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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM



Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Lucien-Bernard Guillaume to the post of permanent Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia, in succession to Monsieur Walter Jaeggi, who has recently been appointed Head of the Information and Press Service at the Federal Political Department in Berne.

Monsieur Guillaume was born in 1908, and is a citizen of Les Verrières. He studied Law at the University of Neuchâtel, and entered the service of the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1946. He has held in succession posts at Budapest and in Tunisia, and was ultimately Head of the Swiss Delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea.

* * *

The Swiss Vice-Consulate in Punta Arenas (Chile) will be closed on 30th June 1962. The resignation of Monsieur Joseph Davet, Honorary Vice-Consul, has been accepted with thanks for services rendered.

* * *

The newly-appointed Ambassadors of Eire and Tunisia, Messieurs William Warnock and Zuhin Chelli respectively, have presented their credentials to M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. F. T. Wahlen, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

The Federal Council has nominated as its delegate to the International Health Conference, which is taking place in Philadelphia (U.S.A.) from 30th June to 7th July 1962, Dr. med. Boris Luban, of Grobo (Ct. Grisons).

* * *

Switzerland, Sweden and Austria have agreed, at a Foreign Ministers Conference in Stockholm — against American wishes — to press for association with the Common Market. They do not want a tariffs agreement as America has suggested.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 20.3 million passengers in the month of March 1962, or about the same number as during the same period in 1961. Receipts: 34.4 million francs.

Goods traffic is returned as 2.59 million tons, which is 160,000 tons more than in March 1961. Receipts: 56.1 million francs (March: 1961, 53.1 million francs).

The Swiss Federal Railways have in the first three months of the current year carried 58.7 million passengers, against 58.5 million during the same period in 1961. Receipts: 94.5 million francs (92.5 million francs).

Federal Councillor Jean Bourgknecht, Head of the Federal Finance and Customs Department, suffered, during a meeting of the Federal Council, a slight stroke. He has been taken to hospital for observation.

* * *

Dr. Fritz Dick, Head of the Federal Police Department, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health, to take effect at the end of the current year. He entered the service of the "Bundesanwaltschaft" in 1935, and was elected Head of the "Bundespolizei" in 1955.

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Cantonal

The commune of Andermatt has nominated army-corps commander Franz Nager an honorary citizen, in recognition of his distinguished services rendered to the army and his attachment to his native canton. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Schwyz, which took place in the "Ring zu Ibach" in Schwyz, Mr. Alois Ehler (Conservative) was elected as "Bezirksstatthalter", and Karl Buergi (Conservative), of Goldau, as "Statthalter". [A.T.S.]

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The government of the canton of Schwyz has banned on its territory the firing of mortars and any other use of explosives on the occasions of weddings and church festivals. The reason given is that often the most elementary security measures are not paid attention to, thus causing injuries and even death to the inexperienced users. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Obwaldner Landsgemeinde" took place on the Landenberg above Sarnen. All the members of the cantonal government were re-elected. Mr. Hans Gasser (Lungern) was elected "Landammann", and Mr. Christian Dillier (Sarnen) as "Landesstatthalter". The "Open Parliament" was attended, as guests, by Federal Councillor Ludwig von Moos, army-corps commander Zueblin, and the Belgian Ambassador, M. F. Seynaeve. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden was held in Wil. The six members of the cantonal government were confirmed in their offices. Dr. Graeni (Stans) was elected as "Landammann", and Mr. R. Blaettler (Hergiswil) as "Landesstatthalter". As official guests the following attended: the members of the government of the canton of St. Gall *in corpore*, Federal Vice-Chancellor Dr. Felix Weber, army-corps commander Franz Nager, Brigadier Fritz Gerber, Colonel Leopold Zimmermann, and the American General Consul, Mr. John B. Holt. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Roger Gonzenbach, head surgeon at the cantonal hospital in Winterthur, has been elected Director and Chief Surgeon at the cantonal hospital Frauenfeld.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The University of Zurich, on the occasion of the "Stiftungsfest", has honoured the following with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*:— Medical Faculty: Johann Jakob Ess, of Neuwilen (Thurgau), Victor Elsasser, of Aarau. Philosophical Faculty: Ferdinand Boehny, of Zurich, Albert Knöpfli, of Illinghausen (Thurgau), and Stefan Loringett of Wergenstein (Grisons).

[A.T.S.]

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The "Zürcher Ziegelein", employing a staff of 770, has celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation.

[A.T.S.]

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The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Glarus was held in Glarus. Amongst the invited guests were: the members of the government of the canton of Fribourg *in corpore*, Dr. Emil Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, Divisional commanders von Sprecher and Gygli, and Brigadier Lucchini.

Mr. Herman Feusi (Liberal) was elected as "Landammann", and Mr. Fritz Stucki (Democrat, Netstal) as "Landesstatthalter". Dr. H. Heer (Democrat, Glarus) and Dr. Fritz Stucki (Democrat) were elected as States Councillors.

* * *

As a friendly gesture of the close relations which have existed for many years between the towns of Ludwigsburg (Germany) and Zug, the Mayor of Ludwigsburg, Dr. A. Saur, has presented the town of Zug with 1,000 rose trees. These trees will be planted along the lake side.

* * *

On 31st March 1962 the population of the town of Bienne numbered 63,306, and of Basle 230,635.

The accounts for 1961 of the canton of Schaffhausen close with a credit-balance of 628,700.— frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

As a result of the recent elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, the strengths of the various parties are as follows: Peasant and Bourgeois Party 78 (two losses), Socialists 68 (no change), Liberals 39 (two gains), Conservative Christian Socialists 10 (1 loss), "Landesring" 1 (1 loss), "Junges Berne" Party 2 (did not exist previously), Evangelical Popular Party 1 (no change), Christian Socialists 1 (no change). (The Council numbers 200 seats.) [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Appenzell I.Rh. "Landsgemeinde" took place at Appenzell. The government of the canton of Glarus *in corpore* attended as guests of honour. Dr. Albert Broger was confirmed in office as "Landammann".

[A.T.S.]

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The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell, A.Rh. was held at Trogen. Mr. Robert Hoehener (Bühler) was elected a member of the government, and as "Landammann" Hermann Kündig was elected. [A.T.S.]

* * *

An explosion which occurred at the "Kunstfeuerwerk, A.G." in Mägenswil (Ct. Aargau) caused the death of two persons. Eighteen workhands received injuries and were removed to hospital. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor Pierre Graber (Socialist) having given up his parliamentary seat, M. Marcel Brawand is succeeding him in the National Council. M. Brawand was born in 1907, and is a citizen of Grindelwald and Vevey. He was already formerly a member of the National Council. [A.T.S.]

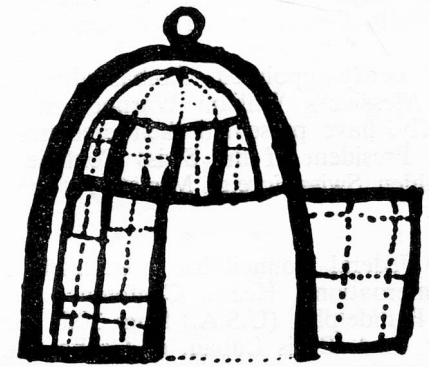
* * *

The solemn laying of the foundation stone of the 1964 Swiss National Exhibition took place at Lausanne in the presence of M. Chevallaz, vice-president of the organisation committee, in the absence, through illness, of the president, States Councillor Desplands, and Federal Councillor H. Schaffner. [A.T.S.]

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The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Philippe Baudet, has paid an official two-day visit to the canton of Vaud. He was received at Lausanne by the members of the government. The Ambassador visited the medical faculty of the University of Lausanne, and paid a call on the mayor of Lausanne, M. G. A. Chevallaz. [A.T.S.]

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DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland: Frederic Müller, from 1945 to 1953 Swiss Honorary Vice-Consul in Luxembourg, in Luxembourg, at the age of 82.

Colonel Henri Poudret, formerly a member of Instructors Corps (Cavalry), in Geneva, aged 90.

Dr. Jakob Neuhaus, in Romanshorn, at the age of 81. The deceased was for thirty years clerk of the court of the District Court of Arbon, and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau.

Johann Jakob, president of the commune of Langnau i.E. — owing to an accident — in Berne, aged 56. He leaves a widow and five children.

Hans Reutlinger, from 1943 to 1959 a member of the government of the canton of Thurgau, in Münsterlingen, aged 67.

Siegfried Stöckli, technical secretary of the Swiss Printers Association, in Aarau. The deceased held the rank of Colonel in the army.

Professor Dr. Eduard Horst von Tscherner, Professor of Sinology at the University of Zurich, at the age of 62. He was the author of numerous works dealing with the culture of China.

Colonel Hans Steiner, a former district commander, in Berne, aged 70.

[A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

The late Otto Siegenthaler, merchant, of Gossau (Ct. St. Gall), has left 80,000.— frs. to the Evangelical Church Parish of Gossau for a new organ. He has further bequeathed 120,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions.

* * *

The recently deceased Alfred Amstutz, of Kriens (Ct. Lucerne), has left to the commune of Kriens the sum of 200,000.— frs. towards the cost of a home for old people.

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The Foundation of the "Evangelisches Alters- und Pflegeheim" Chur has received an anonymous donation of 10,000.— frs.

[A.T.S.]

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ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. h.c. Armin Meili (70), of Lucerne. He became principally known as Director of the 1939 Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich. After studying architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained his diploma, he established himself as an architect in Lucerne (1918-1940). In 1944 Dr. Meili transferred his architectural office to Zurich. Many official buildings, schools, and churches were built after his plans, both in Switzerland and abroad. He is also a prolific writer on subjects of art, architecture and culture. From 1939

to 1955 he sat in Parliament (National Council). In 1940 the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Carlo Fleischmann (70), of Kuesnacht, nr. Zurich, Head of a well-established Wheat Import firm in Zurich, and president of the Wheat Bourse, Zurich. The Federal Council often asked him for advice when concluding commercial treaties with foreign countries. During the war years he rendered valuable service to our country.

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Professor G. R. Isenschmid (80), of Berne, eminent medical practitioner, and a former Professor of interior medicine and neurology at the University of Berne. He is the author of many scientific works..

[A.T.S.]

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VARIOUS

The Swiss Watch Industry has exported during the first quarter of 1962 a total of 10,963,500 watches and watch components to the value of 312.2 million francs.

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The Board of the Nestlé-Alimentana, A.G., Zug, has elected Dr. Max Petitpierre, a former Federal Councillor, as its president.

* * *

Forty Finnish newspaper, radio and television editors arrived at the Kloten airport on a five-day information visit. During their stay they visited Winterthur, Berne, Lausanne, Locarno and Zurich.

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