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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.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Chambers have concluded their spring session. The summer session will start on June 3rd, 1952.

In the Council of States the most important business dealt with, was the debate on the draft bill of a revised law on Civic Rights. The most important of the innovations put forward, concerns the question of the maintenance of her civic rights by a Swiss woman who marries a foreigner. (Particulars of this debate will appear in our next issue.)

\* \* \*

The Lower House of the Swiss Parliament (National Council) rejected by 80 votes to 31 a private Bill to reintroduce capital punishment.

The Government opposed the Bill on the grounds there was not sufficient evidence to prove capital punishment was a deterrent to crime.

In 1874 Switzerland abolished the death penalty, but a crime wave followed and in 1879 individual cantons were allowed to reintroduce it. Parliament abolished it again in 1937.

\* \* \*

M. Robert Miney, Honorary Swiss Consul at Antwerp since 1927, and a partner in the firm of Miney, Fontannaz & Co., Antwerp, has tendered his resignation, as he is returning to Switzerland.

#### Cantonal

Dr. med. Jakob Schmid (Hochdorf), has been elected surgeon-in-chief of the Lucerne sanatorium for tubercular diseases at Montana. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The paper "Luzerner Tagblatt", published in Lucerne, has celebrated its 100th anniversary. A jubilee number, containing 88 pages has been issued on this occasion. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Josef Jud, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary, he hails from Krummenau (Toggenburg).

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Joh. Hösli, a member of the government of the canton of Glarus since 1932, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two persons were killed and five injured when an explosion occurred at a house in the Rue Pierre Jolis-saint at St. Imier (Ct. Berne.).

The names of the victims are: Mlle. Berthe-Louise Dubois (aged 34) and a two years old child, Marie-Louise Tièche. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

An avalanche at the electric power station Oberhasli (Grimsel), has killed three men working at the mouth of a tunnel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Lucien Despond, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, has left a legacy amounting to 20,000.—frs. to the community of Bulle for the foundation of a technical school, and 10,000.—frs. for a clinic for women. The son of the testator, M. Lucien Despond has also made a donation of 20,000.—frs. for the latter institution. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Domkapital" of Sitten has appointed Mgr. Grand, "Generalvikar" of the late Bishop Bieler, to the office of "Kapitularkvikar", he will be in charge of the affairs of the "Bistum" until the election of a new bishop.

Mgr. Grand was born in 1898 in Vernamiège and ordained in 1923. He studied theology at the seminary in Sitten and at the University of Fribourg where he obtained the degree of doctor of philosophy. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Werner Vogt (Socialist), has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Solothurn

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