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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

M. Roy Hunziker, at present at the Foreign Office in Berne (Press Service), has been transferred to the Swiss Legation in Washington, to take over the post of Dr. Eric Kessler, who has recently been appointed Chargé D'Affaires in Bucarest. (M. Hunziker was well-known in the London Swiss Colony having occupied the post of Secretary of Legation for several years.)

The Federal Council has bestowed upon M. Walter Diener the title of Vice-Consul.

Vice-Consul Diener was born in 1901, and hails from Frauenfeld, he emigrated to Tanga in 1934, where he occupies the post of Assistant Manager of a Swiss firm.

Mr. Albert Wyler has been appointed Swiss Consul in Dacca, in succession to Mr. R. Sahli who has tendered his resignation.

The following three Federal Judges will relinquish their posts at the end of this year: Dr. Jakob Halblüzel (Zurich); Dr. August Ernst (Aargau); and Dr. E. Hasler (Zurich).

Mr. Walter Gubler, of Wila (Ct. Zurich), has been appointed Vice-Director of the Federal Customs Administration, and Mr. Burkhard Matti, of Glarus, Director of the customs district III.

Cantonal

Dr. h.c. Emil Bitterli, one of the pioneers of the Swiss Electricity Industry, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary in Zurich.

Mr. Karl Gnehm-Bertschinger, of Mühlebach (Ct. Zurich), has celebrated his 102nd birthday [A.T.S.]

The strength of the various parties of the "Kantonsrat" Zug, after the recent elections is as follows: Conservative-Christian Peoples party: 44 seats (formerly 39); Liberal Democratic party: 11 seats (formerly: 14); "Landesring der Unabhängigen":

1 seat (previously: 0); Socialist Party: 11 seats (previously: 14). The Council numbers 78 members, the Conservative-Christian party is again leading.

All the members of the cantonal government have been re-elected.

Dr. Lusser and Alois Zehnder have been elected members of the States Council (Ständerat). [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Michel, author and a teacher at the secondary school in Lauterbrunnen, has been made an honorary citizen of the Commune of Lauterbrunnen.

Mgr. Eugène Folletête, Deacon of the Cathedral of St. Urs and "General Vicar" of the Jura, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The paper "Popolo e Libertà" which is published in Bellinzona, has celebrated his 50th jubilee. Dr. E. Celio, a former Federal Councillor and at present Swiss Minister in Rome, was at one time Editor-in-Chief of this paper. [A.T.S.]

Army

At the end of this year various changes will take place in the command of Swiss army units.

Army-Corps Commander Herbert Constam, at present in command of the 3rd Army-Corps, will relinquish his post on reaching retiring age.

Colonel Constam entered the Instructor's Corps in 1909. In 1918, he was transferred to the General Staff with the rank of major, he subsequently held the following commands: Infantry Regiment 29, Infantry Mountain Brigade 15, commander of the "Schiess-Schule," Wallenstadt, and "Zentral Schulen." In 1938, he took over the command of the 6th Division and seven years later (1945), was entrusted with the command of the 3rd Army-Corps.

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Rotary Headquarters.

R.A.C.

Colonel of Division Paul Wacker, at present in command of the 5th Division will shortly relinquish his post at his own request. He entered the Instructors' Corps in 1941, and was a member of the General Staff; he held the following commands: Infantry Regiment 24, Chief of Staff of the 2nd Army-Corps, commander of the Mountain Brigade 12, and since 1944, in command of the 5th Division.

The following high rank officers will also retire from their commands at the end of this year: Colonels of Brigade Jaques Wichser, Hans Hold and Julius Schwarz.

Colonel of Division, Samuel Gonard, at present in command of the 9th division, has been promoted to the rank of Army-Corps Commander, and will be in command of the 3rd Army-Corps.

He entered the Instructors' Corps in 1921, and subsequently held the following commands: Mountain Infantry Regiment 5, Assistant Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army-Corps, and the 9th Division, he was also a lecturer at the military school of the ETH, Zurich.

Colonels Robert Frick and Georg Züblin, have been promoted to the rank of Colonels of Division.

[A.T.S.]

Colonel of Division, Friedrich Rihner, Commander of the Swiss Air Force, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Berne. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Military Department has announced the appointment of Professor Herman Gessner of the experimental laboratory in Zurich to head a new Department for defence against atomic warfare. [A.T.S.]

Colonel of Brigade, Ernest Burgunder, Director of the Federal military administration, is relinquishing his post at the end of this year, on having reached retiring age. [A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Karl Mossdorf, from 1906-1926, "Stadtbaumeister" of the town of Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 86.

Jean-Marc Jomini, since 1926, Director of the "Ecole nouvelle de Padex" and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Lausanne, aged 48.

Jost Meyer-Schnyder von Wartensee, for many years Conservator of the "Kunstgesellschaft" in Lucerne, at the age of 84.

Mme. Rosalie Fürst-Hochschild, in St. Gall, aged 100.

Arthur Morard, landscape and portrait painter, in Versoix, at the age of 68.

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Oscar Weingart, during 30 years President of the "Amtsgericht" of Solothurn-Lebern, in Grenchen, at the age of 72.

Gottfried Höchli, builder, and a prominent personality in the political life of the town of Basle, in Basle, aged 95.

Alberto Norzi, Professor of mathematics, in Orselina, at the age of 71.

Dr. Fred Heller, for many years Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Lucerne, and from 1923-1927, a member of the "Grossen Stadtrates", in Lucerne, aged 58.

Hermann Haller, well-known sculptor, in Zurich, at the age of 70. Many of his works are included in art galleries throughout Switzerland. One of his best-known works is the "Waldmann" monument in Zurich. In 1933, he received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* from the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) of Zurich.

Dr. Wilhelm Pfändler, from 1923-1947, Professor of English literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, and from 1907-1948 a teacher of French and English languages at the cantonal "Oberrealschule" Zurich, in Zurich at the age of 73.

Dr. Anton Schmid, at Frauenfeld, aged 72. The deceased was from 1917-1943, a member of the government of the canton of Thurgau, and from 1928-1935 a member of Parliament (States-Council).

Fritz Wenger, a lawyer and former member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 74.

Dr. Moritz Baumann-Naef, from 1912-1947, Presi-

dent of the Board of the "Schweizerischen-Wagens- und Aufzügenfabrik, A.G." Schlieren, in Zurich aged 82.

Leo Monz, from 1914-1936, President of the commune of Birsfelden, and a member of the "Landrat", in Birsfelden, at the age of 87.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Koller-Oswald, of Gossau (St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. A. Kern-Hollinger, of Zurich-Altstetten; Mr. and Mrs. J. Ryser of Corgémont. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Wireless operator Paul Auberson of "Swissair" has flown altogether three million kilometers. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The form of assistance which the Swiss Federal Government is to give Swissair has now been settled and the Federal Council has given its agreement to a bill authorising aid to Swissair. This assistance will consist in the purchase by the Government of two long-range aircraft to the value of 32½ million francs. These aircraft will be leased to the company annually, rent being calculated on operating profits. Swissair agrees to buy back the aircraft from the Government at the end of ten years at the then current price. The Government will also assist the company to the extent of 500,000 francs per annum for the training of personnel. The cost to the state for 1950 will be 7,630,000 Swiss francs. A proposal that the Confederation should also buy the existing fleet of aircraft of the company was rejected.

A P P E A L .

32nd Swiss Children's Annual Xmas Party.

Christmas is coming! and so is the Children's Party on Saturday the 6th January, at the Victoria Halls, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1, as usual.

Who would not know? Swiss families and obviously their children have enquired, as they don't want to miss it.

What about the small but very active Committee of ladies, already hard at it with preparations!

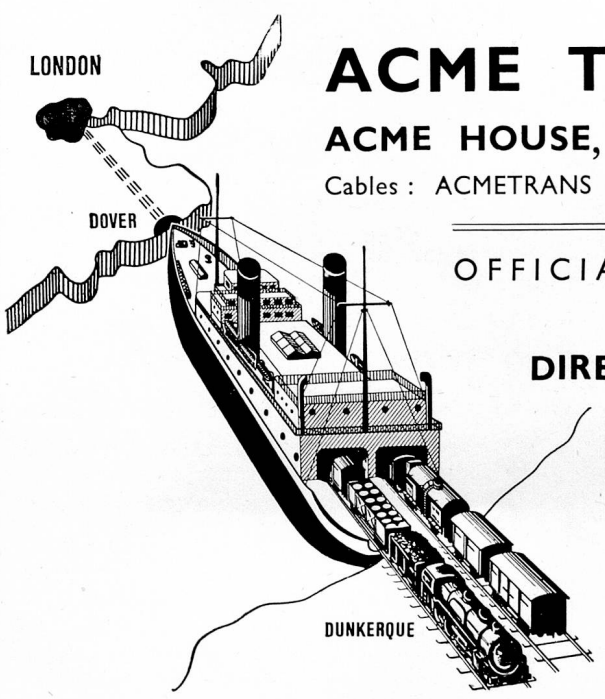
Since 1909, many well-wishers in our Colony have never failed to help, and to assist in their many ways, for without them, nothing could have been attained, thousands of children, some who are now dignified grandparents, can vouch for that. —

M. le Ministre and Madame de Torrenté with their little daughter, are honouring the party with their presence, also the three spiritual leaders of the Colony are giving efficient support, to these, we tender our thanks.

We wish to ascertain the number of children likely to attend that family gathering (168 last year), and enquiries should be addressed in the first instance to: Miss Ida Matthey, 102 Horsey Lane, N.6; "donations of all sizes": cheques, postal orders, etc., will be thankfully received and entered in the little "Black Book," and acknowledged by Mr. C. Campart, 33, Heathfield Park, Willesden Lane, N.W.2.

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