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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Félix Ansermoz to the post of Social Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, in succession to Monsieur P. Clottu, Social Counsellor, who is taking up a post at the Federal Political Department in Berne.

Monsieur Ansermoz was born in 1905 in Bursins (Ct. Vaud) and is a citizen of Yverne and Aigle. He studied at the Universities of Lausanne, London and New York and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1946.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried during the month of June, 1952, 18.23 million passengers or 2,311,000 more than in June, 1951. The receipts are returned as 27.34 million francs. (June 1951: 23.28 million francs.)

Goods traffic reached 1.68 million tons or 129,000 tons less than in June 1951. Receipts: 29.38 million francs which is 1.58 million francs less than during the same period in the previous year.

Cantonal

A motor car carrying six people left the road on the Furka near the Hotel Galenstock and overturned. Five of the passengers, all students from Germany were killed, whilst the driver, also a German national received only minor injuries. An investigation undertaken by the authorities showed that the brakes did not function properly. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The paper "Luzerner Landbote" published in Sursee has celebrated its 75th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three young men, aged 20, 18 and 17 respectively, who broke into the munition depôts at Kloten and Bulach stealing a number of revolvers and hand grenades, were arrested near Lucerne. They had planned a raid on the branch offices of the "Volksbank" at the Helvetia Platz and the "Kantonalbank" in Wollishofen. [A.T.S.]

M. Auguste Viatte (Porrentruy) born in 1901, has been appointed Professor of French literature at the Federal Institution of Technology (ETH) Zurich in succession to Professor Ch. Clerc who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two persons were killed in Zurich when a woman cyclist collided with a motorist. The names of the victims are: Mrs. Ida Waldburger (Teufen) and Jean Bucher, a bank clerk, living at Küsnacht. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Arthur Alder, Professor of Insurance law at the University of Berne has been appointed rector of the University for the years 1952/53.

Dr. Max Welten (Saanen) is succeeding Dr. W. Rytz, as Professor of Systematic Botany at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three persons lost their lives on the Guggigletscher, (Bernese Oberland), the names of the dead are: J. Pargätzi (aged 38) alpine guide of St. Peter (Ct. Grisons); Mme. H. Gregor (aged 41) of Vienna and Joh. Gruber of Steiermark (Austria). The guide, Jakob Pargätzi was a member of the 1950 Himalaya expedition. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Louis Comtes, Professor of law at the University of Fribourg for the last 30 years has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Robert Dossenbach, member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg has left various legacies to charitable institutions amounting to 80,000—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. E. Feusi-Drittenbass, who recently died at St. Gall has left an amount of 44,000.—frs. to a number

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of charitable institutions. The late Mr. J. Schiesser (Jona) has bequeathed the sum of 58,000.—frs. to the communes of Rapperswil and Jona. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Thurgau for the year 1951 close with a credit balance of 109,400.—frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Gustav Reymond, President of the commune Villeneuve (Ct. Vaud) was drowned at Royan where he had been spending a holiday with his family. He was 58 years old and by profession a consulting engineer. He is succeeded by M. Henry Reymond who had previously occupied this post from 1941-1947. [A.T.S.]

Canon Martin Henry has been elected "Kloster-prior" and vicar general of the diocese of St. Maurice (Ct. Valais) in succession to Canon Paul Fleury. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of a Tourist Agency in the Rue Montblanc, Geneva. They rifled a safe containing an amount of over 10,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned deaths are announced in Switzerland:

Dr. Peter Bürki, in Lucerne at the age of 70. He founded in 1924, the firm of "Bürki & Co. A. G., Schweiz. Schachtelkäse" of which he was President of the Board until his death. Holding the rank of Cavalry Colonel he was from 1936-1946 "Platzkommandant" of the town of Lucerne.

Professor Emanuel von der Pahlen, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Basle, at the age of 70.

Rudolf Rosenthal-Bielser, President of the Board of the "City Cinema A. G." Basle and a pioneer of the Film Industry in Basle, at the age of 69.

Armand Renner, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel and a member of the editorial staff of the paper "Sentinelle", in La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 69.

Marie La Roche, well-known flower painter and a former pupil of Hans Thoma, in Basle, at the age of 82.

Dominik Kenel-Mettler, for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz of which he was elected this year its Vice-President, in Schwyz, aged 55.

Louis Buèche, a St. Imier architect and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne over which he presided at one time and also Vice-President of the committee "Pro Jura", in Berne, at the age of 72.

Jakob Gschwend, for 15 years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Zurich and from 1922-1942 "Stadtrat". He was for 35 years a member of the "Zürcher Kantonsrat" over which he presided in 1931-32. For a number of years the deceased occupied the post of President of the Swiss Socialist party. He had reached the age of 70.

Eugen Püntener, sculptor and wood carver, in Altdorf, aged 48.

Jules Laurent, a former "Zollkreisdirektor", in Lausanne at the age of 75. [A.T.S.]

The following birthday anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Heinrich Wolfer (70) Vice-President of the Board of "Gebrüder Sulzer, A. G." Winterthur. He was born in Thalwil (Ct. Zürich) and on leaving the "Zürcher Gymnasium" studied law at various

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Universities. He received his doctorate at the University of Leipzig. After occupying various posts at the District Court, Winterthur, Dr. Wolfer entered the service of "Gebrüder Sulzer" in 1910. Four years later (1914) he received a manager's appointment and in 1920, was made a member of the Board. From 1939-1946, he held the post of President of the "Vereins Schweizerischer Maschinenindustrieller".

M. Maurice Paschoud (70) formerly Professor at the University of Lausanne, a member of Parliament (National Council) and of the government of the canton of Vaud. General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel. (M. Paschoud is a brother of the late Marius Paschoud, at one time President of the Swiss Mercantile Society.)

Dr. h.c. Felix Möschlin (70) eminent writer living in Basle.

Dr. Fritz Marbach (60) Professor of National Economy at the University of Berne.

Dr. Wilhelm Wartmann (70). In 1909, he was appointed Secretary of the "Kunsthaus" Zurich and later on acted as Conservator. He was elected Director in 1925 and for many years was Editor of the "Schweizerischen Künstlerlexikon." [A.T.S.]

In the July issue of the paper "Die Alpen", organ of the Swiss Alpine Club, statistics are given of alpine accidents from May, 1st, 1951 to April 30th, 1952.

According to the figures given, 56 accidents occurred resulting in the loss of life of 68 persons. [A.T.S.]

The next Federal Shooting Festival will be held at Lausanne from the 8th to the 25th of July, 1954.

[A.T.S.]

The housing shortage has disappeared and there is now a housing surplus of 8,000 houses in Switzerland as a result of last year's Building boom.

The Nepalese Government has granted permission to the Swiss to make a second attempt on Mount Everest.

The motor vessel *Berna*, 19,000 tons, was recently launched at Monfalcone, near Trieste. It will be the largest Swiss owned ship.

Experimental television in Basle has been discontinued through lack of public interest, the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation announced.

New tanks will in any future war enable the Swiss army to defend territory north of the alps, which has previously been regarded as indefensible, said Dr. K. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation. AP.

The National Fair of Lausanne, or "Comptoir Suisse", the traditional event of the commercial life of the country will this year be held from September 13th-28th. The Agricultural Section will give a complete picture of Swiss agriculture, from cultivation to cattle-breeding, from technical and mechanical equipment to the produce of farms. The Industrial Section comprises halls for building, agricultural machines, wood and metal working machines, printing presses, machine-tools, measuring and precision instruments, for textile industry, gas and electricity

apparatus, food, office and household equipment. There will also be a section for graphic art, the leather and footwear industry, furniture, jewelry and glass-ware, fashion, commerce and tourisme.

A concert of British music will open the International Congress of Sacred Music which is being held at Berne, from August 30th to September 4th. The opening concert will be given by the "Golden Age Singers", and it will be followed by a fine programme of spiritual concerts. During the Congress there will be meetings addressed by teachers from Britain, Holland, Finland, Germany, France and Switzerland.

A new chairlift reaching right into the heart of the Alps has been inaugurated at Champex, the well-known resort in the Canton of Valais. In 20 minutes the chairlift takes passengers to a height of more than 7,200 ft. to the mouth of the great Trient Glacier, near to the 8,800 ft. Orny Hut and the Mont-Blanc Massif. From Martigny (on the international Simplon line) Champex, 4,920 ft. above the sea, is easily reached as far as Orsières by train and postal coach beyond.

Intense heat in the Alps burst two water pockets in the Ferpècle glacier, at the foot of the Dent Blanche. The mass of water shooting out from the glacier carried blocks of ice, trees, and rocks headlong down the valley for 18 miles, causing much damage on the banks of the Borgne torrent as far as the junction with the river Rhone, the level of which was raised 2ft. Part of the hamlet of Les Haudères was invaded by a stream of mud and a garage was destroyed. Under the village of Evolène the flood swept away a bridge and sawmill.

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