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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Former Federal Councillor Rudolf Minger died in a clinic at Berne on August 23rd after a long illness. He

was 74.

As a member of the Swiss Federal Council in charge of the military department for a decade before the Second World War, and as president in 1935, Minger was responsible for moulding the Swiss militia into a well equipped and efficient fighting force. Sceptical about the outcome of disarmament programmes in the 1930s he succeeded in winning over public opinion in his country, and particularly working-class opinion, to an appreciation of the necessity of taking effective measures for self defence. He secured supplies of money and equipment for the militia, and having provided the means of protecting Switzerland's frontiers, which was not to be underrated by its neighbours, he retired from public life soon after the outbreak of the last war.

Minger was the son of a farmer and was born near Berne in 1881. He was closely associated with the agricultural cooperative movement and the Swiss Peasants' Union. A member of Parliament since 1919, he was elected a grand councillor of the Berne canton, and then, in 1929, a federal councillor, and placed in charge of the military department. On his retirement in 1940 he returned to farming, though he continued to act behind the scenes and occasionally to smooth relations between the army command and the Federal Government.

Minger was an eloquent and witty speaker, and enjoyed wide popularity among all classes and in all parts of Switzerland.

Customs receipts for the month of July, 1955, amounted to 71.7 million francs or 4.5 million francs more than during July, 1954.

Receipts for the first seven months of the current year amounted to 335.6 million francs which is 39.6 million francs more than during the same period in 1954.

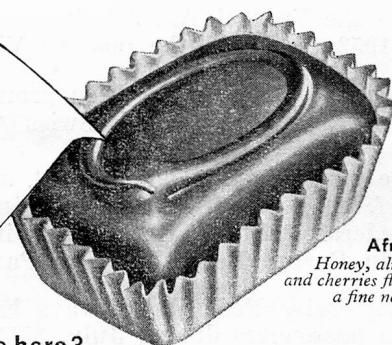
At its recent session the Federal Government examined the question of the proposed participation of Switzerland in a neutral commission entrusted with the task of supervising the elections in the Sudan. It finally approved the point of view of Mr. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, who considers that Switzerland has no reason for not accepting membership in the commission.

Switzerland had a surplus of 42.4 million francs with the E.P.U. in August, compared with a deficit of 139 million francs in July.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Pierre Aubaret, to the post of Swiss Consul General in Wellington (New Zealand) in succession to Consul Blanchard.

Consul General Aubaret was born in 1913 at Geneva. After having studied law at the University of Geneva, in 1940 he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in Berne. Three

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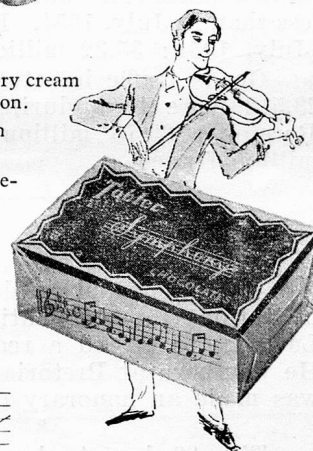
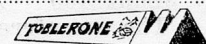
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years later (1944) he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in London, where in 1947, he was promoted to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation. The following year he was sent to New Delhi, returning to Berne in 1951, where he joined the Commercial Division at the Federal Economic Department. In 1952, M. Aubaret was promoted to 1st section chief. (M. Aubaret took during his four years stay at the London Legation a great interest in the Colony, and we extend our heartiest congratulations to him on his well merited promotion, wishing him the best of success.)

In view of the approaching Parliamentary elections, the following Members of Parliament will not contest their seats: Mr. Erwin Triebold (Mumpf) since 1947, a member of the National Council (Liberal); Peter Flisch (Walzenhausen) since 1932, a member of the National Council (Socialist); Dr. W. Egger (Berne) since 1951 a member of the National Council (Liberal); Paul Kunz (Berne), since 1947 a member of the National Council (Liberal); Hans Stähli (Berne), since 1919, a member of the National Council (Peasant and Bourgeois Party) Dr. h.c. Armin Meili (Zurich), since 1939, a member of the National Council (Liberal); Mr. Clausen (Brigue) a member of the States Council (Conservative).

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. jur. Pierre Grossheintz to the post of Director of the Federal Tax Administration, in succession to Dr. Ernst Wyss, who is relinquishing his post for reasons of health.

Dr. Grossheintz was born at Basle in 1906. He studied *juris prudencia* at the University of Basle, where he received the degree of doctor of law. He entered the Federal Tax Administration in 1939, and since 1953, has held the post of Vice-Director.

Edouard Brügger has been promoted to the rank of Consul, and appointed Swiss Consul at Accra (Gold Coast).

He was born in Basle in 1916, and is a citizen of Lostorf, near Olten. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1942, and held posts in Berlin, Berne and Sao Paulo.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.59 million passengers during July, 1955, or 1.15 million less than in July, 1954. Receipts: 33.02 million francs (July, 1954: 35.32 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.98 million tons, or 23,512 more than during the same period in 1954. Receipts: 39.78 million francs (July, 1954: 36.92 million francs).

Cantonal

Dr. Max Theiler, who was awarded in 1951, the Nobel Prize for medicine, and resides in New York, received an invitation from his native commune Hasle (Canton Lucerne) to attend a reception given in his honour. He was born at Pretoria (South Africa), and in 1951 was made an honorary citizen of Hasle. [A.T.S.]

The 33rd "Auslandschweizertag" which took place in Zurich on August 20th and 21st was attended by about 400 "Auslandschweizer".

The conference was opened by Professor

Zschokke (Basle). Amongst the various speakers who attended the different meetings were: Federal-Councillor Lepori, Dr. K. Schmid, rector of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, Dr. G. Schürch, Berne, and M. N. Jaccard of the Federal Political Department. [A.T.S.]

The Philosophical Faculty of the University of Zurich has conferred the degree of doctor of Philosophy on Mr. Heinrich Krebs-Krauer of Wald (Canton Zurich). [A.T.S.]

Traffic accidents from 1st of January to July 31st, 1955, in the canton of Zurich, numbered 5,459 (1954: 5242). 2,363 persons were injured of whom 66 (1954: 59) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

Fritz Steuri (52), mountain guide and skiing instructor of Grindelwald, who ascended the "Grünhorn" in the Finsteraar district with two tourists, met with an accident and all lost their lives. The names of the victims are Dr. Füss and his wife. Steuri was a married man with four children.

[A.T.S.]

In July, 1955, 655 road accidents were reported from the canton of Berne, 537 persons were injured of whom 18 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mme Irma Deviras of Courgenay has celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Grindelwald guide Peter Schlunegger, recently keeper of the Glectstein hut, was leading two German climbers up the Kleine Schreckhorn (11,473 ft.) when the party slipped on

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ice covered rocks, and fell 1,500 ft. into a crevasse. The guide and one German were killed outright, while the other, though seriously injured, managed to reach the Finsteraarhorn hit. [A.T.S.]

Flight sergeant-major Gerhard Bünter (25) of Dallenwil (Ct. Nidwalden) was killed when his Vampire machine crashed near Tavers (Ct. Fribourg). [A.T.S.]

According to figures just published by the Federal Statistical Buro in Berne, the population of the canton Appenzell A.Rh., on December 1st, 1950, numbered 47,938 inhabitants (22,835 males, and 25,103 females). Herisau: 13,407 inhabitants, Urnäsch: 2,579, Teufen: 4,318, Speicher: 2,576, Gais: 2,422, Trogen: 2,142, Heiden: 3,094, Walzenhausen: 2,507, and Wolfhalden: 2, 184.

Canton Appenzell, I.Rh. 13,427 inhabitants (6,586 males and 6,841 females). Appenzell: 5,001 inhabitants, Oberegg: 2,197, and Rüti: 2,028. [A.T.S.]

Professor Josef Zuber of Dussnang (Ct. Thurgau) has celebrated his 60th anniversary as a priest. He was Director of the "Erziehungsheim", Walterswil near Baar, and afterwards a teacher in Heiligkreuz. [A.T.S.]

The 36th Comptoir Suisse in Lausanne has been officially opened on the 10th of this month. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Blanche Roux-Tesseire of Bois-Bougy, nr. Nyon, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

Two alpinists, Ulrich Matter, civil-engineer of Wohlen (Ct. Aargau) and Stanislaus Kalbermatten, alpine guide, were killed on an ascent to the Rimpfischhorn. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Henri Bersot (59) of Le Landeron (Ct. Neuchâtel) was killed on the Col des Bouquetins. [A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Geneva on July 31st, 1955, numbered 220,823. [A.T.S.]

A postal packet containing 149,000.—frs. in bank notes disappeared at the General Post Office in Geneva. Investigations have shown that the packet had been stolen by an employee of the Post Office, who in the meantime has disappeared. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

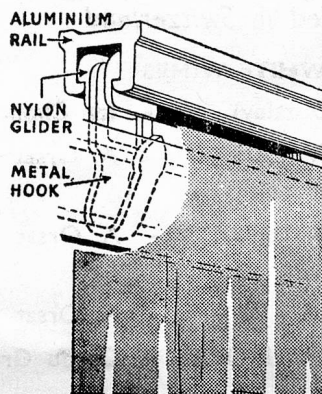
The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Otto F. König, member of the Board of the firm "Gerber & Co. A-G.", Thun, box cheese manufacturers, President of the "Verband Schweizerischer Schachtelkäse Fabrikanten", in Thun at the age of 70.

Dr. Pater Augustin Altermatt, rector of the Benedictine College Borromäus, Altdorf, aged 52.

Jean Duseiller, President of the Wine Growers Association "La Souche", and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 68.

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Andreas Gredig, proprietor of the "Flüela Sports Hotels", Davos-Dorf, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Davos, aged 63.

Professor, Dr. August Hagenbach, at one time Professor of Physics, and from 1906-1942, head of the Physical Institute of the University of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 84.

Paul Itin-Caffish, President of the commune of Trins, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Chur, aged 62.

Dr. Hans Büchler, since 1943 head surgeon of the Tiefenau hospital, Berne, and for many years President of the Association of medical practitioners of the canton of Berne, in Berne, aged 51.

Dr. Jean Morin, for many years head physician of the "Volksanatorium" Leysin, and "Privatdozent" at the University of Lausanne, in Colombier, at the age of 65.

Fritz Geiser, Head of the "Plachen-und Storenfabrik Geiser & Co. A.G." Emmenau, in Hasle-Rüegsau, aged 74. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Franz Heinemann (85) of Lucerne, from 1920-1945 Chief Editor of the "Luzerner Neuesten Nachrichten", and "Privatdozent für Kulturgeschichte" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and an honorary citizen of the town of Lucerne.

Professor Ludwig Deutsch (80) of Chur, from 1915-1940, a teacher of music at the "Bündner Kantonschule".

Albert Keller (70) of Reute (Appenzell A.Rh.) Embroidery manufacturer, and from 1935-1951, a Member of the National Council, he also sat for many years in the "Kantonsrat".

Professor, Dr. med Alfred Gysi (90) of Zurich, from 1895-1931, Professor at the Dental Institute of the University of Zurich, and author of many scientific works in the field of dentistry. In 1926, he was awarded the Marcel Benoist prize. [A.T.S.]

LEGACIES.

Mlle Helene Rheiner, who died last year at the age of 78 in Romanshorn, has left 64,000.frs. to a number of charitable institutions.

The heirs of the recently deceased manufacturer, Fritz Merker-Pfister, of Baden, have made various donations amounting to 16,500.—frs. to charitable institutions in Baden. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Graf-Nötzli of Wetzikon, Mr. and Mrs. Sonderegger-Rüegg of St. Gall, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Halblützel-Tanner of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Red Cross has sent various medicines and household articles to the victims of the floods in India and Pakistan to the value of 60,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Wreckage of the only Swiss-built jet fighter, a prototype known as the P16, has been recovered from the bottom of Lake Constance, where it crashed on August 31.

The pilot baled out safely after directing the plane towards the lake when it developed engine trouble.

Jeanette Altwegg, former British Olympic and world figure ice-skating champion, has had a son, who is to be named Toni David. Miss Altwegg married M. Marc Wirz, a Swiss engineer, at Zurich, last October. The baby was born at Berne, where she and her husband live. After the 1952 winter Olympic games at Oslo (Norway) where she won Britain's only gold medal, Miss Altwegg turned down a £2,000-a-week professional skating offer in order to look after orphans at an international children's home in Switzerland.

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