

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

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1952)

Heft: 1178

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 37. No. 1178.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28th, 1952.

PRICE 11d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

As mentioned in our last issue, Swiss electors, in a referendum, rejected a Government-sponsored Bill to prolong the law under which the building and enlarging of Hotels is subject to Government authorisation. Here are detailed results of the voting:—

	Yes.	No.
Zurich	44,797	85,949
Berne	28,254	22,374
Lucerne	10,612	7,989
Uri	1,974	1,673
Schwyz	3,305	2,641
Obwalden	1,062	809
Nidwalden	1,423	1,255
Glarus	2,560	3,018
Zug	1,376	1,617
Fribourg	17,568	6,951
Solothurn	6,918	6,852
Basle Town	5,521	11,174
Basle County	4,970	7,268
Schaffhausen	3,963	7,423
Appenzell a.Rh.	2,400	5,764
Appenzell i.Rh.	774	680
St. Gall	21,574	28,387
Grisons	12,321	5,237
Aargau	23,571	43,384
Thurgau	13,605	13,231
Ticino	10,514	6,628
Vaud	14,720	10,065
Valais	6,082	3,534
Neuchâtel	3,461	2,575
Geneva	3,581	3,204
	246,906	289,682

38.3% of the electors went to the Poll.

Monsieur Duque-Gomez, has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Columbia, to Monsieur Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly appointed Minister is a doctor of medicine, he was formerly a Governor of the Province of Huila and later on a Senator.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of February, 1952, totalled 42.4 million francs, which is 5.5 million francs less than in February, 1951.

* * *

The damages which Swiss nationals have sustained during the riots in Cairo are estimated to amount to about 3 million francs. The greatest damage was done to the Groppi concerns (as mentioned previously) whose Restaurants were totally destroyed. The offices of the "Helvetia Vie", the Swiss Benevolent Society, and the branch of Bally's were burnt out. Many Swiss, who were employed at the Shepherds' Hotel have lost their belongings.

Cantonal

Dr. Charles Clerc, Professor of French literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the month of February, 1952, 225 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Berne. Four persons were killed and 98 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

An American military Dakota aircraft on its way from Madrid to Stuttgart crashed in a snow storm on the Guggi glaciers (Jungfrau territory), all the eight occupants were killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

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