic arts 3.36 frs. an hour (in 1939: 1.85); metal and machine industries 2.53 frs. (1.36); watch industry: 3.01 frs. (1.47). It is obvious that experienced men receive more than this average and the increases are much higher among the women employees. Swiss wage earners were never as well off as they are now.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Une fois de plus, les installations techniques de Radio Suisse S.A. pour la télégraphie et la téléphonie sans fil, viennent d'être modernisées et renforcées.

Notre industrie eindigène a fabriqué tous les nouveaux appareils qui, selon les experts, sont pour le moins équivalents aux meilleurs produits étrangers.

* * *

La fabrique de machines Sulzer frères S.A. à Winterthur a fêté le 200ème anniversaire de la naissance de son fondateur Salomon Sulzer. Jusqu'en 1914, la fabrique était une entreprise de famille. La direction actuelle comprend des représentants de la cinquième et de la sixième génération de la famille du fondateur.

* * *

Le centre littéraire de Bâle, fondé en automne 1950, a présenté au public, à l'occasion de ses soirées de lecture de l'hiver dernier, plus de 40 auteurs, particulièrement des Bâlois et des Suisses. Le cercle vient de monter des expositions littéraires. Les trois premières ont été consacrées à Hermann Hesse, César von Arx et C. F. Ramuz.

* * *

Les usines Kern & Cie, à Aarau, viennent de créer un nouveau *télescope binoculaire* grossissant jusqu'à 50 fois. Alors que les télescopes traditionnels de même grossissement avaient l'allure de petits canons, le nouveau télescope se présente, grâce à son optique "lentille-miroir" de conception nouvelle, sous une forme très réduite.

* * *

L'exposition suisse du livre à Caracas, capitale du Venezuela, a remporté un plein succès. Dès le début, plus de la moitié des livres exposés ont été retenus par des amateurs. La bibliothèque nationale a fait l'acquisition de plus de 200 volumes.

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