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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The following Swiss Legations have been raised to the status of Embassy, and their heads to the rank of Ambassador: Austria (M. R. Hohl) and Cuba (M. Franco Brenni).

* * *

The Ambassadors of Austria (Monsieur J. Coreth), Cuba (Monsieur J. G. Aguirre), Japan (Monsieur Katsuzo Okumura), and the Minister of the Philippines (Monsieur P. Lopez) have presented their credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Dr. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

The Swiss National Bank has recently celebrated in Berne the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

* * *

The Federal Council offered a dinner to the heads of the foreign missions and their collaborators accredited to the Confederation at the Greyerz castle (Ct. Fribourg). Amongst the guests were also the Presidents of the Federal Chambers and members of the Governments of the cantons of Fribourg and Berne.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.3 million passengers during the month of May 1957, or 500,000 less than in May 1956. Receipts: 26.3 million francs (May 1956: 27.1 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.29 million tons or 207,000 tons more than during the same period in 1956. Receipts: 43.7 million francs (May 1956: 41.7 million francs).

Cantonal

The "Mariahilf" College in Schwyz received a visit of Cardinal Lercaro of Bologna. The reception was attended by the Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur M. Coppini, and members of the Government of the canton of Schwyz. [A.T.S.]

Dr. theol. Theodor Bucher (36), a citizen of Kerns (Ct. Obwalden), until recently Professor at the "Kollegium Maria Hilf", has been elected Director of the cantonal teachers' seminary in succession to Dr. phil. Max Flueler. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The proposal of the Government of the canton of Zurich to grant a credit of 7.5 million francs towards the costs of enlarging the Kloten airport was accepted by 50,388 votes against 33,732. [A.T.S.]

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

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

at

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Patriotic Address by the
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The District Court of Uster (Ct. Zurich) has sentenced a motorist, who under the influence of alcohol caused an accident in which two persons were killed and one seriously injured, to 14 months' imprisonment!!! [A.T.S.]

The Consular Corps of the town of Zurich gave a farewell dinner to the departing British Consul General, Mr. C. H. Marriott. He was the Doyen of the Consular Corps. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Albert Frey-Wyssling, Professor of Botany, has been elected rector of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich for the period 1957 to 1959. [A.T.S.]

The American Ambassador, H.E. Henry J. Taylor, was the principal guest at a luncheon arranged by the Swiss-American Society for cultural relations in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The students association "Helvetia", with its sections of Basle, Berne, Lausanne and Zurich, has celebrated its 125th Jubilee in Berne. A solemn meeting was held at the University followed by a torchlight procession through the streets of the capital. [A.T.S.]

The 800th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Fribourg, by the Duke Berchtold IV, was celebrated by a solemn Mass at the St. Nicolas cathedral in Fribourg. A procession through the gaily beflagged streets of the cantonal capital followed the service. [A.T.S.]

M. Laurent Butty (32), a lawyer, has been elected Prefect of the "Saane" district, in succession to M. Marcel Renevey, who had retired from his post for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

The radical paper "L'Independant" published in Fribourg has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

In the recent elections for the rural council ("Gemeinderat") of the canton of Solothurn, the Liberals have lost 29 seats. The Conservatives and the Christian Socialists have gained five seats each, and the Socialists have gained 22 seats. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1956 of the "Bürgerspital" Basle close with a deficit of 8 million francs. [A.T.S.]

A serious motor accident occurred on the road between Merenschwand and Muhlau (Ct. Aargau) causing the loss of three lives. A car driven by Joh. Guedel (73) collided with a wall. The driver, his wife, Marie Guedel (66), and Heinrich Oehninger (70), all of Berikan, were instantaneously killed, and the wife of Heinrich Oehninger received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Angiolina Mocetti, of Lugano, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

Commercial premises were entered in the Rue César Roux, Lausanne, and a safe containing 6,000.—frs. was removed. [A.T.S.]

The Philosophical faculty of the University of Lausanne has honoured the following with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Charles Veillon, industrialist (Lausanne), and Gustave Roud, author (Carouge s.Meziers). [A.T.S.]

The watch manufacturing firm "Zodiac" of Le Locle has celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation. The founder was Ariste Calame, senior, and the concern is managed to-day by Messrs. René and Maurice Calame. [A.T.S.]

Marc Bloch, a former Manager of the "Maritime, S.A." Geneva, a concern which went into liquidation nine years ago, was sentenced to 2½ years' imprisonment, of which 1½ years which he had already served whilst on remand were deducted, for negligent transactions causing the liquidation of the company. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Johann Heil, a former Central Secretary of the "Christlichen Metallarbeiterverbandes", in Winterthur, at the age of 73.

Paul Ilg, in Uttwil, aged 82. The deceased was the author of a number of plays, novels and poems. Amongst his best known works are "Das Menschlein Matthias", "Die Brüder Moor", and the "Der Landstörzer". His collection of poems is contained in one volume under the title "Der Erdetren". His plays, "Der Führer", "Mann Gottes", and "Das kleine Licht", were performed at various theatres.

Dr. med. Adolphe Treyer, Doyen of the medical practitioners of the town of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 86.

Dr. Johannes Duft, from 1919 to 1939 a member of the National Council, in St. Gall, aged 74. He sat for many years in the "Kantonsrat" St. Gall.

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Dr. med. Josef Arregger, a well-known medical practitioner, in Lucerne, at the age of 86.

Mme. Suzanne de Montenach, from 1912 to 1948 President of the "Maedchen Schutzverein", of which she was the founder, in Fribourg, aged 90.

Pierre Bernardon, head of the interpreters school at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 55.

Heinrich Koechli, from 1919 to 1951 administrator of the cantonal hospital Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 63.

Dominik Epp, consulting engineer, in Altdorf, at the age of 83. The deceased was for 30 years in the service of the canton of Uri. He was formerly in command of the 15th mountain brigade.

E. Weber-Glardon, in Basle, aged 77. He was for 33 years connected with the fire brigade of the town of Basle.

Paul Cardinaux, formerly head of the "Schweiz. Serum-und Impfinstitutes", Berne, and President of the Board of "Alpar", in Berne, at the age of 81.

Alexis France, editor of the "Feuille d'Avis de Monthey", in Monthey, aged 67. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

The Swiss army is storing blood for use in a possible war. Two subterranean laboratories will process, store and distribute Switzerland's emergency blood supplies. One of them, shielded from nuclear blasts beneath 100 feet of rock at Zweilütschinen, is already producing plasma.

The other underground installation at Amsteg (Ct. Uri) will go into operation later this year.

At Zweilütschinen the army converted an abandoned munitions depot into its new blood bank.

The Swiss army estimates that it would need 100,000 packages of plasma in time of war. Since the Red Cross blood centre at Berne deals primarily with civilian needs, the army has constructed the Amsteg and Zweilütschinen laboratories for itself, although they are staffed by Red Cross personnel.

* * *

The Federal Council has elected Colonel Hans Ulrich von Erlach, formerly a member of the Instructors Corps (Infantry), to the post of sectional chief on the General Staff. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During manoeuvres in the Rosenlauri district (Ct. Berne), fusilier Raphael Conus (23), a student of Sivriz (Ct. Fribourg), fell to death on the "Engelhoerner". [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES.

The recently deceased Dr. A. Heckendorn, consulting chemist of Basle, has left two legacies to the "Burgergemeinde" Basle. 150,000.— frs. to the Paravicini foundation, and 10,000.— to the municipal orphanage. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Louis Gut-Heusser of Sursee has left various amounts totalling 46,000.— frs. to cultural and charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Paul Altheer (70), of Wattwil (Ct. St. Gall), author, and for many years editor of the paper "Nebelspalter".

Professor Dr. med. Loeffler (70), of Basle. He was formerly physician-in-chief of the Medical Clinic, Basle, and from 1921 to 1937 Director of the "Medizinischen Poliklinik" Zurich. In 1937 he was appointed Director of the Medical Clinic of the University of Zurich. Professor Loeffler is the author of a large number of scientific works. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. C. Hoesli-Feldmann of Glarus, and Mr. & Mrs. A. Baier-Walser of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

On 18th June the Press Service of Swissair issued a communiqué stating that a DC-3 training machine was missing after having started from Kloten airport, and had, as far as could be ascertained from eye witnesses, crashed in the Lac Constance, about four kilometres outside Arbon. This statement was later confirmed. The missing machine was located at a depth of about 180 metres.

Unfortunately the entire crew, numbering nine, have been lost. They were all employees of Swissair:

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that no meeting is to be held during

AUGUST.

They will be advised in due course of the resumption in September next.

THE COMMITTEE.

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Max Traber (31), pilot instructor; flying pupils Werner Berger (31), Heini Bueherer (27), Walter Wüesch (34), Heini Schiess (36), Kurt Wiesendanger (35); engineers Pierre Chervet (30) and Markus Baumann (29); and technician Bruno Baechli (26).

The Federal Air Office, Swissair, and the District Court of Arbon have taken steps to investigate the cause of the accident.

On Saturday, June 22nd, a memorial service was held at Arbon for the nine victims; amongst those present were Federal Councillor Lepori, and Dr. R. V. Heberlein, Chairman of Swissair.

The Swedish University of Uppsala has honoured Dr. Josias Braun-Blanquet, since 1929 head of the "Station Internationale de Géo-botanique Méditerranéenne" Montpellier, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. Dr. Braun is a native of the canton of Grisons; he is also a honorary doctor of the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Federal Institute for the study of snow and avalanches on the Weissfluhjoch, above Davos, is asking all Swiss who own refrigerators to gather hailstones exceeding one-fifth of an inch in diameter and to keep them at a temperature below freezing point until officials of the institute can collect them. The recent heavy falls of hailstones of abnormal size show, it is explained, the urgency of studying all possible means of protection against hailstorms. The institute is now concentrating on that study and it believes that the examination of abnormal hailstones can contribute to the solution of the problem.

At the age of seventy-four Professor William Rappard is now giving up the Chair of Public Finance at the Geneva University, which he has occupied since 1915. He has been appointed honorary professor. We would like to recall the fact that Professor Rappard taught at the American University of Harvard, of which he is a *doctor honoris causa*, that he was the head of the "Institut universitaire des hautes études internationales", and that he was twice rector of his Genevese Alma Mater. At the League of Nations, where he was a member of the Swiss delegation, he was at the head of the Section for Mandates from 1920 to 1925.

TRITTST IM MORGENROT DAHER.

When the morning skies grow red
And o'er us their radiance shed
Thou, O Lord appeareth
In their light.
When the Alps glow bright with splendour
Pray to God, to Him surrender
For you feel and understand
That He dwelleth in this land.

In the sunset Thou art nigh
And beyond the starry sky,
Thou, O loving Father
Ever near.
When to Heav'n we are departing
Joy and bliss Thou'lt be imparting
For we feel and understand
That Thou dwelleth in this land.

When dark clouds enshroud the hills
And grey mist the valley fills,
Yet, Thou art not hidden
From thy sons,
Pierce the gloom in which we cower
With Thy sunshine's cleansing power,
Then we'll feel and understand
That God dwelleth in this land.

Through the wild and stormy night,
Thou doest shield us with Thy might,
Omnipotent Saviour,
Lord of all,
Humbly in our God confiding,
Conscious of His love abiding,
Yes, we feel and understand
That He dwelleth in our land.

(Translated by J.J.F.S.)



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