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The Swiss Observer

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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. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The two Federal Chambers (National and States Council) met for their spring session on 3rd March in Berne. The session will last for two to three weeks.

Monsieur Joseph Isaac Linton has presented his credentials, as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Israel, to Dr. Thomas Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

Customs receipts for the month of January 1958 amounted to 71.5 million francs; of this sum the Confederation receives 51.8 million francs, or 4.3 million francs less than in January 1957.

Cantonal

Mr. Franz Arnold (Fluelen), since 1936 a member of the Government of the canton of Uri, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. Since 1947 he has been a member of the National Council. [A.T.S.]

The "Société Turco-Suisse" in Zurich gave a reception to the Turkish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Dr. Fahreddin Kerim Goekay. Dr. Emil Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, was among the guests. [A.T.S.]

The republic of Turkey has opened a Consulate-General in Zurich. Mr. Sakip Boyaz, formerly a member of the Turkish Embassy in Berne, has been appointed Consul-General. [A.T.S.]

The International Fine Arts Council of New York has presented the Swiss sculptor, Luigi Zamini, residing in Zurich, with the "Gold Medal for 1957". [A.T.S.]

The traditional dinner offered by the Swiss Government to the diplomatic missions accredited to

the Confederation, and their ladies, took place in Berne.

There were six Federal Councillors present, as well as the Presidents of the National Council and the Bernese Government, the chief of the General Staff, and high Government officials. [A.T.S.]

The 50 million francs loan at 4½ per cent, of the "Grande Dixence, S.A.", has been heavily over-subscribed, and allocations had to be considerably reduced. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of St. Gall for 1957 show a credit balance of 2.8 million francs. [A.T.S.]

The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Roland Denney, has paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Grisons in Chur. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Arturo Mordasini (58), of St. Moritz, was killed on a ski-ing excursion, colliding with a tree. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Aargau for 1957 close with a credit balance of 202,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL DINNER

on Tuesday, 18th March, 1958,
at the Swiss Hostel for Girls,
9, Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

The Swiss Ambassador and Madam Armin Daeniker will be our Guests of Honour.

6.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting
7.15 p.m. Reception
7.30 p.m. Dinner (dress informal)

All Swiss and friends are cordially invited. Those intending to be present at the Dinner (price 8/6 inclusive) should inform the management of the Hostel preferably by letter (address as above) or by telephone (PRImrose 6856) not later than Monday, March 17th.

Two horses attached to a cart, who had shied, ran into a stationery shop in the Laurenzentorgasse Aarau, smashing a large plate-glass window.

One of the horses was killed. The damage caused is estimated to be 20,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Major Max Müller has been appointed commander of the Police Force of the canton of Thurgau, in succession to Lt-Colonel Haudenschild, who is vacating his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss composer, Wladimir Vogel, of Ascona (Ct. Ticino), has been nominated an Honorary Member of the "Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia" Rome. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Marshal Juin, of the French army, gave a lecture at the University of Lausanne. Amongst the audience were: Federal Councillor P. Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department; the French Ambassador in Berne; General Guisan; and army-corps commanders Frick and Gonnard. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Belgian Consulate in Geneva has been raised to the status of a Consulate-General. M. Jean Etienne has been appointed Consul-General. [A.T.S.]

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The accounts of the canton of Geneva for 1957 show a credit balance of 3,545,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. jur. Franz Jost, in Sursee, at the age of 73. The deceased practised as a lawyer in Sursee. He was for five years a member of the Criminal Court of the canton of Lucerne, and from 1935 to 1953 he held the post of "Amtsstatthalter" of Sursee. Dr. Jost was from 1922 to 1946 also Editor of the paper "Luzerner Landbote".

Otto Steiger, Mayor of the town of Berne, in Berne, aged 68. He studied law at the Universities of Berne and Berlin, and entered into the service of the commune of Berne in 1914. In 1930 the deceased was elected a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and 22 years later (1952) he became Mayor of the town of Berne. In the army he held the rank of Colonel.

Dr. phil. Anton Wigger, from 1920 to 1946 head of the agricultural school Willisau, in Willisau, at the age of 80.

Professor Alexis François, Professor of modern French Philology at the University of Geneva, and for twenty years Editor of the paper "Annales J. J. Rousseau", in Geneva, aged 81.

Numa Jeanin, President of the Board of the watch manufacturing company "Jeanin", in Fleurier, at the age of 78.

Simon Erlanger, founder and head of the firm "Erlanger & Cie", Silk Merchants, Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 79.

Jules Grueninger, head of the firm "Jules Grueninger, A.G." Rheineck, millers. The deceased was a member of the "Kantonsrat" St. Gall.

Lucien Lievre, teacher and well-known geologist, in Porrentruy, at the age of 81.

Armand Schwarz, landscape painter, in Delsberg, aged 78.

Dr. med. Walther Dann, eminent surgeon, in Lucerne, at the age of 77.

Dr. Theodor Nordmann, journalist, in Basle, aged 74. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. Fritz Gysi (70), of Zofingen. In 1921 he was a lecturer of Musical History at the University of Zurich, of which he became Professor in 1931. He is the author of a large number of works on Music, and music critic of the paper "Tagesanzeiger Zurich" and other principal papers.

Colonel Hermann Schwyter (80), of Berne, from 1928 to 1937 Chief Veterinary Surgeon of the Swiss army.

Dr. Peter Zschokke (60), of Basle, since 1946 a member of the Government of the canton Basle-Town.

Professor Roch (80), of Geneva, Professor of Medicine at the University of Geneva. He was rector of the University from 1932 to 1934, and is the author of many works dealing with medical science. [A.T.S.]

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

According to statistics traffic accidents in Switzerland are still alarmingly on the increase. It is to be regretted that the authorities in some of the cantons are too lenient towards motorists who cause these accidents — which often incur death or serious injuries.

Here is a typical example of misplaced leniency: The "Bezirkskommission" St. Gall passed sentence on three motorists who were for the second time summoned for driving when under the influence of alcohol. 1st: 14 days' imprisonment (conditional) and a fine of 300.— francs; 2nd: 14 days' imprisonment (conditional) and a fine of 150.— francs; 3rd: 8 days' imprisonment (conditional) and a fine of 150.— francs. No wonder accidents are on the increase. (Ed.)

* * *

VARIOUS.

On 12th February 1958 the five-millionth passenger was carried from Gerschnialp to Trübsee. The services started in 1927, and this aerial cable way, which was then the first of its kind in Switzerland, has proved such a great success that for some time plans have been under consideration for increasing the transport capacity considerably. It appears that

improvements to the present installations would be too costly to be contemplated. The construction of a second aerial cable way is, therefore, under review.

A new aerial cable way was inaugurated at Davos recently. It is an extension to the Brämabüel cable way constructed in 1954 and leads from the Ischalp to the top of the Jakobshorn (8,505 ft.).

* * *

Local and national women's organisations are working at high pressure to get "SAFFA 1958" on its feet. This second exhibition, "The Swiss Woman, Her Life, Her Work", which is heading Switzerland's list of events for 1958, will take place in Zurich from 17th July to 15th September. The large-scale show will cover an area of more than one million square feet on the shores of lovely Lake Zurich. SAFFA 1958, planned and carried out exclusively by women, comprises eight sections and affords an excellent cross-section view of all spheres of the realm of women in general and Swiss women in particular. SAFFA is to feature many special attractions, such as an aerial cable way and a small diesel railway, a "shopping street", several typical restaurants, a night-club, a "men's paradise", an artificial island on the lake, etc. Quite a number of organisations from all over the world have already announced visits of delegations to SAFFA.

* * *

On 1st May 1958, revised conditions concerning the special fare concession granted by the Swiss Transport Undertakings to families (travelling together) will come into force. As from that date, the facility will only be available to families having their permanent residence in Switzerland.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

(A company limited by shares incorporated in Switzerland)



In SWITZERLAND there are offices in Basle, Geneva, Zurich and all the principal centres.

In LONDON the City Office is situated at 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, and there is a WEST END BRANCH, specially equipped for the convenience of visitors, at 11c, Regent Street, S.W.1, close to Piccadilly Circus.

In NEW YORK there is an Agency at 15, Nassau Street, and a Branch at 10 West 49th Street.

In CANADA the Bank is represented by the Swiss Corporation for Canadian Investments at 360, St. James Street West, Montreal.

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Plans for a local airport to be built in the plain of Rhone river are at present being discussed by the authorities of Montreux, Vevey and other tourist centres on the upper part of Lake Geneva and nearby Swiss mountain resorts. The airfield would be situated between Villeneuve and Rennaz and feature one runway about 3,000 feet long and 100 feet wide.

* * *

During the Summer of 1957 a number of improvements were carried out on the road between Orsières and the Great St. Bernhard. As a result it has been possible for the authorities to open this section to motor coaches from abroad with a maximum width of 2.5 m. or 8 feet 2½ inches.

* * *

One of the greatest attractions at the 42nd Swiss Industries Fair, due to take place from 12th to 22nd April in Basel, will again be the Watchmaking Fair, which for the 28th time will be organised as a compact special exhibition in which over 160 firms in the watchmaking industry and some 50 exhibitors representing industries closely connected with it are to participate. The jewellery industry will occupy a pavilion of its own, while giant clocks, electric clocks, tools and watchmaking accessories will form a connecting link in the adjoining hall to the well-stocked display of industrial products an exhibit there.

* * *

The Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam and the Danish National Orchestra have been signed up for the famous "Concerto of Lugano" to be held in Switzerland's sunshine city in April and May. The guest conductors will be Eugene Jochum and Mogens

Wöldike. Other concerts will be given by the Radio Svizzera Italiana Orchestra, with Carl Schuricht and Otmar Nussio conducting, as well as by the pianist Robert Casadesus.

* * *

Neuchâtel now has a new ultra-modern Hotel, the "Beaulac" right on the shores of the Lake. The flat roof is constructed for sunbathing and provided with showers and a small snack-bar. Lifts give access to a private beach. A magnificent view of the Alps can be gained from all rooms facing the Lake.

* * *

A great National Horticultural Exhibition will be held at Zurich from April 25th — mid October 1959. The Parks on both sides of the Lake will be at the disposal of the Organisers. The sites are eminently suitable for the demonstration of Garden Planning. A number of special shows will be held and exhibitions arranged. A Flower Corso will be one of the high-lights of the Exhibition.

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY.

Payment of compensation to victims of National-Socialist persecution.

In a first communiqué, dated 8th March, 1954, the Embassy informed the members of the Swiss Colony that a West German law had come into force on 1st October, 1953, providing for the payment of compensation to victims of National-Socialist persecution ("Bundesentschädigungsgesetz"). The applications for compensation had to be lodged with the German authorities concerned by 1st October, 1955.

A new law, which was an improvement on the former, was enacted with the same object on 29th June, 1956. Under it claims could have been submitted until 1st October, 1957.

This period has now been extended to 1st April, 1958.

However, to be qualified to claim, a victim of persecution must still have had his domicile or permanent residence in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or of West Berlin on 1st January, 1947. Should one entitled to claim have died before 1st January, 1947, or have emigrated, been deported or expelled, it will then be sufficient that he had his last domicile or permanent residence in the said territories.

Repayment of cash liabilities.

A West German law came into force on 19th July, 1957, concerning the obligation of the German Reich and of semi-official bodies to repay cash liabilities ("Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz"). *Applications for such payments must be submitted to the German authorities concerned not later than by 1st April, 1958.*

* * *

The Swiss Embassy in London and the Swiss Consulate in Manchester will gladly give further details about the above-mentioned laws to Swiss nationals who may be interested.

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