

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1955)

**Heft:** 1259

**Rubrik:** News at random

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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.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 40. No. 1259.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1955.

PRICE 11d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur A. M. Malik, the newly appointed ambassador of Pakistan, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation. He was formerly Minister of Labour in the Pakistan cabinet.

The following Members of the Swiss Parliament have declared that they will not contest their seats at the approaching parliamentary elections: Alois Kunz (Hergiswil, Ct. Lucerne) since 1947, a member of the National Council; Hermann Farner (Oberstammheim, Ct. Zurich) a member of the National Council; Robert Piot (Lausanne) since 1943, a member of the National Council; Georges Luterbacher (Prêles, Ct. Berne) since 1951 a member of the National Council; Jakob Käch (Windisch, Ct. Aargau) a member of the National Council; Adrien Lachenal (Geneva) a member of the States Council; Camille Crittin (Martigny, Ct. Valais) since 1928, a member of the National Council.

The annual conference of Swiss Ministers abroad took place in Berne, twenty-two Ministers being present.

### Cantonal

The Belgian ambassador, Monsieur P. A. Forthomme, and the Belgian Consul, Monsieur F. Chappuis, have paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Obwalden. [A.T.S.]

The traditional "Knabenschiessen" took place in Zurich from the 10th to the 12th September; over 6,000 young riflemen took part in the shooting competition. Master Urs Arbenz (15) of Zollikon was declared "Schützenkönig", with 33 points. [A.T.S.]

The oldest burghess of the town of Zurich, Frau Marie Gufer-Huber, celebrated her 102nd birthday. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of last year's "HOSPES" exhibition in Berne show a net profit of 156,033.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Robert Kuhn, Finance-Director of the canton of Berne, for the last eight years, and a member of the "Gemeinderat" has tendered his resignation from the Council, for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the jewellery firm of Franz Schild in Brienz, and stole goods to the value of over 15,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. phil. Karl Reyle (21) educated at Basle, and resident in Jamaica, was killed when ascending the Grassen in the Titlis range. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of the writer Josef Reinhart, the Government of the canton of Solothurn addressed a congratulatory message to him, and presented him with a silver salver. [A.T.S.]

The Italian ambassador, Monsieur M. Coppini, was received at the Town Hall in Basle by the municipal authorities; later on the distinguished guest visited the Art Gallery, the port of Basle and a number of industrial establishments. [A.T.S.]

The Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town has passed the cantonal accounts for 1954, showing a credit balance of 10.2 million francs. [A.T.S.]

Traffic accidents in the canton of Basle Town during August, 1955, numbered 143,116 persons were injured of whom one succumbed to his injuries.

[A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

We have pleasure to announce that on **Thursday, October 13th, 1955**, an after-dinner talk will be given at the **Dorchester Hotel** by Canon C. E. Raven, D.D., T.C.D., F.B.A., former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, on "The U.S.A. and/or the Soviet Union".

**7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**

The Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Th. Hünerwadel-Hünerwadel of Basle, have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Frau Ottilie Rohr-Brändi, the oldest woman inhabitant of the town of Schaffhausen, has celebrated her 100th birthday at the "Altersasyl", Schönbühl.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Bankers Association took place at St. Moritz under the Presidency of Dr. Charles Loës (Geneva). Federal-Councillor Streuli, Head of the Federal Finance Department, attended the Meeting. äA.T.S. [

\* \* \*

The new President of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, Professor Léopold Boissier, has taken over from his predecessor, Dr. Paul Rügger.

Léopold Boissier was born in 1893, and studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Zurich. From 1917-1920, he was in the service of the Confederation occupying diplomatic posts in Berne, Rome and London. In 1933, he was appointed General Secretary of the Interparliamentary Union from which post he retired in 1953. He was a Professor at the University of Geneva, and author of a number of works, amongst them "L'avènement de la démocratie suisse" (1918), "Le contrôle de la politique étrangère" (1924) and "Regards vers la paix" (1942). [A.T.S.]

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The power Station Marmorera (Ct. Grisons) for which the town of Zurich, voted a credit in 1949, of 85 million francs, was inaugurated recently in the presence of the municipal authorities of Zurich, and members of the Government of the canton of Grisons.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Jérome Calame, clerk of the cantonal court, Neuchâtel, for 30 years, in Neuchâtel at the age of 60.

Pierre Thévenaz, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 42.

Adolf Schmitz for many years President of the court Wangen, and President of the commune Wangen, in Wangen, at the age of 71.

Dr. Pater Athnasius, since 1905 a deacon of the Benedictine Abbey Einsideln, in Einsideln, aged 91.

Dr. A. Schmid-Respinger, a former Manager and Member of the Board of "CIBA" A.G., Basle, in Basle, at the age of 67.

Mgr. Johann Benedikt Venzin, "Generalvikar der Diözese" Chur, in Chur, aged 63.

Professor Paul Joye, from 1932-1951, Director of the "Freiburgischen Kraftwerke", and at one time rector of the University of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 74.

Paul Gentizon, Journalist and Author, in Lutry, aged 70.

Ernst Holzmann, since 1946 Honorary Swiss Consul in Bahia (Brazil), in Zurich.

W. M. Keller, President of the firm "Keller & Co., A.G.", and the "Schweiz. Allgemeinen Versicherungs A.G.", Zurich, in Zurich.

Elisabeth Gerter, author, in Basle at the age of 60. Amongst her best known novels are: "Die Sticker", "Schwester Lisa", "Die grosse Frage", and "Das silberne Tor".

Dr. Friedrich Kellerhals-Thurneysen, Director of the "Schweizerischen Treuhandgesellschaft", Basle, in Basle.

Max Buhofer, Industrialist and Proprietor of racing stables, in Lenzburg.

Dr. phil. Victor von Hettlingen, at one time Professor at the "Kollegium" Schwyz, and the "Institute Ingenbold", in Bordighera (whilst on holiday) aged 57.

Hermann Dommer, Honorary President of the "Hartsteinwerk, A.G." Kehrsiten, in Buchs, at the age of 72.

Ernst Bütikofer, from 1930-1954, Editor of the "Berner Tagwacht". The deceased was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and from 1925-1929, he sat in Parliament (National Council).

Dr. med. Karl Real, a well-known medical practitioner, in Schwyz, aged 75.

Dr. med. Ernst Bachmann, founder of the clinic Appisberg, and President of the "Zürcher Heilstätten" Wald and Clavadel. The deceased was an authority of tubercular diseases. The University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Karl Waldvogel, since 1943 a member of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen, at a clinic in Zurich, aged 62.

Canon Nicolas Peissard, for 25 years archaeologist of the canton of Fribourg, and Director of the art-historical museum, Fribourg. The University of Fribourg honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*, in Fribourg, at the age of 81.

Carlo Mondada, Head of the Secretariate for Italian language at the Federal Chancery in Berne, in Berne, aged 43.

Jules Hagmann, since 1929, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town, at the age of 60.

Dr. phil. Eduard Korrodi, from 1915-1950, Literary Editor of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung", Zurich, in Zurich, aged 70.

Battista Beretta-Picoli, President of the commune of Viganello, and a member of the Grand Council of

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shooting title on the first day of the European shooting championships in Bucharest.

His winning total was 531 points. Russia won the team rifle shooting title with 2633 points, 27 more than the world record. Switzerland, the world title holders, were second with 2630.

\* \* \*

The Edmonton (U.S.A.) city council has approved the purchase from the Swiss firm of Brown Boveri of two gas turbine generators for its power house. They are described as the largest of their kind in the world, and will cost \$2,878,000.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Roosevelt and the Queen of the Netherlands, at an impressive ceremony in the council chamber of the Palais des Nations (Geneva), were presented with the Nansen Medal for 1954 and 1955 respectively for their services in the cause of refugees. Mrs. Roosevelt received the award in person, and Baron Bentinck, the Netherlands Minister to Switzerland, accepted it on behalf of Queen Juliana.

The occasion — as Mr. A. Pelt, director of the European office of the United Nations, said in his closing words — was presided over by the spirit of Fridtjof Nansen, whose portrait by Axel Revold formed an appropriate background to the scene, and to whose personality and work as the League of Nations High Commissioner after the First World War many tributes were paid in the course of the proceedings. Mr. Odd Nansen, his son, is a member of the committee which makes the award each year, and he was among the speakers.

In asking Mrs. Roosevelt to accept the medal (which bears Fridtjof Nansen's principle, "Love of man is practical policy", spoken in the same council chamber nearly 30 years ago), Dr. G. J. Heueven van Goedhart, the present High Commissioner for Refugees, referred to her "warm heart for the poor, the have-nots, the under-developed, the oppressed, the uprooted", and to the lifelong "fight for the right of every man to freedom of speech and religion, to freedom from fear and want".

\* \* \*

The well-known Swiss composer Ernest Bloch, born in Geneva in 1880, and resident in U.S.A. has recently given a valuable collection of MSS dealing with musical matters to the "Schweiz. Landesbibliothek" in Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The centenary was celebrated, at Zermatt, of the opening of Zermatt's first hotel, the Hotel Monte Rosa, begun by Alexander Seiler and still in the hands of the same family. The important part played by British climbers in Zermatt's development was emphasized when the hotel was opened in July, 1855. At one time it was called the Zermatt Alpine Club Rooms. The first British to sign the visitors book in July, 1855, were the brothers Hunter and the brothers Smyth, who on July 31 made the first ascent of Monte Rosa.

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#### Philately.

The Swiss National Exhibition of Philately will be held at Lausanne from October 15th-23rd, 1955. The Aviation Section will be of special interest, the principal European and American Air Transportation Companies all exhibiting displays of their own.

#### Work on the Furka Road completed.

The Furka road, which had hitherto been classed as a cantonal road, is now an international road. Extensive work had been in progress for some time. The existing road surface has been improved and widened. The completion of this project was celebrated in the presence of nearly 200 guests who, after driving over the road from Brig to the top of the pass, stopped at Gletsch and came down again to Münster for the official ceremony honoured by the presence of Mr. Etter, Federal Councillor, H.E. Monseigneur Adam and Mr. Schnyder, President of the State Council of the Valais.

#### Aerial Railway to Pilatuskultm.

The Pilatus Railway Company have announced the opening of the new Aerial Railway from Fräkmüntegg to Pilatuskultm for the beginning of December, 1955. In future Mount Pilatus will therefore be accessible not only in summer but in winter too. The cabin cable railway linking Kriens (short tram journey from Lucerne) with Fräkmüntegg is already in operation.

#### At the Geneva Museum of Art and History.

New works, kindly loaned by a local collector, give added attraction to the halls devoted to French painting of the XIX and XXth centuries. Among the paintings displayed there are several Renoirs — still lifes, flower studies, landscapes and one portrait — as well as works by Picasso, Vlaminck, Othon Friesz and Camoin. Several works of sculpture by Degas and a small bronze by Maillol complete this fine collection



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which will be on view to the public during the summer months.

*The Ascona Music Weeks.*

Until October the 7th, 1955, Ascona will be a centre of attraction for music lovers. The Orchestra of the Italian-speaking Swiss Broadcasting Company will be giving a series of concerts conducted by F. Fricsay, O. Nussio, A. Cluytens, I. Markevitch, Th. Egel and M. Sargent. This music festival began on August 23rd, in the romantic setting of the Isles of Brissago, with a serenade by the Collegium Musicum Elveticum, conducted by R. Schumacher.

*The Alpine Museum celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary.*

The Swiss Alpine Club has just celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Alpine Museum at Berne. This museum is unique of its kind. Only those of Turin and Munich resemble it in any way. It displays everything connected either directly or indirectly with the Alps: people and things, ways and customs, maps, geology, fauna and flora, climate, etc.

*The 39th Swiss Industries Fair at Bale.*

The 39th Swiss Industries Fair, which was held at Bale from April 16th to 26th this year, was attended by some 700,000 visitors. The number of visitors from abroad is estimated to be 30,000, the number of buyers from 70 countries who registered at the reception service being 11,664.

The transactions concluded at the Fair for both

the home and foreign markets bore witness to a confident optimism in the development of the economic situation. There was great foreign demand for watches as well as for the products of the electrical industry, machines in general and machine tools. The textile industry too met with great success in the field of exports, particularly with regard to clothing.

The 40th Bale Fair will be held from April 14th to 24th, 1956.

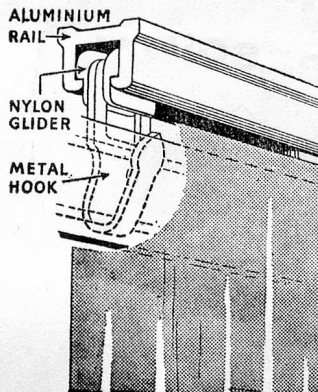
*The Lake of Geneva Museum at Nyon.*

A new, very interesting and instructive museum has just been opened at Nyon: it is devoted to the history of the Lake of Geneva — the biggest lake in Western Europe, fed by 289 Alpine glaciers — from the time of the early lake dwellers to the present day. In addition to an interesting chart showing the depths of the lake, a gift of Mr. Jaccard of the Federal Water Supply Department, one may study everything connected with navigation: a wind chart, the climate, tides, electrical phenomena, mirages, sports and even life-saving. The fish, birds, plants and arts of the lake (painting, literature and music) are also included among these collections together with scale models of shallops, sailing boats and steamers.

*The Aar gorges lit up.*

Electric lighting has just been installed in the Aar gorges, near Meiringen, Bernese Oberland. These gorges, which are about a mile long and have for some sixty years been made accessible to the public by means of tunnels and footbridges, can now also be visited at night.

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