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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

General Wey Li-Huang, commander of the Chinese forces in Burma, during the last war, who is on a visit to Switzerland, was received by Federal Councillor Kobelt, head of the Federal Military Dept., in the presence of the chief of the General Staff, Montmolin, and Army Corps commander Frick.

The Greek Foreign Minister Tsaldaris, on his journey to the U.S.A., landed at the Cointrin Air Port in Geneva. During his short stay, he expressed his pleasure at being on Swiss territory, and the thanks of the Greek people to Switzerland for the help and sympathy given to his country.

Professor, Dr. Chapuisat, (Geneva) has been elected President of the Swiss National Celebration Committee. Mario Musso (Bellinzona) and Dr. Franz Wyss (Zurich) have been nominated Vice-Presidents.

Cantonal

Katharina von Moos, née Eberli, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Obwalden, has died in Sachseln at the age of 101. [A.T.S.]

Attacks on peaceful citizens are on the increase in Switzerland, not a week passes without reports of brutal attacks. A servant in one of the restaurants in the "Altstadt" in Lucerne was found bound and gagged. The attackers, who intended to rifle the till, were disturbed and took to their heels, so far no arrests have been made. [A.T.S.]

The proprietor and former manager of the "Schauspielhaus" in Zurich, Ferdinand Rieser, has died in Zurich, owing to an accident. He was 63 years old. [A.T.S.]

The District Court of Winterthur has sentenced Mathias Grossmann from Winterthur to 2½ years penal

servitude, for having ill-treated his two years old boy, causing the death of the child. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the firm of Wehrli, in Winterthur, and got away with a quantity of watches amounting to 60,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

In recognition of his successful research work, Dr. Hans Pallmann, Professor at the Technical University in Zurich, has been made a corresponding member of the Agricultural Academy of Tschecoslovakia. [A.T.S.]

For some time a gang of blackmailers have been busy in the town of Zurich. It is estimated that about 150 people were victimised and that an amount of 1 million francs went into the pockets of these criminals. So far about a dozen people are under arrest. [A.T.S.]

During the month of May altogether 482 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich, in which 263 people were injured and five killed. [A.T.S.]

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 27th July, 1947

2.30 to 5.30 p.m. (Doors open 1.45 p.m.)

AT THE

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(See announcement on Page 4242)

TICKET HOLDERS TO BE IN THEIR SEAT BY 2.15 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

Mathias Schindler (Rüti), has been elected President of the "Landrat" of the canton of Glarus. Ulrich Rhyner (Niederurnen) District Judge, will act as Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Zug, Frau Osola Salvagni-Darani, has celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary in good health. [A.T.S.]

The police of the canton of Zug has arrested a twenty years old girl on a charge of arson. [A.T.S.]

The death occurred at St. Imier, of Julien Meyrat, Vice-President of the Longines Watch concern at the age of 66. [A.T.S.]

The town of Murten (Berne) has celebrated the 457th anniversary of the victory over Charles the Bold of Austria. A memorial service and processions were held. [A.T.S.]

Léon Quelon, a member of the Grand Council, and town-clerk of Saint-Brais, aged 54, has died at Saignelégier (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the transfer of land owned by the "Bieler Automobil Fabrik" to the General Motors Suisse, S.-A., the latter presented the town of Bienne (Ct. Berne) with a new Buick car. [A.T.S.]

The administration of the "Insel Spital" in Berne, has appointed Dr. Bernhard Steinmann, a specialist for organic diseases, as head surgeon. [A.T.S.]

From Berne comes the news of the death of National-Councillor Ernst Reinhard, at the age of 58. The deceased was from 1919-1936 President of the Socialist Party of the canton of Berne, and since 1946 a member of the cantonal government. He entered Parliament in 1931, and was well-known as a writer on political subjects. [A.T.S.]

Two masked men forced their way into a house occupied by a couple of the name of Curty in the Pérolles quarter of the town of Fribourg. The bandits bound the woman and robbed her of a sum of 300.—frs. So far no arrest has been affected. [A.T.S.]

The "Entreprise électrique fribourgeoise" has applied to the public for a loan of 30 million francs at 3½ per cent. interest. This amount has been heavily over subscribed and the amounts applied for will be accordingly reduced. [A.T.S.]

A couple of British nationality who had stayed at a Hotel in Liestal (Baselland) tendered a 1,000 frs. note in payment of their bill. The Hotel proprietor suspected a forgery and advised the police who declared the note to be a forgery. The two people were arrested but it was found that they were not aware that the note was not a genuine one. They were released. [A.T.S.]

Karl Merke, Pastor at the "St. Antoniuskirche" in Basle, has celebrated his 25th jubilee as a priest. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Max Meier, Headmaster of the "Realgymnasium" in Basle, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. He is a member of the Education Commission and enjoys a great reputation in educational circles. [A.T.S.]

The collection made throughout Switzerland for the victims of the fire which partly destroyed the village of Stein (Toggenberg) has brought in altogether 650,596.—frs. [A.T.S.]

A married couple, Martin-Dollenmeier from Kilchberg (Zurich), made an ascent of the Piz Palu during a holiday stay at Pontresina. On their return via the Pers glacier, they fell into a crevasse. Fortunately, the accident was seen, and a rescue party was sent to the spot. The man, René Martin was found totally exhausted but with minor injuries, whilst his wife was found dead, she was 33 years of age. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor Dr. G. Sprecher, of Chur (Grisons), was some time ago fined the sum of 500.—frs. by the District Court, for slanderous statements made against Colonel Abraham Schmid.

He appealed against the sentence, but the Appeal Court upheld the decision of the lower court. Dr. Sprecher will have to bear the costs of the two trials amounting to 1,191.—frs. altogether. [A.T.S.]

A bicycle and a motor-car collided in Sins (Aargau) at a cross road. Frau Josefine Leibacher, was thrown off her bicycle and received fatal injuries. [A.T.S.]

A veteran of the Frontier occupation 1870/71, has died at Bürglen (Thurgau) in the person of Jakob Brauchli. He had celebrated his 100th birthday two months ago. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Mammern (Thurgau) of Dr. Paul Gsell, at the age of 55. The deceased was, since 1924, State prosecutor of the canton of Thurgau. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Marie Feyler, one of the first lady doctors practising in the canton of Vaud, has died in Lausanne at the age of 82. [A.T.S.]

The "Société nationale des beaux arts" (Grand Palais) in Paris has awarded the "Prix spécial" to Louis Rivier, a painter of Lausanne, for his painting "Prophet Jeremias." [A.T.S.]

Charles Troyon, formerly Director of the Conservatory in Lausanne and President of the cantonal "Sängerverein," has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary at Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

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The Municipal Council of Lausanne is asking for a credit amounting to 550,000.— frs. for the acquisition of the castle Béthusy including the grounds. The castle is to be used for housing various municipal offices. [A.T.S.]

The paper "Sillon Romand" published at Sion (Valais) has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Pierre Desaulles of Hauterive-Neuchâtel and a young Hungarian alpinist, Eric Fink, both members of the Swiss Alpine Club, section Neuchâtel have, for the first time made the difficult ascent of the Lonza-hörner from the north side. [A.T.S.]

The University clinic at Leysin has celebrated its 25th Jubilee in the presence of the President of the Swiss Confederation and representatives of various Swiss Universities. [A.T.S.]

Four small children near Ayent-sur-Sion found an unexploded shell, and in playing with it the shell exploded. The children received terrible injuries and it is feared that these will be fatal. [A.T.S.]

The Dubied Works at Couvet (Neuchâtel) have celebrated their 80th Jubilee. At the celebration held on this occasion, Federal Councillor Petitpierre, and members of the cantonal government were present. [A.T.S.]

Traffic

The report for 1946 of the Swiss Federal Railways emphasises the satisfactory development of traffic and the good financial results attained in the year under review. Passengers carried in 1946 totalled 206,450,000, exceeding the 1945 figure by 1,560,000 or 0.8 per cent. As compared with the exceptional passenger traffic during the war, the increase in 1946 is on a smaller scale. Passenger receipts totalled fr. 258,200,000, an increase of fr. 3,990,000 or 1.6 per cent. compared with 1945, and represented 44 per cent. of the total working receipts. In 1946, passenger-km. declined to 5,444,500,000 from the 5,654,900,000 attained in 1945, the highest ever recorded. This contraction, in the light of the increased number of passengers, points to an increase in short-distance season tickets, as well

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as to an improvement in the yield per passenger-km. (4.74 centimes in 1946; 4.5 centimes in 1945). In addition, it testifies to greater use being made of first and second class accommodation.

The increase in the traffic has been striking. Goods conveyed, including luggage, livestock, and mails, totalled 16,880,000 *tonnes* in 1946, an increase of 3,550,000 *tonnes* or 26.6 per cent. over 1945. This increase has been due, in the main, to the great expansion of foreign trade and to the consequent greater density of home traffic. Goods receipts totalled fr. 305,590,000 in 1946, or fr. 66,880,000 (28 per cent.) more than in 1945. Merchandise and minerals represented 45.7 per cent. of the total working receipts, luggage receipts 2.8 per cent., livestock receipts 1 per cent., and receipts from the conveyance of mails 2.6 per cent.

Miscellaneous receipts in 1946 were 3.9 per cent. of the total working receipts, which amounted to fr. 586,500,000, as compared with fr. 511,600,000 in 1945, a result never attained before. Working expenditure, too, reached the record level in 1946 of fr. 387,400,000 (fr. 365,200,000 in 1945). It was made up as follows: Motive power and workshops, 29.2 per cent.; stations and train services, 37.5 per cent.; maintenance and inspection of permanent way, 21.4 per cent.; general administration, 1.9 per cent.; and miscellaneous expenditure, 10 per cent. The working surplus in 1946

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amounted to fr. 199,090,000, an increase of fr. 49,470,000, or 33 per cent., as compared with 1945.

The profit and loss account for 1946 closed with a credit balance of fr. 21,400,000. These were the first accounts since the financial reconstruction of the railways which became operative on January 1st, 1946. In accordance with the Federal Railways Law, the sum of fr. 8,000,000 must first be paid from any credit balance into a fund intended to cover future deficits. Furthermore, the board proposed payment of an interest of 3 per cent. on the working capital. This will absorb a further fr. 12 million. In respect of the balance of fr. 1,400,000 the Federal Council will be called on to decide as to its use. Apart from this, fr. 4,700,000 had to be paid into the equalisation fund of the Swiss railway and steamship undertakings, in accordance with a decision of the Federal Council.

* * *

The 14th International Railway Congress has been opened at Lucerne on June 23rd. The Congress is being held under the management of the Swiss Federal Railways.

The delegates have visited the following important Engineering works: Sulzer Bros., Winterthur, Brown, Boveri, Baden, Oerlikon Works, Fischer Stahl, Schaffhausen, Saurer, Arbon, etc.

Sir William Wood, Chairman of the "Midland & Scottish Railway" has expressed, on behalf of the numerous delegates, his thanks to the organisers for their hospitality. Federal-Councillor Celio has also addressed the Congress.



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The Belgian Air Line company "Sabina" has started a regular weekly service between Zurich and Brussels. [A.T.S.]

Flight-Captain Hans Ernst, a pilot of the Swissair has accomplished his 1 million kilometer flight. Swissair has re-started their passenger flights on the route Zurich-Budapest. [A.T.S.]

Humanitarian

The town of Schaffhausen with the help from the authorities, churches and private people initiated a collection for feeding school-children in the neighbouring German villages of Singen, Gottmadingen, Erzingen, Tuttlingen and Balingen. An amount of about 45,000.— frs. was collected which will provide food for 5,000 children daily.

The town of Chur has started an action for helping the town of Innsbruck (Austria); so far an amount of 10,000.— frs. has been collected, in addition more than 10 tons of foodstuff and household articles have been dispatched.

A produce firm in Zurich has presented to all children of the town of Bregenz a kilogr. of sugar.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

Arrangements have been made for the members of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain to join in this year's celebration of our SWISS NATIONAL DAY, to be held at the CASINO THEATRE, LONDON, on Sunday, 27th July, 1947. (See advertisement.)

Admission will be BY TICKETS ONLY, which will be FREE OF CHARGE and must be applied for in advance. Applications should be made to THE FIRST OF AUGUST COMMITTEE, Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, where tickets will be available as from the 7th July and can be obtained either by a personal call Mondays to Fridays between 6 and 7 p.m., or by post on condition that a 2½d. Stamped and Addressed Envelope is Enclosed.

The full name of each person for whom a ticket is required must be stated in the application.

The Casino Theatre holds about 1,750 people, and numbered and reserved tickets will be issued strictly in rotation. Early application is therefore advisable to save disappointment.

It will greatly help the Committee if ticket holders who find themselves prevented from attending the celebration will be kind enough to return their unwanted tickets at once to The First of August Committee at the address mentioned above for the benefit of other fellow countrymen.

In order to satisfy a general desire, there will be a long interval for friends to meet, and teas and other refreshments will be served.

And last but not least, it is hoped again that as many visitors as possible will wear national costume.

THE COMMITTEE.

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