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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Federal-Councillor Dr. Markus Feldmann, head of the Department of Justice and Police, spoke in the National Council about the Dubois-Ulrich affair. (Mr. René Dubois, Swiss Attorney-General, committed suicide last March, and Police Inspector Max Ulrich was arrested.) They were alleged to have been involved in the tapping of Egyptian Embassy telephone lines and passing the information obtained to the French Embassy in Berne.

In his statement Dr. Feldmann said the International position of Switzerland had not suffered in the past six months and her neutral status "is untouched everywhere in the world today". He said that telephone lines to foreign embassies and legations in Switzerland *are* tapped and some "interesting discoveries" have been made for the protection of the country.

Of Dubois, Mr. Feldmann said: "the main proof of his culpability may be seen in his suicide". He had considerably over-stepped the legal limits on the exchange of information and gravely violated his official obligations in handing over confidential documents to people outside his office.

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Charles Monnet to the post of Honorary Swiss Consul in Lille.

Consul Monnet was born in 1893 at Lausanne, and is a citizen of Vevey, he has been for many years the representative of the Lille branch of CIBA, A.G. Basle.

Mr. E. Gubler, Vice-Consul and chief of the Consular section at the Swiss Legation in Bucharest, has been appointed Swiss Consul in Tananarive, in succession to Mr. E. Hofer.

Mr. Gubler entered the service of the Federal Political department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1941, and formerly occupied posts at Brussels, Antwerp and Bucharest.

The Ethiopian Minister, Monsieur Blatein-Gueta Ephrem Tewelde-Mehden, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways* carried in August 1957 80 million passengers, or 400,000 more than in August 1956. Receipts: 34.4 million francs (August 1956: 33.5 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.28 million tons or 20,000 tons less than during the same period in August 1956. Receipts: 43.7 million francs (August 1956: 42.7 million francs).

Cantonal

Mr. Alfred Fehlmann (48), of Menziken and Lucerne, has been appointed "Stadtbaumeister" of Lucerne in succession to Mr. Max Tuerler, who is vacating his post. Mr. Fehlmann, who is an architect by profession, has studied at the Universities of Zurich and Berlin. [A.T.S.]

A sports car* containing three young men travelled with excessive speed through the village of Alpnach in the direction of Lucerne. Near the "Kleine Schieri" the driver apparently lost control of the car, which skidded and collided with a cyclist, who was instantly killed. The car then overturned causing serious injuries to two of the occupants. The driver of the sports car has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

The lady secretary* (61) of a firm at the Kartaustrasse Zurich cashed an amount of 30,000.—francs at a Bank in the centre of the town, which

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 22nd, 1957, together with remittance for 10/-.

amount she put in her handbag. On her way back to the firm she was accosted by a stranger, who suddenly snatched her handbag and bolted. The empty handbag was later found on the Weinegg. So far no arrest has been made. [A.T.S.]

The members of the Federal Council paid a visit to the "Physikalische Institut" of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Karl Biber (47), of Ringlikon (Zurich), a member of the section "Uto" of the Swiss Alpine Club, lost his life on the "Altenalptürme" in the "Säntis Massiv". [A.T.S.]

Two unidentified men smashed the show-window of the jewellery firm of Giacomo Ghezzi at the Wuere Zurich and grabbed goods to the value of 100,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

The well-known municipal band of Berne has appointed Mr. Bruno Goetze as its conductor in succession to the late Stephen Jaeggi. The new musical director studied at the "Konservatorium" Basle, and at the "Schweizerischen Orchesterschule". He is at present a teacher at the "Musikschule" Basle, and conductor of the academic orchestra and the "Knabenmusik" Basle. [A.T.S.]

During the first six months of the current year 2,437 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. 1,980 persons were injured, of whom 79 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Walter Hottinger has joined the editorial staff of the "Emmenthaler Blattes", Langnau. He was formerly editor of the "Blatt für Alle" Zofingen. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car driven by a Mr. Walter Buettikofer (63), of Bleichenberg near Solothurn, owing to a skid collided with a tree near Schoren. The driver was instantly killed, and his passenger, Mr. A. Voegtli, "Gemeindeschreiber" of Gerlafingen, was seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. Wolfgang Stammer, from 1951 to 1957 a lecturer of German Philology at the University of Fribourg, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Ghent. [A.T.S.]

Madame Jeanne Niquille, keeper of the archives of the canton of Fribourg, has tendered her resigna-

tion. In recognition of her services she has received the title of "honorary keeper of the archives".

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Willi Boelsterli, "Gemeinderatsschreiber", has been elected to the post of "Gemeindeammann" of Rapperswil (St. Gall) in succession to Mr. F. Fuerer. [A.T.S.]

The Annual Meeting of the Swiss Bankers Association took place at Ragaz under the Presidency of Dr. Charles de Loes (Geneva).

Dr. Theo Keller of the Commercial University St. Gall addressed the Assembly on "Finanzielle Aspekte der wirtschaftlichen Integration Europa's". Other speakers were Minister Hans Schaffner, and Dr. A. Roemer, "Landammann" of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

"Radio Lugano" has recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of its foundation. At a banquet which was held at one of the Lugano hotels, various speakers, amongst them Federal-Councillor Lepori (at one time a collaborator of Radio Lugano), Mr. G. Canerascini, President of the "Cooperativa per la radiofusione nella Svizzera italiana", and Dr. Fritz Rothen, President of the "Schweiz. Rundspruch Gesellschaft", in their addresses referred to the importance of this event. [A.T.S.]

The Vevey police court has sentenced a motorist (27) from Lausanne to five months (!) imprisonment and costs of the action for careless driving which caused the death of a man aged 41. [A.T.S.]

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The new "Dom Hütte" of the Uto section of the Swiss Alpine Club was recently inaugurated. The hut was built after the plans of Mr. Jakob Eschenmoser, an architect in Zurich, and has accommodation for 40 persons. [A.T.S.]

* * *
Dr. med. René Sansonnens has been elected a member of the International Health Office in Geneva.

Dr. Sansonnens was born at Estavayer. He studied medicine at the Universities of Fribourg and Lausanne, after which he became an assistant at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, and the "Statens Serum Institut" Copenhagen. For six years he worked at the "Schweiz. Serum und Impfinstitut" Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *
The Government of the canton of Geneva has named the new road which runs into the Rue de Lyon the "Rue Guye", after Charles Guye, physicist, and Philippe-August Guye, professor of theoretical and technical chemistry at the University of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *
DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Pierre Grellet, journalist, as the result of a fall in the Valaisan alps, at the age of 75. The deceased was regarded as perhaps the outstanding Swiss journalist of his generation. He was born at Colombier (Ct. Neuchâtel). In his early youth he had the great advantage of being a pupil of Philippe Godet, and his later studies took him to Berne, Leipzig,

Berlin, Paris and London. His first editorial post (1908-09) was with "Suisse Libérale" of Neuchâtel, and after a short spell with the Swiss telegraphic agency he was appointed parliamentary correspondent in Berne of the "Gazette de Lausanne" in 1911. His advent introduced a new touch and tone in Swiss reporting. His writing had sparkle, he refused to be hide-bound in his thinking, and he never took staid parliamentarians as seriously as they themselves sometimes did. His long service in Berne marked what is perhaps the gayest chapter in the story of Swiss daily journalism.

Grellet was the author of many historical works, and amongst other honours he was awarded the prize

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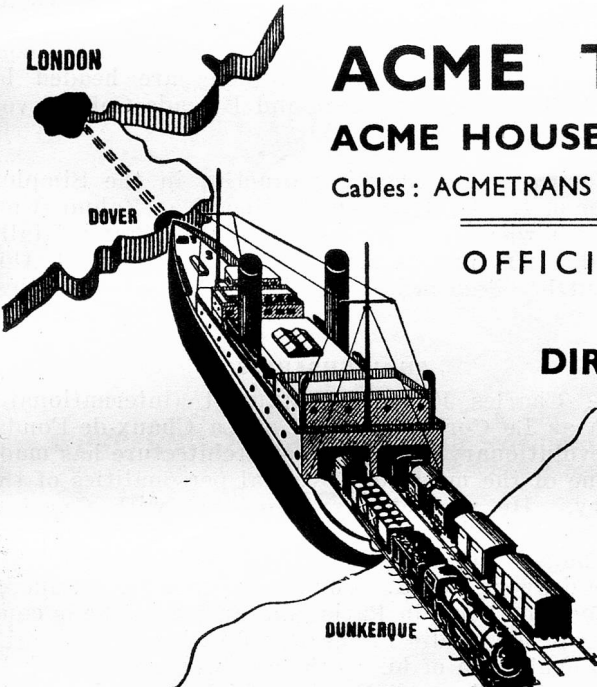
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of the Schiller Foundation in 1949. In the professional associations of Swiss journalists he played a loyal and constructive part.

Richard von Muralt, a well-known architect, and from 1933 to 1954 President of the "Zürcher Vereinigung für Heimatschutz", in Zurich, aged 75.

Albert Hinter, painter on glass and an expert on armorial bearings, in Engelberg, at the age of 82.

Colonel Karl Kraut, instructor and chief of the air defence section of the Federal Air Office, in Vevey (while on holiday), aged 62.

Mme. Dora Hauth-Trachsler, author and well-known portrait painter, in Zurich, at the age of 83.

Charles Schenk, a former editor of the papers "National" La Chaux-de-Fonds and "Democrate" Delsberg, in Vaumarcus, aged 80.

Albert Koenig, from 1930 to 1935 Vice-Director of the section "Landwirtschaft" at the Federal Economic Department, in Berne, at the age of 85.

Professor René Koenig, distinguished surgeon, and from 1930 to 1946 professor of gynaecology and obstetrics at the University of Geneva. He took his medical degree in Berne in 1896, and from 1899 to 1903 served in hospitals in Paris, Strasbourg, London, Berlin, Munich and Dresden. He was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons and was licentiate of the Royal Society of Medicine of London. Much of his career was devoted to the study and treatment of cancer, especially with radium and X-rays. On his retirement from his Geneva chair in 1946 he was appointed an honorary professor of the university. He died at the aged of 86. [A.T.S.]

ARMY.

Two military missions left early this month for a three weeks' visit to the United States of America, to study the possibility of acquiring fighter machines for the Swiss army, as well as to study problems concerning air defence. The missions are headed by Divisional Colonel Primault and Brigade Colonel von Wattenwyl.

During recent shooting practice in the Simplon district of the 1st Division, fusilier Jean Zahno (Fus. Cp. 3/16) was hit by a shrapnel splinter and fatally injured. An investigation into the cause of this accident has been ordered by the military authorities. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

M. Charles Edouard Jeanneret (internationally known as Le Corbusier) (70), of La Chaux-de-Fonds. His revolutionary conception of architecture has made him one of the most controversial personalities of the century. He was closely associated with Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, and other members of the "Bauhaus" of Weimar. Many of his plans remain on the drawing board. For many years M. Jeanneret has made his home in Paris, and at present he is completing in his studio in the Rue de Sèvres the details for an exhibition of his works and writings to be held later at La Chaux-de-Fonds, which town has commemorated the anniversary by conferring on him the freedom of the city.

Max Werner Lenz (70), of Herisau, well-known author, producer and actor. He was for many years closely connected with the cabarets "Cornichon" and "Fédéral". Amongst his best-known books is the novel "Fahrerin Scherrer". [A.T.S.]

VARIOUS.

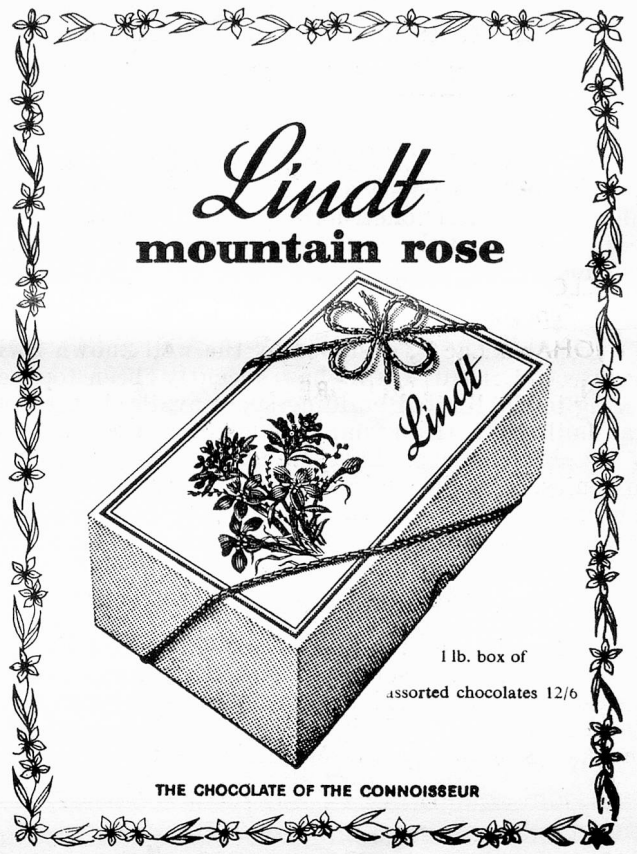
The general receding movement of alpine glaciers was slowed down by the summer of 1956, which was the coldest in the Swiss Alps since 1841. As a result glaciers and snowfields increased both in depth and surface — for instance, the Jungfraufirn rose by 5ft.

The bad summers of 1813 to 1816 were followed by a general progression of alpine glaciers, reaching a peak in 1818. Some glaciologists therefore think there may be a new and general progression of alpine glaciers in the coming years.

This information is given in the report for 1955-56 of the Swiss federal commission for the observation of glaciers. The commission reports the finding of some valuable documents describing the movements of the Paradies glacier, at the source of the Rhine. It had been observed by F. F. Coaz before he made the first ascent of Piz Bernina (13,345ft.) in 1850: regular observations started in 1868, and were continued by the federal commission on glaciers when it was created in 1893.

In 88 years the Paradies glacier receded by 1,400 yards, which is a yearly average of about 16 yards. It receded by 261 yards between 1868 and 1901; by 227 yards in 1901-20; by 486 yards in 1920-45; and 426 yards in 1945-56. During the last period the yearly average, of 38.75 yards, was the highest.

Out of 69 glaciers examined during the 1955-56 glaciological year, 56 were receding (50 the previous year), three were at a standstill (seven the previous year) and nine were moving forward (19 the previous year). Among those which were receding were the Turtmann glacier, by 304ft; Aletsch, 144ft.; Gorner, 65ft.; Arolla, 111ft.; Trient, 177ft.; Oberer Grindel-



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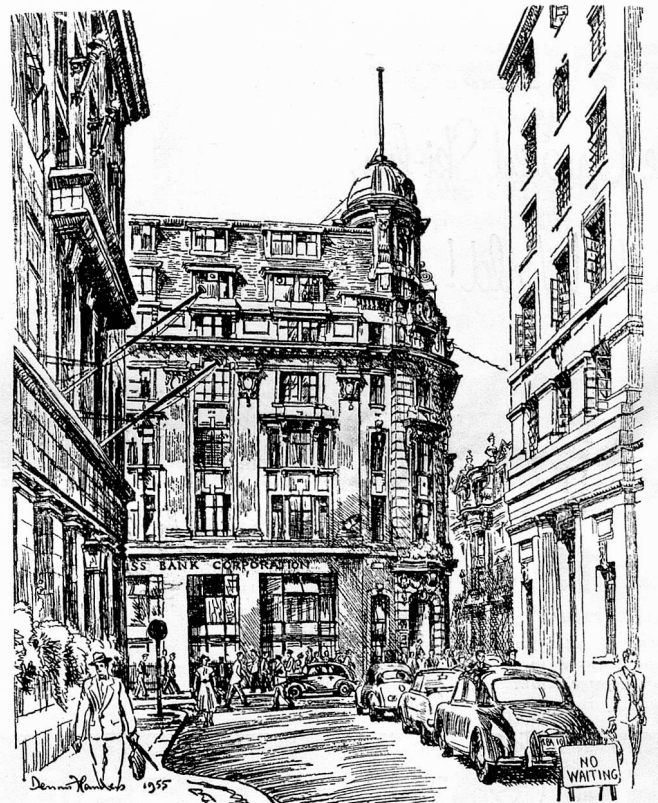
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wald, 49ft.; Unterer Grindelwald, 39ft.; and Morteratsch, 65ft. The Tälliboden glacier advanced by 49ft., the Gries by 72ft., and the Porchabella by 141ft. The Kaltwasser, Valsorey and Rhone glaciers were at a standstill.

* * *

Novel trends in Swiss hotel construction. The new trends in modern architecture have also had an influence on hotel construction in Switzerland. Several recently completed buildings have been constructed in the modern fashion as regards style and appointments, and some of them fit into their scenic setting most impressively. At Ascona, in sunny Ticino, the Hotel "Europe au Lac", designed by the well-known Swiss architect Erhard Gull, has recently been opened. Owing to the limited building space available the hotel was built on a triangular ground plan, and thus two of its sides overlook Lake Maggiore. All rooms have balconies. At the main entrance there is a pleasant "locanda" (local inn). An originally shaped bay admits the lake right to the restaurant terrace. The dining-rooms, bars and lounges, decorated in pastel shades, have an unmistakably Southern aspect, and the triangular, arcaded inner courtyard offers a wonderful vista on the lake. Not only new buildings, however, but also some old ones that have been re-designed are being widely talked about in Switzerland. For example, the re-designed "Vieux Manoir" Hotel, on the Lake of Murten/Morat, very near the place

where the Confederates of old defeated Charles the Bold in 1476. Set amid a charming landscape of vineyards, a former patrician house has been made into a modern hotel for holiday-makers without sacrificing its old-world atmosphere. Each room has an individual style; ancient four-poster beds and other antique furniture are among the appointments. For business meetings, knightly halls serve as conference rooms. A smart grill-room, a period restaurant and a bar are added attractions. Special rooms where fish dishes and wine are served have been installed in an old farmhouse. Furthermore, there is also an open-air grill in the middle of the great park. The hotel grounds extend to the banks of the lake, where, on a wide frontage, there are private harbour and bathing beach. It is indeed gratifying to note how much trouble is taken by Swiss architects when making alterations of this kind; they give due importance to the modern in the most practical way, yet preserve the ancient where this is deemed to be worth while.

AN APPEAL.

THE SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY and the SWISS CHURCHES in London appeal once again to all their compatriots for contributions in kind or in cash in order to provide a little extra cheer at CHRISTMAS for our fellow-citizens in need. Articles of clothing, including old garments in good condition suitable for immediate wear, as well as household goods and furniture, will be very much appreciated and gratefully received.

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