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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The 1st of August, the Swiss National Day, was celebrated throughout Switzerland, with processions, patriotic addresses and fireworks.

Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, gave a patriotic address over the Radio.

An impressive service was held on the Rütli, the birth place of our country.

The newly appointed Japanese Minister, Monsieur Tôru Hagivara, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways has carried 15.63 million passengers during the month of June, 1955, or 769,000 less than in June, 1954. Receipts: 25.96 million francs. (June, 1954: 27.24 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 2,000,000 tons, or 145,000 tons more than in June, 1954. Receipts: 35.62 million francs. (June, 1954: 34.69 million frs.)

The Federal Council has promoted Mr. Oscar Schneider, Swiss Consul at Manchester, to the rank of Consul General, transferring him at the same time to Chicago (U.S.A.), in succession to Mr. Wilhelm Schilling, who is taking over an appointment at the Federal Political Department in Berne.

Mr. Schneider was born in 1898 in Gossau and is a citizen of Murg-Quarten (Ct. St. Gall). He received his education at the "Verkehrsschule", St. Gall, and in 1916 entered into the service of the Federal Postal Administration. Nine years later (1925) he was transferred to the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office), and in succession occupied posts in Paris, London, Dublin and Danzig, returning to Berne in 1940. On August 31st, 1945, Mr. Schneider was put in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Manila, and in May 6th, 1951, took over the post of Swiss Consul in Manchester.

Mr. Max Büchi has been nominated Swiss Consul in Manchester, in succession to Mr. Oscar Schneider.

The new Consul is a citizen of Ettenhausen (Ct. Thurgau), and was born in 1901 at St. Gall. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1928. After having been attached to the Swiss Consul at Besançon for two years, he was transferred in 1948 to Cape Town with the rank of Consul, and afterwards was in charge of the Consular Agencies in Tananarive and Manila.

* * *

The Federal Council has bestowed the title of Consul General, on Mr. Henri Voirier, Consul at Besançon.

Cantonal

Three of a party of six mountaineers were killed on an ascent to the Morgenhorn in the Blüemlisalp group. The names of the victims are: Rudolf Hänggi (30), Marcel of the victims are: Rudolf Hänggi (30), Marcel Knuchel (36) and Emil Bertschin (37) all of Basle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Louis Magnin, President of the District Court Glâne, has been elected Prefect of Romont, in succession to the late Paul Bondallaz. The new Prefect was born in 1898. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A fire which broke out at the Hotel Eng in Morât (Ct. Fribourg) caused damage amounting to over 500,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

"Landammann" Jakob Bruderer of Teufen (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.) will not be a candidate for the next

CITY SWISS CLUB

We have pleasure to announce that on **Tuesday, 13th September, 1955**, an after-dinner talk will be given at the **Dorchester Hotel** by Mr. P. A. Macrory on the activities of the world-wide organisation of Messrs. Unilever Ltd. This will be followed by a film entitled "A Story of Achievement".

6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.

The Committee.

Parliamentary elections. He has been a member of the National Council since 1951 [A.T.S.]

* * *

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Aargau, Mme. Lina Rykart-Rueder, has died at Rothrist, at the age of 102. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Winegrowers Festival (Fête des Vignerons) opened at Vevey at the beginning of this month, in the presence of a crowd of 15,000, the President of the Swiss Confederation, Monsieur Max Petitpierre, and Sir Lionel Lamb, the British Ambassador.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The President of the International Red Cross, Dr. Paul Ruegger, has received the Indian Ambassador, Monsieur Mohan Sinha Mehta, in special audience. The 19th International Conference of the Red Cross will be held next year in New Delhi.

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Karl Liechtenhan, for over thirty years a teacher of chemistry at the "Kantonsschule" Solothurn, in Solothurn, at the age of 72.

Dr. Jules Coulin, art historian and founder of the "Kunsthandlung" Pro Arte, Basle, in Basle, aged 74.

Edmund Gmür, Priest at St. Marien, Olten, in Olten, at the age of 46.

Sam Mori, General Manager of the "Pharmacie Principale", Geneva, in Geneva, aged 70.

Mme. F. Ilg-Gattiker, the widow of Mr. Alfred Ilg, who was for many years in the service of the Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia, in Zurich, at the age of 93.

Daniel Charpillot, industrialist, in Bévillard, aged 62.

Emil Zeller, from 1925-1944, President of the commune of Porrentruy, in Porrentruy, at the age of 80.

Georg Reinhart, senior-partner in the well-known firm "Gebrüder Volkart", Winterthur, in Winterthur, aged 77.

Professor Maurice Neeser, President of the "Institut Neuchâtelois", and "Privat-Dozent" at the University of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 72.

Theodor Gottlieb Kölliker, civil-engineer, and head of the firm "Baumann, Kölliker, A.G.", Zurich, in Zurich, aged 84. In the army, he held the rank at one time of Colonel (Gotthard Fortress).

Dr. Fritz Sturzenegger, from 1907 to 1935, a member of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen at the age of 85.

Dr. h. c. Paul Jaberg, formerly President of the Board of the "Schweiz. Bankgesellschaft" aged 77. The deceased was born in 1878 at Langenthal. He studied at the Universities of Zurich and Frankfurt a.M. In 1905 he entered the then Bank of Winterthur of which he became Manager of their office in Zurich in 1910. In 1917, he was appointed General Manager of the "Schweiz. Bankgesellschaft" and in 1937, President of the Board. The University of Lausanne honoured him with the title of *doctor honoris causa*.

[A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor, Dr. Bernhard Peyer (70) of Zurich, Director of the Zoological Museum, Zurich, and Professor of Palaeology at the University, Zurich. He is the author of many scientific works.

Jakob Gysin (80) of Basle, for twenty years rector of the "Mädchenprimar-und Sekundarschule", Basle, and the schools of Riehen and Bettingen, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town.

Hermann Hubacher (70) of Zurich, well-known sculptor. In 1938, he was awarded the Prize of the "Biennale Venice", and in 1944 he received the Art Prize of the town of Zurich. Hubacher is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich.

National-Councillor, Walter Bringolf (60) of Schaffhausen, since 1932, Mayor of the town of Schaffhausen; he has been since 1952, President of the Swiss Socialist Party.

Dr. med. Werner Biber (70) of Zurich. The "Jubilar" was born in Wiesendangen and studied medicine at the University of Zurich. Since 1931, he has been President of the "Genossenschaft Krankenpflege", Zurich.

In 1931, he was elected President of the "Aerztegesellschaft" of the canton Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES.

The late Mme. Ida Pochon of Romont has left an amount of 36,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. Amongst the beneficiaries are: the poor of the commune Domicier (Broye) 10,000.—frs., the poor of the commune of Romont, 5,000.—frs., and 5,000.—frs. for the orphanage of the commune of Romont.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Heyne-Wyss of Degersheim (Toggenburg), Mr. and Mrs. E. Aeberli-Glättli of Affoltern a. A. [A.T.S.]

Presents galore have been offered to Sir Anthony and Lady Eden in Geneva.

But the Prime Minister has refused most of them. One gift which he has accepted is a big silver wine pitcher holding 3½ litres.

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The pitcher has a lid on which is engraved a dove of peace. Twelve silver cups go with it.

There is an inscription on it reading: "To Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister, as a souvenir of the conference of peace of Governments of the United Kingdom, France, the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., held in Geneva, July 1955".

Another present which Sir Anthony and Lady Eden have accepted is a round box about a foot across, containing portions of various kinds of Swiss cheese.

President Eisenhower has taken advantage of his visit to Geneva to send his Swiss watch to be adjusted and cleaned.

It is an extraordinary watch. It is valued at about £1,400 and it tells the time, the day, the date, the month, and the position of the moon.

It was given to President Eisenhower by the widow of an American millionaire. The first owner had it specially made in Switzerland in 1930.

* * *

An uncommon feat was accomplished by a well-known Swiss climber, Mr. Jakob Schaer, a former bank manager, who is aged 86. He ascended the Mittaghorn, 10,329ft., above Saas Fee with his son, aged 50, and grandson, aged 11. One part of the ascent involves a rock climb of minor difficulty.

* * *

Petrol was reduced between 1d and 2d a gallon in Switzerland. It now ranges from 3s 8d to 3s 11d according to district. High octane costs 4s 3d.

The Gutenberg Museum in Berne has published a special edition of its review describing the printing

press invented by the Swiss typecaster Wilhelm Haas of Basle in 1772. This was the first press using metal, while hitherto all presses had consisted entirely of wood. The review also includes a complete facsimile of a pamphlet by Haas, published in 1790 on the new printing press and colour printing. The booklet will be of major interest to students of the history of printing.

* * *

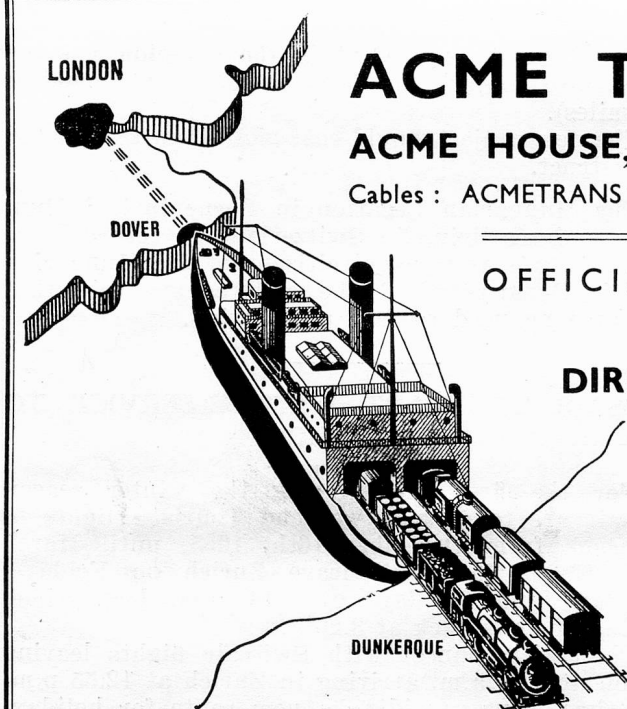
The 54,000 adult women living in Zurich will be asked to answer the question: "Do you want the right to vote?" Women do not vote in Switzerland, and all efforts to give them the rights have failed in all-male referendums, for most of the men argue that the women do not want to vote. Now the women have been given a questionnaire in the hope that the question will be settled.

* * *

The 36th Comptoir Suisse (National Fair) at Lausanne, September 10th-25th, 1955, promises a wealth of varied and interesting exhibits.

Twenty-two individual groups, among them the Official Argentine Pavilion, a total surface area of some 1,200,000 sq. ft., a display of the uses of radar in the Swiss Army, and a national dog show are some of the features of the Lausanne Fair, which will open its gates on September 10th, 1955. The importance of this National Fair to exhibitors is such that the management has reluctantly been compelled for lack of space to turn down applications from more than a hundred exhibitors.

A special pavilion will be devoted to cybernetics and remote control. In it universally known scien-



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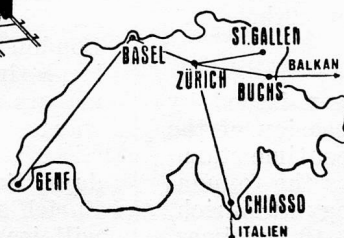
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tists will display the inventions which have made them famous: the electronic animals of Albert Ducrocq, the analogical computer "Djinn", of which French science may rightly be proud, the remote-controlled boats of Charles Pepin, the famous "Sabor" of the Basle engineer, Peter Steur, etc., etc.

The era of automatism, robots and electronic brains is a reality. In modern factories electronics are acquiring an ever growing importance and are playing a role in society which deserves careful examination. As technology is placing at man's disposal servo-mechanisms and electronic brains which take over and replace the functions of the human brain, does this mean that we are at the dawn of the most extraordinary intellectual revolution that can be imagined? The world already possesses more than 200 large computing machines, each of which represents the power of 600,000 human computers — machines capable of performing all scientific, commercial or logical work... There are remote-controlled devices, remote-controlled means of transport, and there is also a machine capable of creating an artificial imagination.

An exceptionally complete scientific documentation will also therefore be on view at the Fair which, in addition, assembles each year the products of close on 2,300 exhibitors from all parts of Switzerland. Representing the essential activities of the country, this vast, authentic and effective exhibition and Fair is the most important economic manifestation in Switzerland in autumn.

A Gift from Churchill the Painter.

Sir Winston Churchill recently gave one of the pictures he painted during the last few years to his paint supplier, Willy Sax, at Urdorf, a small village in the Canton of Zurich.

Exhibition of French Art at Vevey: Maurice Utrillo and his friends.

Continuing its promotion of modern art, the Painting Committee of "Arts et Lettres" has organised this year a retrospective exhibition of the work of Maurice Utrillo, the French painter (born 1883), at the Vevey Museum. About sixty canvasses — selected from all periods of the painter's life — give an excellent survey of the career of one of our modern masters. Together with Utrillo's work, are also presented paintings by his mother, Suzanne Valadon, by his young step-father, André Utter, and his faithful friend and companion, Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920); the Exhibition thus gives an excellent idea of the work and life of this group known in French painting as "La Trinité maudite"; and also the Montmartre of 1910 — the Montmartre of the "Lapin Agile" and the "Belle Gabrielle", of the now legendary Mimi Pinson and Père Frede, Trilby and Svengali — lives again. The Exhibition will be open until September 30th.

Philately.

A set of five special stamps has been issued by the Swiss General Post Office on the occasion of the 1955 National Day (August 1st). The 5-centime stamp (plus 5-centime surcharge) commemorates the foundation of the Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich. The four other stamps (10, 20, 30 and 40 centimes, each with 10-centime surcharge) continue the series

"Lakes and Watercourses" started in 1952. The 10-centime stamp illustrates the River Sarine and the Perolles Bridge at Fribourg; the 20-centime stamp shows the north shore of Lake Aegeri seen from Morgarten (site of a great historical battle); the 30-centime stamp illustrates the Graepelensee, a small mountain lake in one of the valleys in the Toggenburg district; lastly, the 40-centime stamp pictures Lake Bienne and the famous Ile St. Pierre, where Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the 18th century writer, found a haven. Surcharges from the sale of this set will go to the Aid to Mountain Populations Fund and to the Swiss Institute for the study of Art.

B.B.C. News in Swiss Hotels.

The news "Home news from Britain" broadcast by the B.B.C. can now be heard daily from 19.00 to 19.15 on Channel 3 of the Swiss Rediffusion Service. British holiday guests in Switzerland will appreciate this service, which will keep them informed of recent events at home.

Calderon in the Square outside Einsiedeln Church.

Einsiedeln, known to thousands of pilgrims who come each year from all over the world to pray to its famous Black Virgin, has just revived an old theatrical tradition. Every Wednesday and Saturday evening, until September 24th, the "Great Theatre of the World", by Don Pedro Calderon de la Barca is performed in the square before the church. Played by 700 actors drawn from the local population, and produced by Oscar Eberle in the manner of the mediaeval Mysteries.

Plans have been completed for a 45-kilometre (28 miles) road and rail tunnel beneath the Swiss Alps, which would be the longest in the world.

The longest at present is the Simplon railway tunnel, also beneath the Swiss Alps — 20 kilometres (12½ miles).

The new project would cost more than £88,000,000 to construct.

The Hungarian Legation in Berne invited Hungarian emigrés living in Switzerland to return home for a new life as "useful citizens of the Hungarian People's Democracy". The emigrés are told that they have no need to fear prosecution.

SWISSAIR TO START WINTER SERVICE TO INNSBRUCK.

For the first time during the winter season Swissair are to operate weekend Tourist Flights to Innsbruck from December 16th, 1955, until March 18th, 1956. They will leave Zurich on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2.10 p.m. local time, arriving at Innsbruck at 3.20 p.m.

They will connect with Swissair flights leaving London at 9.30 a.m. arriving in Zurich at 12.55 p.m. local time, thus providing a new route for holiday-makers going from this country to Austria for winter sports.

The return flights will leave Innsbruck on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays at 1.30 p.m. arriving in Zurich at 2.45 p.m. The connecting flight for London will leave Zurich at 3.30 p.m. local time arriving in London at 5.05 p.m.