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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. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss Federal Council announced plans for a special call-up of reservists during next winter for intensive training courses in the latest weapons developed by the Army.

The plans, which have to be approved by both Chambers, cover classes from 1894 to 1931.

In its message to Parliament, the Federal Council said the change-over must be achieved in the shortest possible time "having regard to the actual political and military situation."

The message added: "It is therefore proposed to have extraordinary courses to maintain the Army in a state of sufficient preparedness in 1952."

### Cantonal

The accounts of the canton of Zurich for the year 1950, show a credit balance of Frs.732.000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

According to the latest figures published by the Statistical Office, the population of the town of Zurich numbered 390,301 inhabitants on April 30th, 1951. [A.T.S.]

A monument to the memory of the well-known Swiss painter, Albert Anker, has been unveiled at Ins (Ct. Berne), and amongst those present at the ceremony were M. E. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and former Federal Councillor R. Minger. The monument was designed by the sculptor, Gustave Piguet. [A.T.S.]

Dr. E. Bärtschi, Mayor of the town of Berne, will represent the Federal capital, when Paris celebrates, at the beginning of July, the 200th anniversary of her status as a city and capital of France. [A.T.S.]

Melting snow and heavy rain has caused an important section of the mountain near the Grusi Alp, Thun, to collapse and slide down to the Sulg valley. The landslide, which consisted of a mass of earth,

rock and trees, reached the valley near Steffisburg and dammed the Sulg river, which is overflowing its banks. [A.T.S.]

During the month of April, 1951, 383 (April, 1950: 298) traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. 307 persons were injured and 8 persons (April, 1950: 12) killed. [A.T.S.]

M. Joseph Ackermann, since 1941 a member of the Government of the canton of Fribourg, and a National-Councillor since 1947, has been appointed Manager of the Electricity Works of the canton of Fribourg, in succession to Professor Paul Joye, who is vacating his post on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

M. Fridolin Schönenberger, for the last 40 years a priest of the parish of Saint-Maurice, has been appointed "Prévôt" of the St. Niklaus cathedral in Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

The "Allgemeine Musikgesellschaft" Basle has celebrated their 75th Jubilee with a concert in Basle, under the conductorship of Dr. H. Münch, who at the same time has celebrated his 25th jubilee as a conductor. [A.T.S.]

Two people lost their lives through drowning, when a boat taking part in the outing of the "Limmatklub" Baden, overturned and sank at the "Emaus" weir. The names of the victims are: Otto Wächter, licensee of the Restaurant "Waidegg" in Neuenhof, nr. Baden, and Josef Sidler, carpenter of Dietikon. [A.T.S.]

The Communist party lost fifteen of their twenty-four seats in Geneva's municipal elections. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Charles Benziger, in Lausanne, at the age of 74. The deceased was a citizen of Einsiedeln; on completing his studies at the University of Fribourg and the "Ecole des Chartes" Paris, he obtained the post of keeper of the archives of the canton of Schwyz. From 1907-1916, he was at the head of the Municipal and University Library of Berne. He entered into the services of the Swiss Confederation in 1917, and was sent to Vienna as a member of the staff of the Swiss Legation. Three years later (1920) Dr. Benziger was nominated head of the Swiss Consular Service at the Federal Political Department in Berne, which post he occupied for eleven years. In 1931, he was appointed President of the League of Nations Port Commission in the Free City of Danzig, this appointment he held for three years. He was then nominated Swiss Consul General and later on *Chargé d'Affaires* in Dublin, where he remained for eleven years. He retired in 1944.

William Henssler, since 1930 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 71.

Mlle. Miny Lutz, a well-known free lance journalist, in Basle, aged 82.

Hans Oser, a composer of church music, as well as a conductor, in Rapperswil, at the age of 56.

Colonel W. Müller, Chief of the criminal police of the town of Berne since 1930, during the last war he was in charge of the security service of the Swiss army, in Berne, at the age of 61.

Paul Henauer, from 1926-1947, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau and a justice of peace, in Münsterlingen, at the age of 71.

[A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Gähler-Nef, of Dürrenbach (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.); Mr. and Mrs. Müller-Müller of Hävels (Ct. Glarus); Mr. and Mrs. X. Birrer-Roth of Cham.

[A.T.S.]

The membership of the "Schweizerische Kaufmännische Verein" on the 1st of December, 1950, numbered 52,350. This figure includes 12,523 female members. [A.T.S.]

A conference on spectroscopy will be held at Basle, during June 28th-30th. It will be divided into two main sections: the first, presided over by Prof. E. Miescher, of Basle, will be on the "Experimental Study of Atomic and Molecular Spectra"; and the second, under Prof. R. Mecke, of Freiburg, on "Spectroscopy and Chemical Binding". This conference is privately sponsored, but all spectroscopists and others interested in this field are invited to participate; already a very wide attendance from all parts of the world, including Great Britain and the United States, is assured. Those wishing to read papers should communicate as soon as possible with one of the following: J. Lecomte (Paris), Prof. R. Mecke (Freiburg i. Br.), Prof. R. Miescher (Basle), G. Millazzo (Rome) or Dr. H. W. Thompson (Oxford), from whom further particulars can be obtained.

Switzerland is to raise the tonnage of its merchant

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navy to 180,000 tons if the Swiss Parliament agrees to a request from the Federal Council for a supplementary credit of 35 million francs (nearly £3,000,000 sterling). The Council said the money would be used as loans to private Swiss shipowners for construction of new ships in foreign yards. The Swiss merchant fleet at present amounts to 111,000 tons.

The directors of Brown Boveri, the Swiss electrical and machinery business, propose an increase in share capital from 45 to 54 million Swiss francs.

In Switzerland, 16 power stations are under construction or being rebuilt at the present time, the Swiss Electricity Users' Association was told at its recent meeting. These will provide an additional 2,000 million kWh. annually by 1956. Last year, four large power stations and several smaller units were put into operation.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La fabrique biennoise de pianos Burger et Jacobi vient de mettre sur le marché une nouvelle création: un piano de petit modèle n'ayant que 104 cm. de haut et 134 cm. de largeur, avec clavier normal, une forte sonorité et une sourdine qu'actionne une troisième pédale. Dans peu de temps sera lancé un piano réduit ayant la sonorité d'un piano de concert (amplification électromagnétique du son).

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\* \* \*

Les usines Kern & Cie, Aarau, viennent de créer des jumelles uniques au monde, avec foyer interne. Alors que jusqu'à présent les jumelles se présentaient sous la forme de tubes, la nouvelle lunette binoculaire Kern, avec optique à lentille à miroir, grossissant 50 fois, a une aspect très ramassé.

\* \* \*

Hasler S.A., de Berne, construit un nouvel appareil directeur pour la DCA, avec un rayon d'action de 17 km. Il permet de tirer sur des avions soniques.

\* \* \*

Winkler, Fallert & Cie S.A., de Berne, construit une nouvelle rotative pouvant imprimer 96 pages en noir, dont 48 en deux couleurs et quelques autres en quatre couleurs. La machine livre à l'heure jusqu'à 270,000 journaux de 8 pages, ou 100,000 journaux de 24 pages. La mise en place des nouveaux rouleaux de papier se fait sans ralentir l'allure de la rotative. La première de ces machines sera livrée à l'étranger.

\* \* \*

La Société laitière des Alpes bernoises à Konolfingen, a découvert une nouvelle méthode de pasteurisation du lait. Elle permet d'obtenir en un seul procédé la stérilisation totale du lait, sans nuire aux vitamines et à la valeur biologique.

\* \* \*

La construction du nouveau métier à tisser Sulzer a commencé à Soleure. Une entreprise textile étrangère va équiper sa nouvelle usine de tissage uniquement avec ces métiers. Une entreprise suisse s'est aussi décidée à acquérir les nouveaux métiers Sulzer.

\* \* \*

D'après un rapport de la Haute Commission américaine, la presse suisse jouit en Allemagne d'un grand crédit du fait de son objectivité. Les journaux allemands citent souvent leurs confrères suisses dont on lit les commentaires avec la plus grande attention.

\* \* \*

Une exposition du livre suisse a été ouverte à Johannesburg. Très fréquentée, elle éveille un grand intérêt. Elle se transportera ensuite dans différentes villes de l'Afrique du sud.

\* \* \*

Des journalistes brésiliens qui viennent de visiter la Suisse ont été particulièrement frappés par le fait que la personnalité humaine n'y est pas submergée par

la technique, le mouvement de la vie et la politique. La Suisse est dynamique et viril.

Sous la direction du Dr. M. Tramer vient de s'ouvrir à Berne un institut de recherches de psychiatrie infantine.

\* \* \*

Le chef de cuisine Walter Harr, de New York, zurichois d'origine, participe régulièrement aux émissions de télévision d'Amérique. Il y présente des spécialités suisses. Un programme a provoqué 1.200 demandes de renseignements. La station a dû envoyer un nombre correspondant de recettes, preuve que la cuisine suisse fait école aux Etats-Unis. Notre compatriote se charge en outre du ravitaillement de la Swissair.

\* \* \*

L'architecte Le Corbusier s'est vu confier la construction de la nouvelle capitale du Pendjab ainsi que du centre civique de Bogota. — Deux architectes vaudois établis en France, Ch. Pavid et W. Barbey sont appelés à construire une cité-témoin à Cognac (Charente).

\* \* \*

To help meet the needs of international tourism, European railways are this summer starting coach services linked together into a vast network called "Europa Bus". By using the same means of transport, passengers can travel from one end of the network to the other, or they can cover part of the journey by rail and the rest by coach. The services are being organised on the most up-to-date lines with luxury coaches staffed by hostesses.

As regards Switzerland, the following services will come into operation on June 1st: Bâle—Lucerne—Interlaken—Montreux and Montreux—Milan.

These routes will be connected at Bâle with coach services to Frankfurt, Munich, Innsbruck, Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Narvik and Milan, and with other services going to Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples and Genoa. Another service will link Lugano and Locarno with Turin (Italy) and Nice (France). Finally, passengers travelling by rail from Geneva to Bordeaux can continue their journey by the regular coach to Burgos, Madrid, Seville and Morocco.

Reduced-price tickets will be available for children, and luggage less than 66 lbs. a person will be carried free of charge.

Tickets and seat reservations can be obtained from all the principle Swiss Stations and Travel Agencies, from whom full particulars can be obtained.

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