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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur v. Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Petit-pierre, Foreign Minister, have received the following diplomats accredited to the Confederation who were presenting their credentials.

Monsieur Ake Henrik Gartz, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the republic of Finland. The newly appointed Minister was from 1944-1946 a member of the cabinet, where he held the post of Minister of Commerce; in 1950, he was appointed Foreign Minister.

Monsieur Pal Korbacsics, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the republic of Hungary.

Monsieur Stanislaw Trojanowski, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the republic of Poland. Monsieur Trojanowski was until recently a Secretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Education.

* * *

Monsieur Theodor Heuss, President of the Federal republic of Western Germany, has arrived at Locarno for a three weeks stay. He was greeted on his arrival by a delegation of the government of the canton of Ticino, headed by M. Lepori.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed M. Charles, Edouard Rosset to the post of Swiss Consul in Alexandria. M. Rosset was born in 1898 at Bougy-Villars (Ct. Vaud), he entered into the service of the Political Department in 1925. After a stay at the Swiss Legation in London he was transferred to the Swiss Consulate General in New York.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of September 1951 totalled 46.3 million francs, or 10.9 million francs less than in September, 1950.

The receipts for the first nine months of the current year are returned as 458.9 million francs, which exceeds by 38.9 million francs the receipts for the same period in 1950.

Cantonal

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London, Sir Denys Lawson and Lady Lawson, accompanied by the Sherriffs Messrs. Denis H. Truscott and C. J. Harman, the City Marshal, Colonel J. Hulme Taylor and the City Sword Bearer, Mr. William T. Boston, arrived in Zurich on the 5th of this month in a Swissair machine, making a three days return visit to the Mayor and Mayoress of Zurich, who were entertained at the Mansion House last summer.

On descending from the plane at Kloten, they were greeted by the Mayor of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt, "Stadtschreiber" Dr. W. Bosshard and Mr. Marrioth, British Consul General in Zurich.

A short reception was held at the office of the Mayor where town councillor Baumann, Vice-President of the Municipal Council of Zurich, welcomed the distinguished visitors; during the reception the town band gave a concert outside the town hall.

On the following morning the Lord Mayor and his party paid a visit to the "Zürcher Altstadt", dwelling houses, schools, hospitals and the "Hallenbad". In the afternoon, a Press conference was held at the town hall, followed in the evening by an official reception at the "Muraltengut" which was attended by a number of high officials of the Municipality of Zurich.

Dr. E. Landolt, in his welcoming address stressed the friendly relations which had always existed between London and Zurich which were based on historical events. As a *souvenir* of their stay in Zurich, he presented the English guests with illustrated books of the old town of Zurich.

The Lord Mayor, Sir Denys Lawson, in his address, expressed his pleasure and thanks for the warm reception he and his colleagues had received in Zurich; he too referred to the friendly relations, which had always existed not only between the two cities

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but also between the two countries. He mentioned the visit of one of his predecessors, Sir Frank Bowater, Lord Mayor of London in 1939, and the famous speech which Mr. Winston Churchill made in Zurich in 1946. He read out a message of greeting and congratulation from the City of London to the civic authorities of Zurich and its population.

On Sunday, the visitors made a trip over the Susten Pass, and in the evening they were the guests of the Swiss-Anglo Society in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The newly appointed Turkish Minister in Berne, Monsieur Yakab Kadri Karaosmanoglu, was the guest of honour at a dinner given by the "Société pour le développement des relations culturelle et économique entre la Turquie et la Suisse" in Zurich, which was attended by a number of prominent personalities. The Turkish diplomat mentioned that he had had the honour to represent his country in Berne from 1942-1949, and that his second appointment was at his own wish, after having been *en poste* in Teheran. He said in his speech: "Switzerland is the centre of European civilisation; in your country I have received my democratic education." [A.T.S.]

* * *

The heirs of the late Dr. h.c. Werner Reinhart of Winterthur have made a donation amounting to 3 million francs to the "Ryckenberg Stiftung" which was founded in 1949 by Dr. Reinhart, for the support of the orchestra and the school of music of the town of Winterthur. [A.T.S.]

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The "Konservatorium" Zurich has recently celebrated its 75th Jubilee, it was founded by Friedrich Hegar, and amongst its leaders were the following eminent Swiss composers and conductors: Karl Attenhöfer, Dr. Volkmar Andrea and Carl Vogler. The "Konservatorium" numbers at present 73 teachers and over 1,700 students. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Ulrich Camenisch, of Hinwil (Ct. Zurich), has left a legacy of 38,000.—frs. to the commune of Hinwil for the foundation of a home for elderly people. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The town of Thun (Ct. Berne) has honoured the Swiss composer, Dr. Othmar Schoeck, who recently celebrated his 65th birthday anniversary, by naming a square and a street after his name. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The OLMA (Ostschweizerische Messe für Land-und Milchwirtschaft) exhibition was opened on the 12th of this month at St. Gall in the presence of Federal-Councillor Rubattel. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. E. de Valera, Eire Prime Minister, arrived at St. Gall to attend the celebrations in honour of the 1,200th anniversary of the death of the Irish missionary who gave his name to the town and canton. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Joh. Anton Caflish (Liberal Democratic Party), has been elected Mayor of the town of Chur with 1,839 votes. His opponent, Dr. Wolf Seiler (Democratic Party), polled 1,694 votes. [A.T.S.]

The official day of the 18th "Fiera Svizzera" was held on Sunday, September 30th, in Lugano. Amongst the prominent personalities who attended were: Federal-Councillor, Dr. Kobelt, representing the Swiss Government, delegations of the Federal Supreme Court, Chambers of Commerce, the churches, the Grand Council, Foreign Consuls accredited to the government of the canton of Ticino, etc. etc.

Sig. Carlo Bernasconi, the President of the "Fiera" welcomed the guests, other speakers were M. Polli, Mayor of Lugano, G. Lepori, President of the Ticino government and Federal-Councillor, Dr. Kobelt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The firm of Brown-Boveri & Cie., in Baden, has made a donation amounting to 200,000.—frs. to the laboratory of the Polytechnical school of the University of Lausanne, for research work in the field of electro-technique. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The pension fund of the "Eglise Libre" of the canton of Vaud has received two Legacies amounting to 40,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Neuchâtel celebrated on Sunday, September 29th and 30th, its traditional Wine Festival (Winzerfest). A procession numbering over 1,000 people wended its way through the streets of the capital of the canton of Neuchâtel; over 56,000 spectators from all parts of Switzerland watched the procession. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Johannes Sommer, who died last autumn at Würenlos, (Ct. Aargau), has bequeathed the following

legacies: "Jugendfürsorge Verein" of the district of Baden: 13,000.—frs.; Aargauischen Fürsorgeverein für Taubstumme: 13,000.—frs.; Stiftung "Pro Infirmis": 13,000.—frs. and to playing fields for the commune of Würenlos: 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the "Kartonnagefabrik Cartofont A.G." at Buchs (Ct. Aargau), caused considerable damage [A.T.S.]

:o:—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Conrad Nägeli, a former "Stadtammann" of St. Gall, in St. Gall, at the age of 71.

The deceased was born at Rapperswil and on completion of his law studies practised as a lawyer, after

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which he held for four years the post as Editor of the "St. Galler Tagblatt". In 1911, he became a member of the Municipal Council of St. Gall to which he belonged until 1948, for 18 years (1930-1948) he held the post of "Stadtammann". For a number of years he was also a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall.

Emanuel Gyger, well-known photographer of mountain and flower subjects, in Adelboden, aged 65.

Charles Pilicier, the oldest lawyer in the canton of Vaud, in Yverdon, at the age of 89. The deceased was from 1916-1918, President of the cantonal Chamber of advocates.

Henry Chappaz, a former editor of the "Tribune de Lausanne" and for 28 years editor of the "Feuille d'Avis", in Lausanne, at the age of 55.

Canon Leone Boschetti, a former rector of the seminary Lugano, in Faido.

Arturo Salvioni, Publisher of the "Dovere" the official organ of the Liberal-radical party of the canton of Ticino, in Bellinzona.

Dr. phil. Emil Künzli, for nearly 50 years Professor of Geography at the "Kantonsschule" Solothurn, of which school he was Vice-Director from 1933-1941, in Solothurn at the age of 78.

Otto Landolt, a well-known landscape painter, and for many years a prominent member of the "Kunstgesellschaft" Lucerne, in Lucerne aged 63.

Pater Bonifaz Graf, at the cloister Einsiedeln, at the age of 83. The deceased was for many years Professor at the "Stiftsgymnasium" and afterwards a priest in Trachseln and Euthal; from 1930-1944, he was

"Spiritual" at the "Frauenkloster" Seedorf. He enjoyed a great reputation as a writer and composer of church music. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced from Switzerland:

M. Maurice Savoye (70), General Manager of the "Longines S.A.", he also celebrated at the same time his 50th service jubilee with this concern. M. Savoye was at one time Commander of the Infantry Brigade 12, and is a member of the Board of the Swiss National Bank.

M. Josef Frey (75) for thirty years, until his retirement in 1949, a member of the government of the canton of Lucerne.

M. Jakob Welti (80), a well-known portrait painter and friend of the late Ferdinand Hodler. He was one of the founders of the "Künstlervereinigung Zürich."

Dr. Albert Guhl (70), since 1909 a lawyer in Zurich, and for the last ten years a judge of the "Kassationsgericht" of the canton of Zurich. From 1926-1951 he sat in the "Zürcher Kantonsrat" over which he presided in 1943/44. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in Switzerland: Colonel and Mrs. A. Schmid-Herzog, of Zurich-Wollishofen; Prof., Dr. E. Feer-Sulzer and Mrs. Feer, of Zurich; Mr. & Mrs. Leutert-Schneebeli of Uetikon a. See.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Wenger-Moser, of Gasel near Köniz (Ct. Berne), have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary. [A.T.S.]

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Hugo Koblet won the international "Round the Vienna City Hall" race for professional cyclists. Cheered by more than 8,000 spectators Koblet finished the 120 rounds in 1h. 48 min. 21 sec. [A.T.S.]

The following traffic accidents have occurred in Switzerland during the month of September:

Ct. Thurgau: 66, one person killed, 47 injured.
Ct. Aargau: 155, 10 persons killed, 151 injured.
Ct. Berne: 504, 15 persons killed, 397 injured.
 [A.T.S.]

Two Swiss airmen, M. G. A. Zehr, Editor of the paper "Impartial" and M. Darmstedter, of Geneva, landed on the Dôme du Goûter, a spur of Mont Blanc (14,000 ft.) in a midget Piper Cub plane. On landing the machine nose-dived damaging the propeller, the airmen, however, escaped injuries. The feat had been successfully performed in 1921, by François Durafour, holder of a Swiss pilot's licence No. 3, who landed and took off there. [A.T.S.]

Swiss Church leaders are demanding that the Bible be exempted from purchase tax.

The Council of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches said it was protesting to the Federal Government against the Bible being treated as merchandise.

Lucerne branch of the Swiss Red Cross says the "Swiss Action for British War Wounded" has come to an end after giving 513 British war veterans four weeks of rest and care in Switzerland.

Already arrangements have been completed for the opening and for the racing season of the Cresta Run at St. Moritz. Unique in the world, dating back to 1884, to ride the Cresta demands perfection of nerve and body and ranks as a thrill with the Grand National.

Only the devotion of men whose names are closely associated with it — and will be as long as it exists — made reopening of it after the war possible. Under the presidency of Lord Brabazon of Tara, the committee, as strong as that in any sport, set about the job and, with the close collaboration of the Swiss authorities, the famous run is now flourishing once more. The Cresta will be open from "Stream" on December 21st, and from "Junction" on January 5th, and the Curzon Cup will be held at the end of the season in mid-February.

But expenses have increased enormously. By comparison with pre-war days they are double. The main

source of income is the annual Cresta Ball, to be held this year at the Dorchester on Wednesday, December 19th, when it is expected that sportsmen from the whole world will attend, for the Cresta, with its tradition, demands no passport and knows of no frontiers. It has one requisite only — fine sportsmanship.

Switzerland proposes to spend more than £8 million on light tanks from France.

COMMUNIQUE
From Swiss Legation
 re
Swiss interests in Rumania.

An agreement was concluded in December, 1950, providing for compensation to Swiss owners of assets in Rumania which had been nationalized or confiscated. It now appears that a similar arrangement is indicated in respect of Swiss-owned property that is *not nationalized*. A sale of such property is in present circumstances practically impossible; it yields, moreover, only a modest revenue, which is not even sufficient to cover maintenance costs. The Swiss authorities are, therefore, endeavouring to find a solution with the Rumanian Government for the disposal of this property.

Swiss nationals in the United Kingdom, *who have not yet informed* the Swiss authorities of their ground properties in Rumania, are, therefore, invited to send, by the 30th October, 1951, to the Swiss Legation in London, 18, Montagu Place, W.1, any details that may help to specify these properties, in particular:

1. Name, address, date of birth, nationality (state if dual national and, in the case of Swiss nationality having been acquired, state when acquired and previous nationality).
2. Location and kind of ground properties; state of the buildings; acquisition documents and date of purchase; annual income from rents, etc.; purchase price; sale price in 1939 and 1944, with attached certificate of Land Register; legalized purchasing contract; inheritance certificate; if possible number of the judicial registration; insurance policy; rates certificates; rents receipts; etc.

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