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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 appointed Minister Pierre-François Bruegger, at present Swiss Minister in Venezuela and Panama, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Rumania.

Minister Bruegger was born in 1900 at Lucerne and is a citizen of Tavel (Ct. Fribourg). He studied at the University of Fribourg, where he obtained the degree of *Lic. rer. pol.*

In 1924 he entered the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office), and in succession held posts at Liverpool, Sao Paulo, Bogota and Lisbon.

From 1946 to 1949 Monsieur Bruegger was 1st Counsellor of Legation in Prague. After his transfer to Buenos-Aires he was recalled to Berne in 1952, where he was appointed head of the section for political affairs at the Federal Political Department. Two years afterwards (1954) he was appointed Minister in Venezuela and Panama.

\* \* \*

Monsieur John Kenneth Christie, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Union of South Africa, has presented his credentials to Dr. Th. Holenstein, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government has decided to put before Parliament the demand for a subvention amounting to 29 million francs for the enlargement of the Geneva-Cointrin airport.

\* \* \*

Switzerland's net national income last year showed an increase of 6 per cent over 1955. Wages and salaries £1,200 million, trading profits £380 million, and dividends and interest on investments £420 million were the chief items in the total of more than £2,000 million.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Franco Brenni, Swiss Ambassador in Cuba, to represent the Confederation also in Ciudad Trujillo (Republic of Dominica).

\* \* \*

Monsieur Werner Fuchs, Swiss Minister in Poland, has been appointed Swiss Minister to the American Republics of Guatemala, Costa-Rica, Honduras and Salvador with residence in Guatemala City.

## 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 Chilean Minister in Berne, Monsieur Fernando Garcia Oldini, has presented his credentials as Ambassador to Dr. Th. Holenstein, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

### Cantonal

A motor-car collided with a train of the Bruenig railway at the station of Sarnen (Ct. Obwalden). The driver of the car, Emil Riebli-Bucher (49), builder's foreman and father of three children, was killed. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Vital Schwander (Galgenen) has celebrated his 25th jubilee as a member of the Government of the canton of Schwyz. [A.T.S.]

During the first six months of 1957, 875 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Lucerne. 575 persons were injured of whom 18 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

A motorist overtook a heavy lorry at a road bend between Gerliswil and Neuenkirch (Ct. Lucerne) and collided with an oncoming car driven by Mr. Willi Hasler (35), a technician of Basle. The latter, father of four children, was killed. The guilty motorist has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

An explosion which occurred in one of the laboratories at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich caused damage estimated at 13,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The Music Prize amounting to 8,000.— frs. given by the town of Zurich has been awarded to the composer Rolf Liebermann of Feldmeilen. [A.T.S.]

The Shah of Persia and his wife arrived in Zurich for a few days' stay. Although the visit was a private one, Monsieur André Dominicé, Chef du Protocole, travelled to Zurich to extend the Swiss Government's best wishes for an agreeable stay in our country. (The visit unfortunately came to a sudden end owing to the earthquake disaster in Persia.) [A.T.S.]

In Zurich two school-boys aged 15 and 17 were caught stealing books. Investigations by the police have shown that since January of this year the boys had stolen 180 books at various bookshops to the value of 2,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the premises of the "Rosenstiel Papier, A.G." Giesshuebelstrasse, Zurich, caused damage estimated at 400,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1956, 53,000 persons visited the Zoological Gardens at Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Mr. C. Zinner (49), of Basle, a commercial employee, fell 300 ft. whilst climbing alone on the southern face of the Mönch (13,488 ft.) in the Bernese Oberland. He was rescued, whilst still alive, but died when taken to the Jungfrauoch. [A.T.S.]

The railway La Chaux-de-Fonds — Le Locle has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

On 30th August and 1st September the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds is celebrating its 300th anniversary as an independent community. [A.T.S.]

The town of Delsburg numbered on 30th June, 9,055 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

The new "Kursaal" at Heiden (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), built after the plans of the architect M. Glaus (Zurich), was recently inaugurated. [A.T.S.]

Two alpinists, Mr. R. Stoll (38), of Rorschacherberg, and Mr. R. Hensch (25), of Kreuzlingen, were killed when they fell 500 ft. on the Wideralpstoeker (Hundstein district). [A.T.S.]

The Roman Catholic community of Altstaetten (Ct. St. Gall) has received an anonymous donation of 30,000.— frs. towards the cost of a new organ for their church. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1956, 1,088 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Grisons. 447 persons were injured of whom 16 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The funicular railway to the Muottas-Muragle (Ct. Grisons) has celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out on the premises of the "Armaturenfabrik & Giesserei Oederlin, A.G.", Obersiggenthal caused damage estimated at 60,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Aargau for 1956 close with a credit balance of 135,510.— frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Gian Carlo Bianchi (Lugano) has been appointed Editor of the paper "Corriera del Ticino"; he is the successor of M. Vittorio Frigerio, who held the post for 45 years. [A.T.S.]

A smash-and-grab raid took place at a jewellery establishment in Montreux. Watches to the value of 10,000.— frs. were stolen. [A.T.S.]

Marius Besson (52), head of the customs office Crassier (Ct. Vaud), was killed when mountaineering in the Verbier district (Ct. Valais). [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1956 of the canton of Neuchâtel close with a credit balance of 272,448.— frs. [A.T.S.]

A committee has been formed to study the question of erecting a monument at Heiden (Ct. Appenzell)



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to the founder of the International Red Cross, M. Henri Dunant. The first International Convention was signed at Heiden some ninety years ago. [A.T.S.]

M. Samuel Baud-Bovy has been elected Director of the Conservatoire of Geneva in succession to M. Henri Gagnebin, who had been connected with the Conservatoire for thirty-two years. [A.T.S.]

**DEATHS.**

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Jean Lombard, for forty years a partner in the banking house of Lombard, Odier & Cie., Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 82.

Abbé Rodolphe Jambe, formerly professor at the College "St. Michel" Fribourg, and editor of the paper "Action Sociale", in Fribourg, aged 56.

Adrien Turel, author, in Zurich, at the age of 67.

Alfred Georg, a former member of the National Council, and President of the Chamber of Commerce, Geneva, in Geneva, aged 93.

Dr. phil. Albert Koller, since 1946 Director of the Federal Statistical Office, Berne, in Berne, at the age of 64.

Dr. J. R. Brunner, from 1907 to 1949 a teacher of physics and geometry at the "Kantonsschule" Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 76.

Alfred Guinchard, a former member of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel, at the age of 81.

Dr. phil. Fritz Tellenbach, for many years publisher and editor of the "Anzeigers des Wahlkreises Thalwil", in Thalwil (Ct. Zurich), aged 72.

Stephan Jaeggi, composer, and for the last twenty-five years conductor of the "Stadt Musik" Berne, in Berne, at the age of 54. [A.T.S.]

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Professor Dr. med. Heinrich Meng (70), of Basle, until 1956 professor of psycho-hygiene at the University of Basle.

Martin Gyr (80), of Einsiedeln, a former "Kantonsrat", journalist and author.

Dr. Hugo Oltramare (70), of Geneva, formerly a president of the "Consistoire", and founder of the "Children's Help" organisation of the Swiss Red Cross.

Mlle. Cecile Lauber (70), of Lucerne, author of children's tales and novels. Amongst her many books are best known "Verständigung an den Kindern", "Die stumme Natur", and "Land deiner Mutter". [A.T.S.]

**LEGACIES.**

Madame Ida Flersheim, who died in 1955 in Lucerne, has left her collection of paintings and sculptures, insured at 130,000.— frs., to the town of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

**DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.**

Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Tschopp-Greppin of Delsberg, Mr. and Mrs. A. Delachaux of Les Pourrières (Ct. Neuchâtel).

Mr. and Mrs. Joh. Thurnherr-Roner of Altstaetten (Ct. St. Gall) have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

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