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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, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Streuli, Swiss Finance Minister, said in Parliament that next year's budget would include cuts in purchase tax, and national defence tax.

* * *

The Federal Council announced that twenty Italian communists had been expelled from Switzerland for illegal activities. All were prominently connected with the Italian Language Federation of the Swiss communist party.

* * *

The Swiss National Bank announces that the 400 million francs Federal Loan at 3% has not been fully subscribed, a number of Swiss Banks which have taken up this loan are left with an amount of about 10,000,000.—frs.

* * *

The newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Soviet Union, Monsieur Pavel, I. Erelow, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

The Federal Council has sent a message to Parliament recommending the prolongation of the membership of Switzerland in the European Payments Union until June 30th, 1956.

* * *

The 26th Infantry Regiment (Zurich), and the Geneva Security Police, the latter being reinforced from other cantons are in charge of the security measures during the Four Power "Summit" meeting, which is taking place this month at Geneva.

* * *

Customs receipts in the month of May, 1955, totalled 66.4 million francs, or 4 million francs more than during May, 1954.

During the first five months of the current year the receipts amounted to 233.2 million francs or 31.7 million francs more than in the same period of 1954.

Cantonal

The Engineering firm "Theodor Bell & Cie", Kriens (Ct. Lucerne), has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. To mark the occasion the Board of this well-known concern has made a donation amounting to 50,000.—frs. to the community of Kriens for the building of public baths. In addition, Mr. Ernst Wächter, the present Managing-Director of this firm, has given the sum of 10,000.—frs. to the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, as well as various amounts to local institutions. [A.T.S.]

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 31st July, 1955

3 to 5.30 p.m. (Doors open at 2.30 p.m.)

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After the celebration a dance will be held from 6.45 - 11 p.m. in the PLEASURE GARDENS RESTAURANT nearby

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: on Sunday 31st July, 1955

Joint Protestant Service in French and German at 11 a.m. at Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2. Evening Service 6.30 p.m. St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard St. (Bank Stn.)

Catholic Service at 11 a.m. Solemn Mass and Sermon in German and English, at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

The medical faculty of the University of Zurich has conferred upon Fräulein Lydia Leemann of Männedorf, the honorary degree of doctor of medicine on the occasion of her 70th birthday. She was for 16 years "Oberin" of the "Schweiz. Pflegerinnen Schule". [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 175th Jubilee of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung", President Eisenhower has sent a congratulatory message to National-Councillor W. Bretscher, Editor-in-Chief. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of Barth, the jewellery firm in the Bahnhofstrasse Zurich, and stole watches, the value of which amounts to between 100,000 and 150,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Emil Klöti, States-Councillor, has informed the Socialist administration of the canton of Zurich, that he will not be a candidate at the Parliamentary elections which take place next autumn. [A.T.S.]

A postal packet containing an amount of 236,000.—frs. has disappeared in transit from the General Post Office in Berne. A reward of 2,000.—frs. is being offered for information of the whereabouts of this packet. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the "Möbelfabrik" Sumi in Bienne caused damage estimated to be between 60 to 70,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

During the month of May, 1955, 603 (534) traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. Five persons were killed, and 492 (470) injured. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Franz Meyer, formerly Paris correspondent of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung", has been appointed Head of the "Kunsthalle" Berne, in succession to Mr. Arnold Rüdinger, who has been appointed Director of the "Basler Kunsthalle" [A.T.S.]

Flight Sergeant-major August Künzle (30) was killed when his Vampire machine collided with another machine near Bavois. [A.T.S.]

The 479th anniversary of the Battle of Murten (1476) was celebrated at Murten in the presence of members of the cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

The St. Alban bridge in Basle has been opened to traffic. [A.T.S.]

The Embroidery firm of "J. G. Nef & Co.", Herisau (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh), one of the biggest export concerns in Switzerland has celebrated its 150th Jubilee, on which occasion the management has made a substantial allocation to the staff pension fund. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Giorgio (Bellinzona) has been nominated Head of the cantonal police, in succession to Italo Trezzini, who has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the Clarens-Chailly-Blonay railway has decided to discontinue this service at the end of the current year owing to adverse financial position. [A.T.S.]

M. Georges-André Chevellaz, since 1942, a teacher (French, History and Geography) at the Commercial

School, Lausanne, has been appointed Director of the cantonal and university library, in succession to M. Biaudet, who has been elected Professor of History at the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Neuchâtel, M. Auguste Moser, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, on this occasion he was presented by the cantonal Government with traditional easy-chair. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Willy Burkhard, composer, in Zurich, at the age of 55. The deceased was born in Leubringen (Ct. Berne) in 1900, after studying music in Berne, Leipzig, Munich and Paris, he was appointed in 1928, a teacher at the Conservatorium in Berne, which post he held until 1942, when he became a teacher at the Conservatorium in Zurich. Burkhard composed a number of oratorios, operas and compositions for chamber music.

J. R. Weidmann, from 1914-1934, "Statthalter" of the Affoltern district, and for over 20 years a member of the "Zürcher Kantonsrat", in Affoltern (Zurich), aged 87.

Leo Kaplan, eminent psychologist, in Zurich, at the age of 79.

Joseph Lombriser, a former teacher of German literature at the "Collège Saint-Michel", in Fribourg, aged 82.

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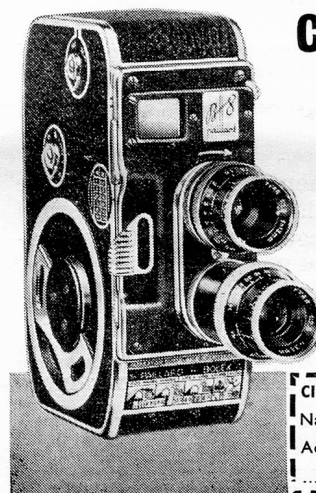
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Dr. Otto Klichmann, since 1941, a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Lucerne, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 61.

M. Arthur Grosjean, for 40 years a teacher at the Commercial School, Neuenstadt, in Neuenstadt, at the age of 69.

Mgr. Johannes Mösch, canon, in Solothurn, aged 82. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. h.c. Ernst Schürch (80) of Berne, lawyer and at one time President of the Court of Wangen an der Aare, and State Prosecutor of the Seeland-Bienne. Member of the Municipal Council of Berne, the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and since 1925, Editor-in-Chief of "Der Bund", Berne.

Dr. h.c. Arnold Bohren (80) of Berne, for many years Director of the "Schweizerischen Unfallversicherungsanstalt", Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

DECISION ON KUNZLE'S HOME.

No more sick children are to be sent from Birmingham to the Davos Chateau in Switzerland of the late Mr. Christian Kunzle.

A spokesman of Birmingham Education Department said that the city's Education Committee had taken this decision because of "the administrative difficulties in managing a school 500 or 600 miles away".

The official said the committee had been considering the matter since the last party of children returned from Davos just before last Christmas.

While they were in Switzerland, a master and a pupil fell ill and had to be left behind.

"It is this sort of problem which happens with a school abroad that has led the committee to reach this decision," the official added.

He said the committee had expressed its great appreciation to Kunzles.

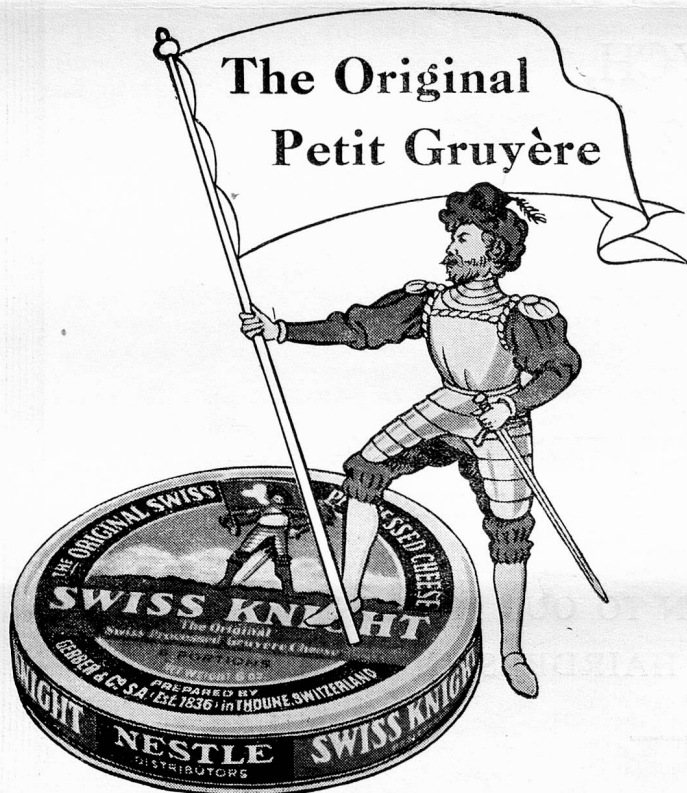
In May this year, the Minister of Health (Mr. Iain Macleod) indicated that the English-Swiss sanatoria scheme, which was mainly for patients in the early stages of tuberculosis or those whose treatment had reached a stage after which Swiss treatment would advance their recovery, would close down in the autumn.

Mr. Kunzle gave the chateau at Davos and £10,000 for the establishment of Alpine Homes for sick people 20 years ago, and thousands of sick children from Birmingham and the Midlands have benefited from visits.

The children visiting Davos were suffering from chest complaints and later Mr. Kunzle co-operated with the Ministry of Health in selecting children most likely to benefit.

Despite his long residence in this country, Mr. Kunzle retained his Swiss citizenship. He died in January last year, aged 74, after living in Britain for more than 50 year.

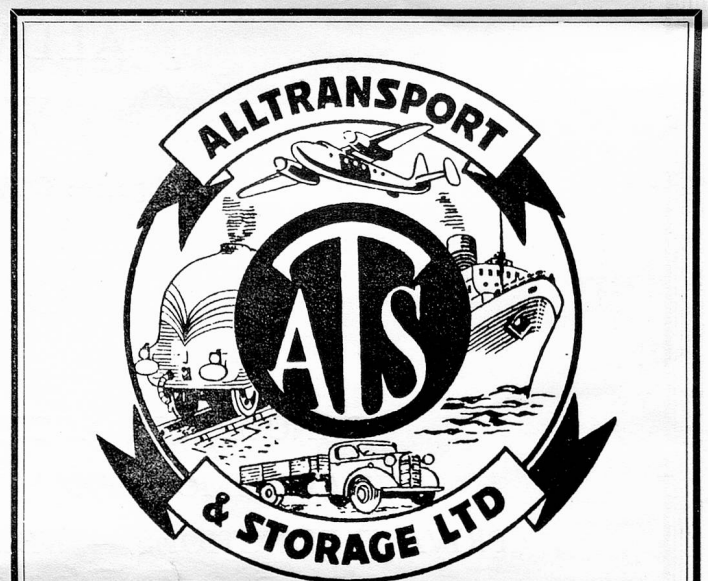
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