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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Eric Kessler, at present Press Counsellor at the Swiss Legation in Washington, to the post of Chargé d'Affaires in Bucarest.

Dr. Kessler was born in 1897 in Winterthur, he studied at the Universities of Zurich, Geneva, Paris, Berlin and Göttingen. He started his career as a Journalist in 1924. From 1929-1939 Dr. Kessler was London correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung." At the outbreak of the last war, in 1939, he was appointed Press Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London and in 1946, he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Washington with the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

Customs receipts during the month of October totalled 62.8 million francs or 15.4 million francs more than during the same period in 1949.

During the first 10 months of the current year customs receipts amounted to 482.8 million francs. (Same period 1949: 398.8 million francs).

Following the decision of the Swiss National Council to adhere to the European Payments Union, Mr. P. Rossy, Vice-Governor of the Swiss National Bank, has been elected a member of the Managing-Board of the E.P.U.

The Norwegian Foreign Minister, M. Halvard Lange, was received in audience by M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation; he was later on the guest of the Swiss Government at a luncheon.

The Federal Council has declared that it will subsidise air raid shelters incorporated in new building projects.

Cantonal

The tribunal of Lucerne has recently passed sentence of five months imprisonment on a motorist who, under the influence of alcohol ran over a cyclist who succumbed to his injuries. Two other motorists were also

sentenced to six weeks imprisonment for driving when drunk [A.T.S.]

The Technical University of Karlsruhe has honoured Dr. John Eggert, Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

Wireless operator Jules Gloor, a member of the personnel of "Swissair" for the last twenty years, has flown three million kilometers. [A.T.S.]

The late Jakob Amsler-Bender, a former Consul, has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the commune of Schinznach-Dorf for the education of young and promising students. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Willi Pfähler, since 1940, an engineer at the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon", has been appointed Director of the electricity works of the town of Winterthur, in succession to Mr. W. Werdenberg, who has recently vacated his post to enter a private concern. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Paul Schmid-Ammann, a member of the editorial staff of the "Volksrecht" Zurich, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the said paper. [A.T.S.]

During the month of October, 1950, 387 (Oct. 49: 404) traffic accidents have been reported from the canton of Berne. 257 (Oct. 49: 310) persons have been injured of whom 6 Oct. 49: 12) have succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Theo Guhl, Professor of Civil Law at the University of Berne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

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In the month of October, 1950, 97 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Fribourg. Three persons were killed and 39 injured. [A.T.S.]

The premises of the firm "Gebr. Nef", furniture manufacturers in Herisau (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.) have been destroyed by fire. The damage caused exceeds 210,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The late Mme. Albertina Lanz-Werkmeister, of St. Gall, has left an amount of 134,000.—frs. to a number of charitable institutions. The commune of Krinau (Toggenburg) receives 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The President of the "Kaufmännischen Direktorium" in St. Gall, Mr. Friedrich Hug, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

Mr. Hug has been since 1934, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the canton of St. Gall, and is Chairman of the Board of "Stickerie Export Union A.G." [A.T.S.]

A cable of the "Schwebbahn" between Chalais and Vercorin (Ct. Valais) broke, causing the cabin to fall. The only occupant, Gabriel Rey, a railway employee, received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

Army

Two high rank officers of the Siamese army arrived in Switzerland to study military institutions. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

M. Daniel Thiébaud, notary in Bevaix, at the age of 63.

Dr. Hermann Schmalenbach, since 1937, Professor of philosophy at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 65.

Siegfried Meier, a well-known "Tiefbau" engineer, in Zofingen, at the age of 70.

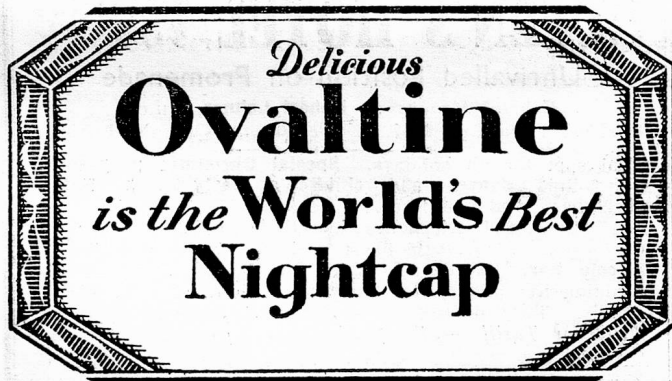
Johann Jakob Breitenstein, from 1884-1921 a teacher in Basle, and the oldest inhabitant of the town of Basle, at the age of 99.

[A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Léon Fleury-Gogniat, of La Chaux-de-Fonds; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wipfli-Arnold, of Seedorf (Ct. Uri); and Mr. and Mrs. K. Kälin-Zehnder, of Einsiedeln.

[A.T.S.]

The newly elected President of the Republic of Guatemala, Monsieur Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, is of



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Swiss origin, his father having emigrated from Switzerland to Guatemala. [A.T.S.]

Winter sports enthusiasts throughout the world will be delighted to learn that negotiations have now been completed for the opening of the Cresta Run at St. Moritz. Lord Brabazon of Tara, whose riding is classical and whose knowledge and experience of the run are unique, acting with the Swiss authorities, has carried out the arrangements and the celebrated "piste" will be open from January 6th to February 10th from Junction.

It is proposed in this short season to hold races for all the famous trophies. It will be a very full programme, requiring the blessings of the weather gods and — may we hope — some easing of the currency restrictions.

Dr. Paul Ruegger, President of the International Red Cross Committee, accompanied by two other members of the committee and three of the staff, has left Geneva for Moscow by air. This will be the first personal contact made with the U.S.S.R. alliance of crosses and crescents and much importance is ascribed to it in Red Cross circles.

Construction of a passenger aerial cableway Stalden to Staldenried (Valais) has been completed. Starting from the railway station at Stalden on the Brig-Visp-Zermatt railway, it passes over the deep gorge of the Visp and ascends to the village of Staldenried. A second section is under construction from Zur Tannen to Gspon.

The Swiss Alpine Club has voted 45,000 francs towards the cost of rebuilding the Tschierva hut which stands at a height of 8,070ft. on the moraine of the Tschierva glacier in the Engadine. The glacier has receded so much during the past two years that the moraine, no longer supported by the mass of ice, is crumbling. Last spring the terrace collapsed and the hut was closed. A new hut will be erected on rock at a cost of 80,000 francs.

The Swiss wholesale prices index rose to 224 at the end of September in the series based on the average for July, 1914, equalling 100 and to 208.5 in the series August 1939—100. This represented an advance of 1.9 per cent. on the end-of-August figures of 219.9 and 204.8 respectively.

A Swiss firm has produced a new kind of paper, which resists tearing when wet.

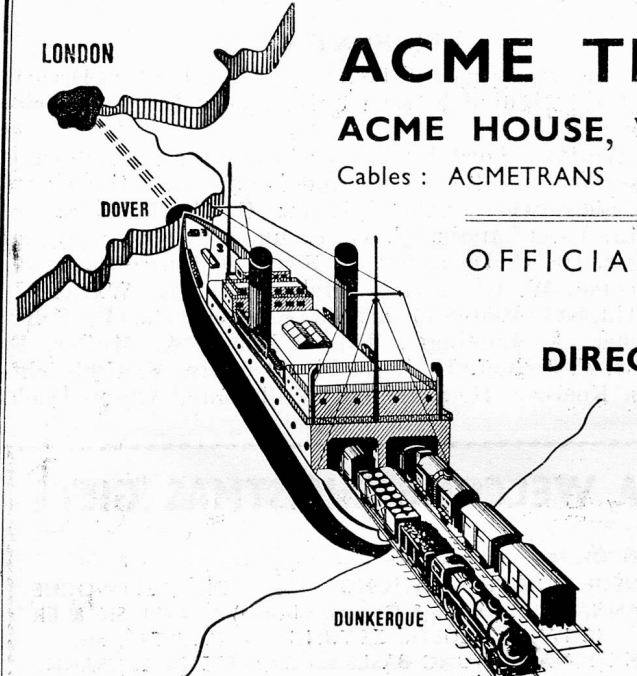
The International Time Table Conference which took place this year in Amsterdam from the 11th to the 21st October, under the chairmanship of the Swiss Federal Railways, has succeeded in reducing the running time of the Simplon Orient Express between Paris and Milan by 20 minutes and between Paris and Istanbul by about two hours. The Through Train Service from Hook of Holland to Basle in connection with the evening departure from Liverpool Street has also been accelerated and will, as before the war, be called the "Rheingold" Express. The rolling stock will be specially selected for comfort and this train will reach Basle at 7.20 p.m. next day and therefore connect with a number of Swiss holiday resorts. The

quickest through connection from England to Switzerland will be provided by the 4.30 p.m. Service ex Victoria Station and reach Basle via Folkestone-Boulogne at 7.50 a.m. next day.

To Commemorate the 600th anniversary of the entry of Zurich into the Swiss Confederation, the Committee of Zurich Guilds has decided to organise a great historical procession on the 22nd April next. Consequently, the Procession arranged for the following Monday and the "Sechseläuten" Children's Procession will not take place.

The historical procession will include some 2,800 participants, practically entirely recruited from the Zurich Guilds, and will illustrate the development of Zurich during its 600 years' association with the Confederation. It will recall the Alliance of 1351 of the four original cantons, the participation of Zurich with Hans Waldmann at the Battle of Morat, the great Shooting Matches of 1504, the Reformation led by Ulrich Zwingli and the famous boat journey to Strasbourg with a pot of millet. Other groups will depict the Zurich fortifications of 1640, the perpetual alliance with France under Louis XIV, tableaux of life in, and the campaign of, the 18th century, the aid given to Berne in 1798 and finally the new Federal Constitution with two large groups of banners of the canton and the Guilds.

During the past year, 123,500 persons visited the castle of Chillon and amongst them were pupils from 338 Swiss schools and 70 foreign schools.



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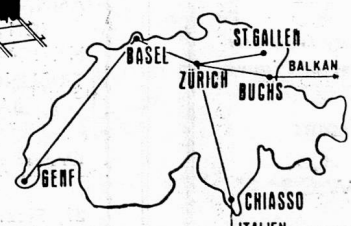
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In the presence of notabilities of the diplomatic and cultural world, the European Cultural Centre was recently inaugurated at the Villa Mon Repos, Geneva.

Speeches were made and messages were received in the name of the European Movement and from the College of Europe.

Mr. Albert Picot, State Councillor of Geneva, speaking of cultural exchanges between various countries, said that this task could only be realised given the respect of the human personality and the liberty of the human mind. Mr. Denis de Rougemont, the Director of the Centre, in stating the objects of this European Cultural Centre, stressed the necessity of saving European culture if Europe wishes to maintain its place in the world.

At a time when machines and industrialisation were bringing about a mad rush to speed up the tempo of life and thereby leaving man less time in which to meditate, the cinematograph was invented, for man does not live on bread alone.

In its initial stages, the cinema was merely an attraction competing with fair grounds and the like but in the course of 50 years it has achieved an indispensable place in present day life. News reels bring current events immediately to the screen, films exactly depict the cultural life of our age and the documentary films give the history of our times.

In the same way as we preserve books, newspapers, pictures, so must we preserve films. Most countries nowadays have their own cinematographic museum and in Switzerland the Film Archives were established in Basle in 1943. Owing to certain internal difficulties, however, this organisation had to abandon its activities and it was then that a few young dynamic cinema enthusiasts in Lausanne took action to ensure that the Basle Film Archives were transferred to Lausanne. They met with the benevolent support and welcome from competent persons and from the Lausanne authorities, and to-day the Swiss Cinematographic Museum is a reality. It comprises to-day some six thousand reels.

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY. Xmas Banquet, Ball and Cabaret.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the Xmas Banquet, Ball and Cabaret of the Anglo-Swiss Society, which will be held on Monday, 11th December, 1950, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Well known artists will provide a Cabaret which

will end with a tableau and the entry of a large cake depicting a Swiss mountain scene; there will be an Xmas tree and Xmas Decorations.

Seating will be by round tables and those representing "Canton" will be arranged to form a large map of Switzerland. Each cantonal table will fly the flag of the "Canton."

There will be no speeches. Evening Dress (tails or dinner jacket) will be worn. Price of tickets will be 40/- each and Members may bring as many guests as they like.

Applications for tickets should be made to the Director, Anglo-Swiss Society, 145, Palace Chambers, Westminster, London.

INTERNATIONAL SKATING COMPETITION.

The Open International Skating Competition (for Ladies) organised by the Richmond Amateur Ice Skating club was held on Monday, 6th November, 1950, at the Richmond Ice Rink.

Amongst the 18 young ladies who competed here, five were of Swiss nationality, namely Mlles. Nina Doria, Yolande Jobin (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Jobin, of 12, Berkeley Road, Barnes, S.W.13), Lily Kresz, Suzy Wirz and Doris Zerbe.

Yolande Jobin, who was placed fifth out of the 18 competitors and headed the list of all the Continental skaters, is being trained by Jacques Gerschwiler, our famous countryman, trainer of Cecilia Colledge and of the present British champion, Jeanette Altwegg, who was the winner of the Competition.

Our best wishes go to Yolande Jobin for her forthcoming participation in the Swiss and International Championships this winter.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, December 15th, 1950 (one issue only, owing to Xmas holidays).

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: G. A. Schwarz, L. Jobin, Ls. Chapuis, F. G. Sommer, M. A. Roethlisberger, Dr. C. Devegney, G. Senn, O. Luterbacher, M. Giacomo, W. Glur, R. J. Helfenstein, W. Walter, J. Joerin, A. A. Bodenehr, F. Kibiger, Ch. F. Schumacher, A. Luminati, Willy Fischer, A. Muller, F. Beyli, F. Jmhoff, J. H. Buchi, P. Hatz, V. Umbricht, Mrs. Koerber, H. Schenkel, W. Tschuy, A. von Dach.

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