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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

The Federal Council has raised the following Legations to the status of Embassy, and their heads to the rank of Ambassador: Denmark (M. C. Gorgé), Finland (M. F. Real) and Norway (M. O. Seifert).

Dr. Hans Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, have received the following Diplomats at the Palais Fédéral on the occasion of the presentation of their credentials: Monsieur Edmond Turcotte, Canadian Ambassador, Monsieur Henry Taylor, American Ambassador, Monsieur Carl Adalbert Brun, Danish Ambassador, and Monsieur Hugo Valvanne, Finnish Ambassador.

The Federal Council has conferred the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary on Monsieur Bernard Barbey, Permanent Delegate at UNESCO, for the duration of his mission. Minister Barbey was formerly Press Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy in Paris.

Federal-Councillor Dr. M. Feldmann, head of the federal department of Justice and Police, spoke in the States Council (Upper Chamber) of the espionage case which led to the suicide in March of the Swiss Attorney General, M. René Dubois, and the arrest of a police inspector, Mr. Max Ulrich.

Dr. Feldmann said the suicide of M. Dubois had occurred against a background of foreign intelligence services. But it was wrong to think that an Attorney General should not, in principle, try to obtain police and political information.

Trustworthy information was necessary to enable a country to defend itself against dangerous intrigues. An intelligence service could be effective only if information could be exchanged with foreign services. The scope of such an exchange of information was a matter of appreciation. It must be dictated by the highest interests of the country.

The inquiry into the affairs of M. Dubois and M. Ulrich would show whether or not these principles had been transgressed.

The Swiss National Bank has recently issued new types of bank notes with denomination 1,000.—, 500, 100, and 50.— francs.

These notes were printed by two British firms, namely Thomas De la Rue and Waterlow's. The old note issue is still in force but will later on be withdrawn.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, 1st August, 1957
6.45 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

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The Federal Council has promoted M. Edward Pernet to the rank of Consul General. In this capacity he has been put in charge of the Swiss Consulate, Los Angeles.

M. Pernet was born in 1901 and is a citizen of Ormont-dessus (Ct. Vaud). He entered the service of the Confederation in 1919 (P.T.T.) and six years later (1925) was transferred to the Federal Political Department. He has occupied posts in Vienna, London, Manchester and New York. In 1946 he was made Vice-Consul and in 1951 Consul.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of May 1957 totalled 78.4 million francs; of this amount the Confederation receives 60.2 million francs or 5.2 million francs more than in May 1956.

The receipts for the first five months of the current year reached 296.6 million francs or 38.4 million francs more than during the same period in 1956.

* * *

According to a statement by the Federal Statistical Buro in Berne the "Netto Volkseinkommen" of Switzerland in 1956 was 24.7 milliard francs (1955: 23.3 milliard francs).

* * *

The Federal Council has announced that Colonel Rieser, former military attaché in Washington and Ottawa, has been relieved of his post for having accepted a gift of money during the negotiations in connection with the purchase of 100 Centurion tanks from Britain.

Colonel Rieser was recalled from his post as military attaché in Washington at the end of last year for "blameworthy and reprehensible conduct" in connection with preparations for the purchase of the tanks.

The announcement said that Federal Judge W. Schoenenberger, who was put in charge of the inquiry, had found that Colonel Rieser had seriously infringed the statute's rule forbidding acceptance of gifts. It added that during the inquiry Colonel Rieser had expressed his willingness to put at the disposal of the Swiss Confederation the 50,000.—francs he received as part of his commission on the tank deal.

Cantonal

A large block of houses at the Ziegelbrücke (Ct. Berne) was totally destroyed by fire, with the result that 16 families totalling 72 persons lost their homes. Fortunately no loss of life occurred; the damage is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 1 million francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A smash and grab raid was made at a jewellery shop in the Spitalgasse in Berne. A large number of watches were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Schaffhausen for 1956 close with a *debit* balance of 573.343.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Due to a collection made by official and private bodies it is now possible to rebuild the castle of Oberberg near Gossau (Ct. St. Gall), which some time ago was partly destroyed by fire. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Karl Knechtle (51) of Sennwald (Ct. St. Gall) was killed on the descent from the Stauberer to Fruemsneralp. He was the father of three children.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A burglar entered the premises of a jewellery establishment in the Avenue de la Gare, Lausanne, and decamped with goods valued at 30,000.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Sophie-Henrietta Dubied-Haag has celebrated her 100th birthday at Cressier (Ct. Neuchâtel). She was presented with the traditional easy-chair by the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss composer Robert Oboussier has been found stabbed to death in his Zurich flat. The discovery was made after he failed to keep a luncheon appointment with his sister. Oboussier, who was 57, had composed one opera, *Amphitryon*, many orchestral, chamber music, and instrumental works, and some songs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Carlo Hemmerling (54) of Vevey, composer, pianist and organist, has been elected Director of the *Conservatoire* Lausanne in succession to M. Alfred Pochon who has resigned for health reasons. [A.T.S.]

* * *

More than 120,000 persons visited the "Comptoir" Neuchâtel, which closed its doors on June 10th, 1957.

[A.T.S.]



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On the occasion of the *dies academicus* of the University of Geneva the following were honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Professor Collart, doyen of the philosophical faculty, Professor Mieville (Lausanne), and M. Aloys Mooser, music critic. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Monsieur Maurice Thevenaz (radical) has been elected President of the Municipal Council of Geneva, and M. Marius Noul (socialist) Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Raphael de Gottrau, forester, in Fribourg owing to a motoring-accident, at the age of 63.

Albert Affolter, district secretary of the "Christlichen Metallarbeiter Verbandes der Schweiz", and since 1947 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen, aged 60.

Adolf Dietrich, landscape painter, in Berlingen (Ct. Thurgau), at the age of 80.

Marc Savant, for many years manager of the St. Imier branch of the Cantonal Bank, Berne, in St. Imier, aged 69.

Gottlieb Binder, a school-teacher, and author of a number of books dealing with the lake of Zurich and the valley of the Limmat, in Kilchberg, at the age of 81.

Charles-Edouard Guisan, for 43 years a journalist, and a cousin of General Guisan, in Lausanne, aged 82.

Dr. Walter Meyer, in Basle, at the age of 72. The deceased was for 37 years President of the Penal Court of the canton Basle-Town, and since 1921 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town.

Hans Baeschlin, for many years a member of the Superior Court of the canton Berne, in Berne, aged 84.

Edouard Moser, pianist and composer, in Lausanne, at the age of 66.

Theodor Fischer, founder and proprietor of the "Kunsthandlung Th. Fischer" Lucerne, in Nice (whilst on holiday), aged 79.

Marcel Montavon, a well-known veterinary surgeon in Saignelégier, at the age of 61.

Karl Ulrich Wolf, pianist and composer, in Weegis, aged 36.

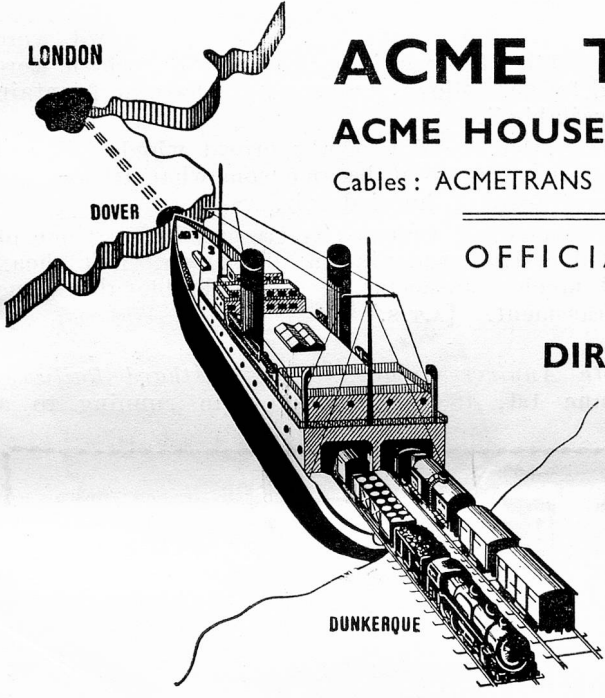
Lt.-Colonel Hans Born, a former medical superintendent of the "Waffenplatz" Thun, in Thun, at the age of 85.

Franz Probst, "Gemeindeammann" of Wettingen,



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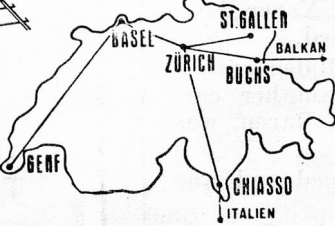
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and a member of the Grand Council, in Zurich, aged 44. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

Flight-sergeant Jean Chambaz (23) of Clarens was killed when his Vampire machine crashed near Berne.

The *Service Technique Militaire* of the Swiss Government has placed a further order for 100 Centurion tanks with the firm Vickers-Armstrongs. It was in 1955 that Vickers-Armstrongs last received an order for 100 Centurion tanks. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Eugène Pittard (90) of Geneva, formerly Professor of Anthropology at the University of Geneva, and founder of the Ethnographical Museum of the town of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Mr. Thodor Pletscher, a school-teacher of Schleithem (Ct. Schaffhausen), has left a legacy 50,000.— frs. to the cantonal hospital Schaffhausen.

On the occasion of his 95th birthday, Dr. C. Bindschedler-Staub, a former member of the Superior Court of the canton of Zurich, has made a donation of 10,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions of the commune of Maennedorf. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. F. Heinemann-Vaucher of Lucerne, Mr. & Mrs. J. Parel-Bieli of Grenchen, Mr. & Mrs. A. Haslee-Hasler of Hellikon (Ct. Aargau).

Mr. & Mrs. H. Müller-Thomann of Islikon have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65 years). [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

The frequency of traffic accidents in Switzerland is still increasing.

Two motor-cars collided near the village of Cornaux (Ct. Neuchâtel). Two persons were killed and five seriously injured. Those killed were Mme. Therese Moser (49) and Eduard Schmid (42), both of Bienne.

Mr. Anton Stoeckli (67), President of the commune of Ufhusen (Ct. Lucerne), was killed when his motor-cycle collided with a motor-car on the road between Geuensee and Schenken.

Two persons were killed, Mr. Charles Schaufelberger (78) and his wife Louise (63), when their car collided with an Italian car near Zollikon (Zurich). The driver of the Italian car, who was not hurt, has been arrested.

A motor-lorry travelling at excessive speed skidded on a bend and fell into the river Emme (community of Emme, Lucerne). The driver, Richard Wüest (25) of Lucerne, and his passenger, Xaver Fries (20), a plumber of Reussbuehl, were killed.

On the road Sitten—Brig a lorry collided with a motor-car near Visp when overtaking another car. The driver of the car, Emil Troger (26) of Raron, was instantly killed.

The driver of the lorry then decamped and was arrested the following morning.

Two motor-cars collided near Mantegnin (Geneva),

causing the death of M. Ch. Costa (65) of Meyrin. Two passengers were seriously injured.

Two motor-cyclists, Jean-Claude Domenjoz (21) and Guy Marchisio (20), both of Montreux, were killed in a collision.

A motor-car collided at a level-crossing between Landquart and Zizers. The driver of the car, Hermann Hosang of Schiers, was killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

According to statistics published by the Swiss Federal Railways the fifteen largest Goods Stations showed the following receipts during 1956: Basle 59.214 million francs, Zurich 43,930 million francs, Brigue 27.399 million francs, Chiasso 26.191 million francs, Geneva 24.672 million francs, Berne 11.958 million francs, Lausanne 8.413 million francs, Winterthur 8,140 million francs, Buchs 7.487 million francs, St. Gall 7,364 million francs, Siders 7,220 million francs, Sitten 7,211 million francs, Luino 6,893 million francs, Lucerne 6,340 million francs, Bienne 6,299 million francs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

An amusing hoax was played at the "Comptoir" Neuchâtel. The management of the exhibition had announced that Prince Rainier of Monaco would visit the Fair on Thursday, June 6th.

At the time stated a car drove up at the entrance. The "Prince" on alighting was received by the Manager and various officials. A large crowd which witnessed the arrival of the distinguished visitor cheered lustily.

He visited, rather hurriedly, a number of the stalls after which he mounted the steps of one of the fountains where he addressed a large audience.

Many of the young ladies in the crowd were asking "His Highness" for autographs, which were refused for the following reason: "I have no fountain pen available".

When the mobbing of the crowd which followed him wherever he went became somewhat irksome the "Prince" made a hurried exit.

It turned out that "His Highness" was one of the University students in disguise. This hoax caused much amusement, and, no doubt, also some embarrassment. [A.T.S.]

* * *

75th Anniversary of the St. Gotthard Railway.
On June 1st, 1882, the first train running to a

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regular time-table passed through the Gotthard Tunnel. A great work, of outstanding importance to Europe had been brought to completion. In the first year of operation, there were between 20 and 30 trains daily. This number has to-day increased to 120, and at peak traffic periods the figure of 170 has been reached.

On Tuesday, June 18th 1957, a special train carried from Lucerne to Bellinzona members of the Federal and local governments, as well as representatives of railway and tourist organisations.

* * *

Do you realise that the Swiss Railways, steamship companies and postal motor services allow children to travel at half-fare up to 16 years of age? Children under six travel free. They need no ticket whatsoever.

* * *

Model railway, Interlaken. "Heimwehfluh", a perfect viewpoint in the Bernese Oberland, is reached in less than 20 minutes from Interlaken West Station (10 minutes' walk plus 2½ minutes by funicular). It has an excellent restaurant with a large terrace and as a special attraction there is a beautiful Model Railway. The power of 12.25 Volts is supplied to the engines by overhead wire. The double track is approximately 600 ft. long and is divided into 12 separate automatic block-sections. Six to seven trains can run at the same time without any danger of colliding, a red signal automatically switching off the current in the respective block-section.

The control panel houses 180 contacts. 9,000 ft. of insulated cable, 600 ft. of double-track, 17,000 wooden sleepers and 267 small metal pylons carrying the

overhead live wire were used in the construction. All engines, carriages and trucks are hand-made models of existing rolling-stock.

* * *

Meiringen-Aare Gorge. This summer, the regular service between Meiringen-Reichenbach and Aare Gorge will be maintained by buses instead of the old tramway. The journey from Meiringen to the Aare Gorge takes 12 minutes.

* * *

New Aerial Cableway Leukerbad-Gemmi Pass. On May 25th 1957, the new cableway to the Gemmi Pass was inaugurated. Cabins holding 20 passengers cover the distance of just over 1 mile in 8 minutes, surmounting at the same time a difference in height of 3,000 ft. By using the cableway from Kandersteg to Stock and from the Gemmi Pass down to Leukerbad, the walking time for the Gemmi Pass tour has now been reduced to 2½ hours. Groups of adults and juveniles travel at specially reduced rates. Accommodation is available at the Hotel Schwabenbach (30 beds and dormitory for 120 persons) and the Sport-hotel Wildstrubel at the Gemmi Pass (80 beds and dormitory for 150 persons).

* * *

Musical evenings at Berne Cathedral. On Tuesdays, from June 11th till September 17th (at 20.15) concerts of classical music are being given at the Berne cathedral every evening.

* * *

Lucerne Music Festival — August 17th — September 7th, 1957. The special folder of the Lucerne Music Festival 1957, containing a seating plan and details of the various concerts, is now available.

* * *

St. Gall — Children's Festival. On Tuesday, 2nd July, weather permitting, the traditional Children's Festival will be held. Approximately 9,000 school-children are expected to participate. In the procession, which starts at 8 o'clock, all boys will wear white shirts, brown or blue trousers, and girls will all have dainty embroidered dresses. Colour will be added by the carrying of large flower-baskets, garlands, etc. Bands, drums and concertina orchestras will participate. On the Rosenberg, the children will play games, dances and gymnastics.

* * *

St. Gall Summer Concerts. On Tuesdays, from June 11th to August 20th, a chamber orchestra gives serenades in the Katharinenkloster.

* * *

38th Lausanne National Fair — Comptoir Suisse — September 7th to 22nd, 1957. Although essentially national in character, the Lausanne Fair has for some time now made an exception by inviting each year one foreign country to participate as guest of honour. After Canada, it is Portugal's turn to enjoy this privilege.

Thus for the period from September 7th to 22nd, the vast halls of Lausanne Fair, whose great size and excellent technical installations made it the ideal setting for Graphic 57, the International Exhibition of Printing Industries and Allied Trades, will once more be housing a striking synthesis of Switzerland's economic life and activities.

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