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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Dr. Paul Ruegger, President of the International Red Cross in Geneva, has returned from his trip to the Near East where he had studied conditions in connection with the Palesting events on the spot. At a Press Conference he gave news relating to the safety of the personnel of the International Red Cross.

\* \* \*

The customs receipts during the month of May amounted to 41.6 million francs.

During the first five months of the current year altogether 168 million francs were collected by the Federal Customs Office, or 30.3 million more than during the same period in 1947.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Albert Posse Rivaz, the newly appointed Minister of Venezuela, has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

\* \* \*

It has been announced from Prague, that Dr. Jaromir Lang, a former Professor at the pedagogical faculty of the University of Prague has been appointed Czecho-Slovakian Minister in Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Hungarian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Jmre Oltvany, has expressed to the Committee of the "Schweizerspende" the thanks of his country for the help they had given, he made, at the same time, a presentation to the Committee of an object of art.

### Cantonal

Dr. Julius Eberle-Beeler, a medical practitioner in Brunnen, was run over by a motor-cycle. He received serious injuries which proved fatal. Dr. Eberle was 68 years "Kollegium Sarnen." [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Sarnen of Dr. Pater Bruno Wilhelm, Professor of History at the of age. [A.T.S.]

M. Fritz Carpentier-Tschudy has, on the occasion of his 75th birthday anniversary, presented the Federal Technical University in Zurich with his valuable collection of Butterflies together with a sum of 25,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Adolf Gasser, a former Professor at the Technical College in Winterthur, has died there at the age of 71. The deceased, was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" and the National Council, where he sat as a Socialist. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death occurred, during a holiday at St. Maurice, of Dr. Max Geilinger, a well-known writer, at the age of 64. The deceased was born in Zurich and was a citizen of Winterthur, he studied law at the Universities of Kiel, Zurich and Rome, afterwards he established himself as an advocate and later on became secretary of the "Zürcher Staatskanzlei." He made a name for himself for his many collections of poems. [A.T.S.]

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 1st August, 1948

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

AT THE

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All Swiss and their families are cordially invited. Admission by ticket only, to be obtained in advance, free of charge. Applications for tickets must be made in writing to The First of August Committee, Swiss House, 35, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. A stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed, and the name of each person for whom a ticket is required must be stated.

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

Refreshments will be available.

Two experienced mountaineers, Albert Müller (30) from Tann Rüti, and Jakob Krebsler (28) from Uster, were killed on an ascent to the "Sulzfluhgipfel."

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Robert Just, for a great number of years head teacher at the Commercial School of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein" in Zurich, has died in Glarus at the age of 64. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Eugen Wyler, the author of many well-known novels, amongst them "Eidgenossen," "Der Stausee" and "Die Erbschaft" has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Berne.

He made a name for himself with his Frontier Occupation books during the first world war such as "Schweizer im Waffenkleid," "Grenzbesetzung 1914/18" and "Grenzdienst der Schweizerin."

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Georg Lemann, from Langnau (Ct. Berne) has been elected President of the Swiss Cheese Union, in succession to Paul Gerber who has relinquished his office. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the month of May, 1948, altogether 410 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. Three hundred and twenty persons were injured of whom twelve lost their lives. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Alfred Moll, advocate in Bienne (Ct. Berne), has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. He was a former National Councillor and a Colonel in the Swiss army. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Virgile Moine, Director of the seminary in Porrentruy, has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Berne with 28,130 votes. Dr. Moine is a member of the Liberal Party. His opponent, Dr. Pierre Ceppi (Cath. Cons.) received 19,177 votes.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A "Piper" sports machine crashed near the airport of Grenchen (Ct. Solothurn), both the pilot and the passenger received injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Jos. Braun, a well-known advocate and notary in Basle, has died at the age of 62. The deceased was President of the "Basler Advokatenkammer."

[A.T.S.]

The Rt. Hon Richard Butler, one of the leading members of the Opposition in the House of Commons, and late Cabinet Minister, spoke in Basle on "The English social experiment."

Amongst those who attended the meeting were Federal-Councillor Dr. Etter and the British Minister in Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Robert Eberle-Mader, by profession a lawyer and President of the "Sticker-Treuhandgenossenschaft" and the "Schulrat," has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in St. Gall. In the army, he reached the rank of a Colonel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from St. Gall of Mr. Johannes Huber, late National Councillor, at the age of 69. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Annual Meeting and Competition of the Swiss non-commissioned officers Association took place at St. Gall on the 11th of this month. Federal-Councillor Kobelt, head of the Federal Military Department addressed the Meeting. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mlle. Joséphine Lany from Duillier (Ct. Vaud) has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary. The cantonal government has presented her with the traditional easy-chair. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Damage exceeding 25,000.—frs. was caused through fire at the Aluminium work in Chippis (Ct. Valais). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The strawberry harvest in the canton of Valais exceeds all expectations due to the warm weather. Altogether 6.5 million kgs. have been collected, of which 3 million kgs. were exported. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Colonel of Brigade, Hans Bühler (Frutigen) has been made an honorary citizen of the town of Brigue (Ct. Valais) for the services he rendered during the last war, as commander of the Mountain Brigade 11.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the *Dies academicus* of the University of Neuchâtel, the following have been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Mlle. Alice

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## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

followed by a **JASS AND BRIDGE EVENING** will be held on **Tuesday, July 6th, 1948**, at **Brown's Hotel, London, W.1**, at **6.30**. Dinner starting at **7 p.m.**

Those wishing to take part should send their application in writing to the Manager, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1, to reach him not later than the 5.7.48.

P. A MOEHR,

Hon. Secretary.

Descoeudres, Professor at the Institut Rousseau in Geneva, Louis Thévenaz, Neuchâtel, Louis Glangeaud, Professor at the University of Besançon, L. Defossez, Geneva, François Guisan, Professor at the University of Lausanne, Camille Gret, Philippe Daulte, Professor at the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two mountaineers, members of the Alpine Club "La Dôle" Begnins were killed when climbing the Arête Jaunes des Salèves. Their names are Durst and Henri Christinet, the latter is the father of four children. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

George Lemaître, a former Engineer of the town of Geneva has died there at the age of 64. [A.T.S.]

**Economics**

The "Financial Times" in their issue of the 12th, of June, 1948, writes the following about the "Swiss Industrial Outlook":

"Most of the main Swiss industrial companies have now published their reports for 1947. The chief fact that emerges is that satisfactory profits have only been achieved by increased outputs to offset rising costs.

Generally the accounts show a much more satisfactory situation than that described in the managers' reports. This is due largely to the fact that statistics refer to the past and comments to the future.

With only a few exceptions net profits have been higher than those of previous years, but this was only made possible by a still higher output, in order to compensate for increasing costs.

This point has been given special consideration by all the Boards.

Whereas it was still possible for leading industries (such as chemistry, steel, machine-tools and aluminium) to step up their output and sales to a higher level during the past year, doubts have been expressed fairly generally on the prospects of continuing such increases in the future.

The position has been aggravated by exceptional circumstances which have on the one hand created and accumulated demands for Swiss products, and on the other hand have diverted to Switzerland orders that would have normally gone elsewhere.

Swiss industrialists tried to meet this demand for quantity without giving up quality and therefore had to comply with legitimate demands of workers from whom a great deal is required. But such demands are particularly important for a manufacturing industry since they add, in determining prices, a new element which varies from one country to another, but which is independent from the world market of raw materials.

Although, in most cases, industry is sure of full employment for more than two years, the prospective difficulties are serious.

The gigantic efforts of many countries to export, the currency softness of some of the usual customers, the development of European reconstruction which involves the rebuilding of competing industries and the progressive meeting of accumulated needs, are among international factors which must be taken into account.

As far as the technical and financial situation of Swiss industries is concerned, it is quite sound in comparison with that prevailing after the first World War.

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This cautious policy, however, has its compensations in the stability and strength it will give to Swiss industries in adverse circumstances, though it has entailed some restriction in profits which could have been made during the boom period.

### Humanitarian

Through the intervention of our compatriot Christian Kunzle, of Birmingham, who has put his property at the disposal of the British Government, a batch of twenty-five children in poor health have arrived at Davos Dorf (Switzerland) for an extended stay.

\* \* \*

Sixty war-wounded officers and men from all branches of the three services left Northolt Airport in three specially chartered skyways aircraft for Zurich.

They are going for five weeks convalescence in Switzerland organised by the British and Swiss Red Cross under the Swiss hospitality scheme.

—oo—

According to statistics published by the Federal Statistical Office in Berne, there were 1,64 million bicycles registered in Switzerland during 1947, or 85,000 more than in 1946. This means that every 3rd Swiss uses a bicycle.

\* \* \*

A Swiss soccer team will meet an English team on December the 1st at Highbury.

\* \* \*

The following couple has celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years): Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Huber-Schraff, in St. Gall. Iron wedding anniversary (65 years): Mr. and Mrs. Rued-Gentsch, in Zurich.

\* \* \*

### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

(*"Semaine Suisse"*) Service de Presse.

Le porte-parole du parti socialiste autrichien propose de créer une armée dès le départ des troupes d'occupation. Elle ne devrait pas être formée de mercenaires n'avant que la guerre en tête, mais bien de citoyens-soldats, comme en Suisse.

\* \* \*

Deux savants suisses viennent d'être honorés à l'étranger: le professeur M. Lugeon, le célèbre géologue de l'Université de Lausanne, a reçu à Rabat les insignes

de grand-officier de l'ordre du Quassiam Alaouite et le Dr. Linus Birchler, qui enseigne l'histoire l'art à l'EPZ, a été fait commandeur de l'ordre de St. Grégoire par SS Pie XII.

M. Carl Burckhardt, Ministre de Suisse en France, a été nommé citoyen d'honneur de Lille et docteur h.c. de l'Université de cette ville.

\* \* \*

Au village Pestalozzi, à Trogen, il y a maintenant des enfants de 7 nations différentes; 18 petits Finlandais viennent d'y arriver. Des enfants parmi les plus nécessiteux de Hambourg feront aussi un séjour en Suisse, ainsi que des gosses de Vienne, de Salzburg, de Berlin et de Hongrie.

\* \* \*

Les usines Louis de Roll, de Gerlafingen, viennent de fêter leur 125ème anniversaire. Les ouvriers et employés ont reçu à cette occasion des cadeaux se montant, au total, à 1½ million de francs.

\* \* \*

Une délégation birmane se trouve actuellement en Suisse pour visiter l'Ecole polytechnique et des établissements industriels.

\* \* \*

La S.A. Radio-Suisse pour la télégraphie et la téléphonie sans fil a instruit plus d'une centaine de jeunes gens pour le service de transmission commerciale et de sécurité de l'aviation. Cette société est en liaison directe, par radio, avec 24 pays européens et d'Outre-mer. Pour étendre son réseau, elle doit acquérir un certain nombre de nouveaux appareils des plus modernes.

\* \* \*

Devant la commission du budget du Sénat américain, l'attaché commercial des U.S.A. à Berne s'est déclaré heureux d'avoir à faire rapport sur un pays qui n'a pas besoin d'aide mais qui, au contraire, a porté secours à ses voisins. Le "Journal of commerce" a consacré un numéro de 120 pages à la Suisse. Le Dr. Cottier, de Berne, a été nommé Président du comité du trafic pour le plan Marshall.

\* \* \*

Tenant compte de l'importance de la tâche de l'institut suisse d'étude du climat de haute montagne et de la tuberculose, à Davos, le directeur de son service médical, le professeur Berblinger, a décliné les offres qui lui ont été faites par les universités d'Jena, de Hambourg et d'Erlangen.

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