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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur José Ruiz de Arana y Bauer, has presented his credentials to M. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation and to M. M. Petitpierre, Foreign Minister, as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Spain.

The two Federal Chambers (National and States Councils) have elected two new Judges to the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne.

Dr. Hans Tschopp, a member of the "Obergericht" Zurich was elected. He was born in 1903, and is a citizen of Zurich. Dr. Tschopp occupied until his promotion to the Supreme Court the post of President of the "Kassationshofes" of the canton of Zurich.

The second vacancy has been filled by Dr. Gustav Muheim, who was born in 1897, and hails from Altdorf. He holds the position of Public Prosecutor of the canton of Uri and is a member of the "Landrat". Since 1945, Dr. Muheim has sat in Parliament (States Council).

The Egyptian Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice, M. Rouchy Bey, has paid a courtesy visit to M. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. Various questions concerning the two countries were discussed.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Emil Alexander to the post of Chief of the Federal Justice Department in succession to Dr. Hans Kuhn, who will retire at the end of the current year.

Dr. Alexander was born in 1889 in Sent (Ct. Grisons), he studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Berne and Paris. He entered into the services of the Confederation in 1913.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 15.85 million passengers during the month of August, 1951, or 335,000 more than in August, 1950. The receipts

have reached the amount of 25.94 million francs, an increase of 537,000 frs. over last year's figures.

Goods traffic has increased by 137,000 tons and is returned as 1.80 million tons, receipts are given as 31.70 million francs (August, 1950: 29.40 million francs).

Cantonal

The British Consulate General in Zurich has taken over the duties of the Consulate in Lugano which has closed down. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident occurred in Bienne, costing the lives of four persons.

A student of the *Gymnasium* at Bienne, returning from a Sports Festival, offered to take four of his colleagues home. Near the Hemrigen cemetery the car skidded and collided with a tree and was smashed.

The names of the victims are: Reinhard Mannweiler, son of Pastor Mannweiler, of Kappelen nr. Aarberg, Walter Dick, son of a farmer in Rapperswil, Heinz Clineing and Hans Tschantré, of Vingelz.

[A.T.S.]

On the occasion of a passengers Air Display, organised by the Bernese section of the Swiss Aero Club, in Schwarzenburg, a Piper Sports machine crashed shortly after having taken off. The pilot and his passenger were killed. Their names are: Hansruedi Weber (aged 30), of Berne, and Hans Hostettler (aged 23), a farmer of Grubenboden, Milken. The machine was totally wrecked. [A.T.S.]

The late Friedrich, August Wattelet, a former employee of the Municipal Tramway Company in Berne, has left his whole fortune, amounting to 100,000 frs., to the Municipal Pensions Fund. [A.T.S.]

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A motor-car registered in Geneva and being driven on the Pillons Road near Gsteig, left the road and fell into a mountain stream. The car was driven by Joseph Rieben. His 74 year-old father, of St. Prex, his mother aged 76 and his wife, aged 45, were killed outright, the driver and his two children, aged 10 and 11 were injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The literature prize of the "Jurassischen Wettbewerbsgesellschaft" has been awarded to Lucien Marsaux (born in 1896 at Corgémont) for his novel "Le chant du cygne noir". The prize amounts to 1,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the month of August, 1951, 107 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Fribourg. Six persons were killed and 36 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Burglars, who broke into the premises of a watch manufacturing firm at Melano (Ct. Ticino), got away with 4,000 alarm clocks. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Four hundred delegates attended the 38th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Bankers Association which took place at Locarno under the Presidency of M. Charles de Loes. Dr. N. Celio, a member of the government of the canton of Ticino, addressed the assembly, other speakers were: National Councillor Rusca, and M. Rossi, Manager of the Swiss National Bank, Branch Office in Lugano. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon", on the occasion of their 75th anniversary, has made a donation amounting to 50,000.—frs. to the Polytechnical school of the University of Lausanne for scientific research work. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Nestlé Alimentana A.G." has recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation at Orbe (Ct. Neuchâtel). The original Chocolate Works in Orbe were founded in 1901 by M. Daniel Peter; in 1904 he amalgamated with the Chocolate Manufacturing concern of J. J. Kohler and later on with the Cailler Company, to-day the works belong to the "Nestlé Alimentana A.G." [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Manager of a Geneva watch manufacturing firm has been arrested on a charge of embezzling two amounts of 35,000.—frs. and 60,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]



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Army

Colonel Guido Semisch, a member of the General Staff, has been appointed Military and Air Attaché to the Swiss Legation in Madrid. [A.T.S.]

The manœuvres of the 1st Army-Corps started recently in the vicinity of Bulle, under the command of Army-Corps commander Corbat. 10,000 men, 500 horses, 480 Jeeps, 384 lorries, 250 motorcycles and 930 bicycles are taking part. [A.T.S.]

During army manœuvres two aeroplanes collided and crashed between Biberen and Gümmenen. The two pilots, Lieutenant Walter Frei (aged 26), a teacher, living in Zurich, and Sergeant Hans Kaiser (aged 22), of Burgdorf, were killed. The Observer of one of the machines made a parachute landing and received slight injuries. [A.T.S.]

Sergeant Louis Berney, aged 24, a student, living in Les Bioux, piloting a Vampire machine during a practice flight, crashed near Villeneuve, and was killed. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Hans von Schulthess Rechberg, in Zurich, at the age of 66.

The deceased studied engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. In 1913, he entered the banking concern Leu & Co., Zurich, of which he became Manager in 1920, and in 1929, a member of the Board. He was also President of the Board of the "Motor Columbus A.G." and the "A.G."

The following anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:—

Heinrich Endemann (80), Principal Manager of the "Luzerner Brauerei zum Eichhof, A.G." He reached the rank of Colonel of cavalry in the army and held the post of "Platzkommandant" of the town of Lucerne for many years.

Dr. Hermann Balsiger (75) from 1917-1941 a member, and for several years, President of the "Obergericht" of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

A number of mountaineering accidents have recently occurred.

A medical student of the University of Berne, Paul André Jacot, lost his way, whilst on an excursion near Evolène (Ct. Valais) and was found dead at the foot of a rock.

Paul Horber (aged 17), from Herisau, and Erich Tanner (aged 62), were killed when on an ascent to the Kreuzberg.

Two mountaineers, lost their lives when traversing a ridge between the Muveran and the Pitz Gabotz. The names of the victims, both members of the section Diablerets of the SAC, are: Armand Schnorf (aged 48) engineer of Lausanne and Emile Masson, typographer of Epalinges. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned Members of Parliament are not seeking re-election at the next Swiss Parliamentary elections which will take place shortly: von Roten (Liestal); F. Rusca Chiasso); Armand Droz (Estavayer) and Hans Sappeur (Zurich). A.T.S.

A piece of the Matterhorn weighing about 150lb. was shipped on board a Swiss airliner for transport to New York, where it is to be used as a decoration in the Swissair Company's offices. The stone, which is roughly the shape of the Matterhorn, was obtained by guides from Zermatt at a height of nearly 10,800ft., on the western ridge. It was brought down to Zermatt partly by means of ropes, partly on the backs of the guides, and partly by mules.

Slaughter subsidies granted by the Swiss Confederation to eliminate tuberculous cattle have been raised for lowland farmers from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the loss involved in slaughter. Highland farmers receive a 50 per cent. subsidy.

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery has written to the Swiss authorities at Gstaad asking that his ski

jumping cup next year be held on Sunday, February 17th.

He plans to visit Gstaad for winter sports.

The increase in international express goods traffic has resulted in an acute shortage of electric locomotives in Switzerland. The line between Chiasso and Basle is particularly hit and Swiss Federal Railways has been forced to reintroduce a number of steam locomotives, which now cover some 4,000 kilometres daily on electrified lines.

M. Jost Guyer, Wireless operator, of Swissair for the last twenty-two years, has flown, until now, three million kilometres.

In order to help cut the cost of winter sports holidays in Switzerland this year an association whose 40 members control 31 skilifts, 8 chairlifts, 5 sledge hoists, 5 combined ski-and chairlifts and one aerial cable-railway are this season issuing books of tickets which offer a considerable reduction in price.

Preparing for the winter sports season well in advance, Swiss transport organisations have issued a special fare list for a large number of mountain railways, aerial railways, chairlifts, skilifts and sledge hoists. Details can be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W.C.2, or any travel agent. Winter sports resorts in the six main regions — Western Switzerland, the Valais, the Bernese Oberland, Central Switzerland, North-east Switzerland (including Glarus) and the Grisons —

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* * *
 Art masterpieces from some of Europe's leading museums are on show at the All Saints' Museum, Schaffhausen, until October 28th. The exhibition, which opened in July, is a delight to art lovers, and contains works by Jan van Eyck, Altdorfer, Cranach, Memling, Dürer, Konrad Witz, Holbein, Brueghel, Fra Angelico, Mantegna, Titien, Raphael, Rogier van der Weyden and Botticelli. The paintings have been loaned by the Kaiser Friedrich Museum, Berlin, the "Mauritshuis", the Hague, the "Kunsthistorisches Museum", Vienna, and the Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan.

* * *
 More visitors than ever before have been visiting Switzerland's historic Castle of Chillon — famous throughout the English-speaking world as the scene of Lord Byron's poem "The Prisoner of Chillon". During August visitors totalled an average of a thousand a day. The Castle of Chillon is at Territet near Montreux, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October 26th, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: W. Kilchenmann, W. Flory, J. H. Speich, Anonymous, Miss E. F. Irvine, Mrs. F. Schreck.

**THE SWISS SEEN BY A SWISS . . .
 "KANTOENLIGEIST."**

To start off this short essay on a subject with which we are all very well acquainted, admittedly or not, I can think of nothing better than a short conversation I overheard one day in a tramcar of Switzerland's capital. A local trader, who was obviously a great admirer of our national hero of the wheel, said: "Gäll Du, der Küberler het ne wieder mal zeigt es d'Schwyzzer chöi". Replied his friend: "Goppel ja, de Färdischt halt en Zürcher!" This reply, which is by no means only typical of an inhabitant of the Canton of Zurich, seems to set the whole problem and to answer it at the same time.

"Kantönligeist," if an adequate description can be given at all, is a harmless and friendly competition between Cantons, an urge to shine in front of one's neighbour who has the misfortune to be born in another part of the country, and lastly the satisfaction of being a little different by either dialect, tradition or outlook. It is a never-ending source of amusement for the many and a cause of extreme annoyance to the few.

It may lead to heated arguments, but never does it result in public disorder or civil war. "Kantönligeist" is on no account to be taken seriously, for if it were, a "Bunter Abend" on Saturday night or a "Quart d'heur Vaudois" would be impossible to listen to without switching the programme off. Newspapers don't help matters, either. The majority of jokes contained in the space reserved for this purpose are sure to have some connection with the subject under discussion.

Talking of jokes, who doesn't know the little tale according to which a crocodile, sent as a gift from the Basel Zoo to the one in Zurich, died of anger and frustration within the hour of its delivery, having realized that the biggest mouth was no longer his. Well, it is quite obvious what the story is referring to, but do the people concerned mind? Not a bit! On the contrary, they hit back.

And what about the eternal state of war between the honorable cities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel, each trying to convince the others that the French spoken by its inhabitants is purest? Nobody feels in the least offended, one just nods, smiles, and keeps believing in one's own point of view.

All these examples are but an imperfect illustration of what "Kantönligeist" means and will always mean to the Swiss: it is a part of his national character without which he wouldn't prove a worthy son of Wilhelm Tell.

Helveticus.

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