

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Sir Lionel Lamb, formerly *Chargé d'Affaires* in Peking has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Swiss Confederation, in succession to Sir Patrick Scrivener, who will shortly be retiring from the Foreign Service.

Sir Lionel Lamb was the British *Chargé d'Affaires ad interim* in Peking from March, 1951, until he returned home on leave in June this year. Previously he had spent almost the whole of his service in China.

Sir Patrick Scrivener, who has reached the retiring age of 60, has been head of the British Mission in Berne since January, 1950. Previously he had held appointments in Warsaw, Cairo, Budapest, Addis Ababa, Ankara, Rome, Lisbon, Damascus and Singapore.

Dr. Markus Burkhard has been elected Director of the Federal Air Office, in succession to M. Louis Clerc who is vacating his post on reaching retiring age.

Dr. Burkhard was born in 1902 in Sumiswald (Ct. Berne), he studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Heidelberg and Berne.

In 1930, he joined "Alpar" as a pilot, and a year later he was engaged by "Swissair" in the same capacity. From 1933-34, he acted as a flying instructor at the Dübendorf Airport. Dr. Burkhard entered into the service of the Federal Air Office in 1934, where he occupied several posts until 1948, when he was appointed Vice-Director. He holds the rank of a Colonel in the Swiss Air Force.

The retiring Director of the Federal Air Office, M. Louis Clerc, was born in 1888, and on the completion of his studies established himself as a lawyer at La Chaux-de-Fonds. In 1927, he took over the Presidency of the "Société suisse des fabricants de boîtes en or", and also became a member of the Board of the "Kantonalbank".

In 1932, M. Clerc entered into the service of the Federal Air Office as head of the administrative

section, and nine years later (1941) he was elected Director.

The Swiss Federal Council announced a "practically" balanced draft budget for 1954, with expenditure of £160 million.

Customs receipts for the month of September, 1953, totalled 54.5 million francs, or 3.7 million francs more than during the same period in 1952.

During the first nine months of the current year the receipts amounted to 338.8 million francs, which is 17.3 million francs more than for the same period in 1952.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during September 1953, 18.67 million passengers, or 307,000 more than in September, 1952. Receipts: 27.64 million francs. (Sept., 1952: 27.19 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 1.79 million tons, or 118,000 tons more than during the same period in 1952. Receipts: 33.15 million francs. (Sept., 1952: 31.45 million francs.)

### Cantonal

Mr. E. Gamper has been elected Chairman of the "Crédit Suisse", Zurich, Dr. A. Linder, former General Manager, has been appointed President of the General Management. Mr. F. Schulthess, former deputy General Manager is to be General Manager, and Mr. J. Jenny has been elected deputy General Manager.

Mr. Franz Janos, Mayor of the town of Vienna, has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich. He

## 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 27th, 1953, together with remittance for 6/-.

was received at the Town Hall by the Mayor of Zurich, Dr. Landolt. A reception in honour of the distinguished guest was held at the "Muraltengut". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Three persons were killed near the Belpmoos Airport (Ct. Berne) when a helicopter collided with an electric power cable. The names of the victims are: Raymond Gerber-Sigg, head of the technical section of "Alpar", Karl Ritter, (aged 28), and Hans Stüssi (aged 46) all of Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Claude Duvanel, Editor of the paper "Impartial" of La Chaux-de-Fonds, has been appointed Editor-in-chief of the paper "Démocrate" of Delsberg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A collision between a passenger and goods train occurred between Tavannes and Tramelan. Two railwaymen were killed, namely Paul Schindler (aged 64), the father of six children, of Saignelégier, and Ami Lanz, of Tramelan, father of two children. Ten of the passengers were injured. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

In September, 1953, 855 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich. 417 persons were injured of whom 14 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A motor tractor, near Bulle (Ct. Fribourg) ran into detachment of soldiers. Four soldiers were injured one of them, Willy Cavin, (aged 21) of Ecoteaux succumbed to his injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Robert Flatt has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary in Basle. He was from 1903-1924 rector of the "Obern Realschule", Basle, and at present is still a lecturer (Privat-Dozent) at the University of that town. He sat for a number of years in the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the Centenary of the "Schweizerische Industriegesellschaft" Neuhausen, the Board of this concern has made a donation of 100,000.— francs towards the fund for erecting a new "Kindergarten" at Neuhausen. (Ct. Schaffhausen). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Olma" Fair at St. Gall closed on October 17th. The Fair was visited by 275,000 persons. (1952: 257,000). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. H. J. Clarke, British president of the International Skating Union since 1946, has resigned because of ill health. Dr. J. Koch (Switzerland), is to take over the presidency with Mr. S. Laftman (Sweden) and Mr. Nicaise (Belgium) as Vice-Presidents. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Mlle. Elise Füllemann of Frauenfeld (Ct. Thurgau) has left an amount of 8,000.— Frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Paul Kägi has been appointed General Manager of the "Argauischen Hypothekenbank" in succession to the late Dr. E. Wenzel. [A.T.S.]

The "Fiera" at Lugano closed its doors on the 17th of October. 150,618 visitors went through the turnstiles, which is a new record. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The man, who committed a robbery at the "Bankgesellschaft" in Wil, (Ct. St. Gall) last July, has been arrested in Munich. He is a mechanic by the name of Fritz Lüthi of Braunau. (Ct. Thurgau). An amount of Frs. 10,000 — was stolen at the time of which 7,000.— were recovered. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A stranger entered the building of the "Caisse du Crédit mutuel" in Ursy (District Glâne) threatening the cashier with a revolver. After gagging him, he rifled the safe, and got away with an amount of about 7,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

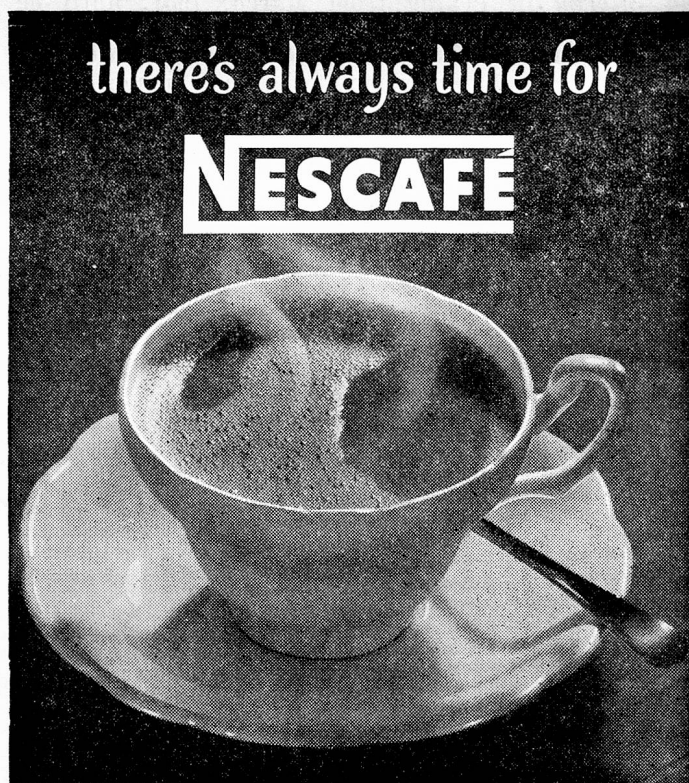
\* \* \*

Mme. Aline Chavan-Barbey of Lausanne has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Maurice Lugeon, in Lausanne, at the age of 83. He was a well-known geologist whose book on the construction of dams is one of the classics of dam buildings for hydro-electric works. He contributed to the preparation for the big dams for the Genissiat and Donzere Madragon power plants in France and had been awarded the Wollaston medal by the British Geological Society. He carried out the geological research for some of the largest dams in



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ANOTHER OF NESTLÉ'S GOOD THINGS

91.AA

Switzerland, North Africa, Argentine, and Soviet Russia, as well as his work in France, and besides his great book on dam construction, he published a large number of books on hydro-electric power, mining, and oil prospecting. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1944.

Heinrich Pollinger, Alpine guide, at St. Niklaus, aged 69. Among his many achievements was the first ascent of the Zinal Rothorn (13,855 ft.) by the east wall. He also made a first ascent of the Weisshorn, (14,800 ft.) by Schalligrat.

Dr. R. Tschudy-Nufer, a former teacher in Basle, and member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town, aged 77.

Dr. Albert Meyer, President of the Swiss Confederation in 1936, and for many years head of the Finance Department of the Government, at the age of 84.

The deceased studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin and then joined the staff of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", of which he was Editor for some 15 years before he was elected to the Federal Council in 1929. He was head of the Department of the Interior until, 1934, and then head of the Finance Department until his retirement from the government in 1938.

Dr. med. Rudolf Garraux, a medical practitioner, and from 1933-1950, President of the "Verbindung der Schweizer Aerzte", in Chur, aged 75.

Hermann Oldani, from 1922-1932, a member of the Grand Council of the canton Berne, and afterwards a member of the "Kantonsrat", Zurich. The deceased sat from 1928-1934, and again from 1946-

1950 in the National Council. He died in Zurich at the age of 62.

Cesare Mazza, from 1921-1935 a member of the government of the canton of Ticino, in Bellinzona, aged 64. He sat for many years in the Grand Council of his native canton over which he presided in 1938.

Emil Baumgartner, President of the "Pro-Radio", and General Manager of the "Sport A.G.", Bienne, in Bienne, aged 69. [A.T.S.]

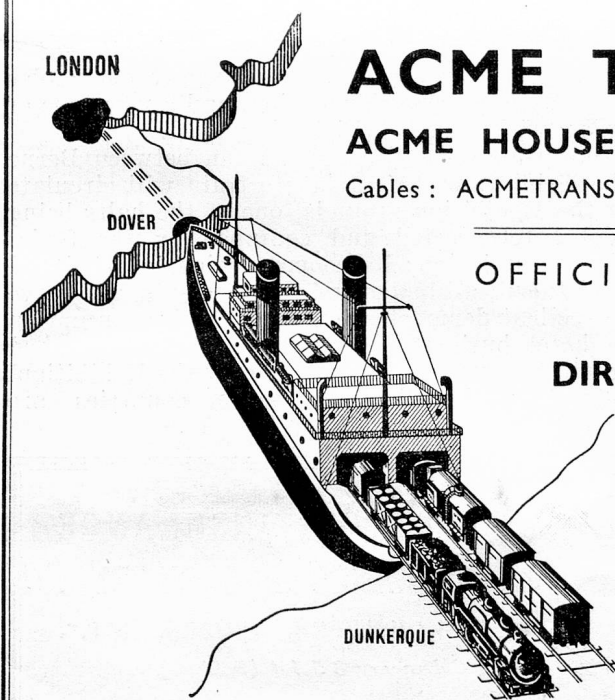
Dr. Albert Schweitzer, musician, theologian, philosopher, and medical missionary in the African jungles, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1952.

Born in Alsace, of Swiss parents, Dr. Schweitzer was formerly a professor at Strassbourg, where he graduated as a physician. He then went with his wife to Africa to begin his fight against disease and witchcraft. This became his life work.

Since 1913, his clinic and medical mission at Lambrance, French Equatorial Africa, has become a legend. He has repeatedly advocated a return to fundamental Christian principles as the only remedy for what he regards as the decline of civilisation.

The Marcel Benoist Prize, amounting to 20,000.—frs. for the year 1952 (for the promotion of scientific research work) has been awarded to Dr. med. Otto Gsell, Director of the medical clinic, and Professor of medicine at the University of Basle.

Professor Emil Honegger, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, gave the first of the



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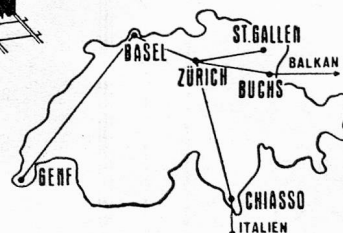
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Emsley lectures at the Textile Institute's headquarters in Manchester. He compared textile productivity in the United States with that in Western Europe and, particularly, Switzerland where "one of the most important problems" was how "to increase efficiency and productivity although keeping to the traditional size of the mills." But whether this problem can be solved at all, he said, was uncertain, although it was "certainly worth the combined efforts of all concerned."

The main objection to concentrating production in larger factories, as in the United States, was that the Swiss were fond of their little factories which were "mostly situated in villages of which they form the constituent part," and seemed "to fit into our narrow valleys and the democratic atmosphere."

These little mills, Professor Honegger said, mostly had modern equipment. In the silk and rayon-weaving industry of Switzerland some 15 per cent of the looms were automatic, in cotton weaving more than 50 per cent; and the non-automatic looms were not necessarily old looms. These figures compared very unfavourably with those of the United States where practically all looms were automatic, but in Switzerland the fine fabrics and fashionable articles produced were either altogether unsuited to being woven on automatic looms or automatic looms showed no or little advantage in their weaving.

Professor Honegger said three reasons were considered mainly responsible for the great inferiority of European productivity to America's. They were obsolete equipment, organisation, and psychological obstacles. Others were the great advantage American industry drew from the work of research laboratories, and from the systematic application of scientific methods. The only way in which Western Europe could compensate for these disadvantage — and that of its lesser natural resources — was by work. This was more particularly true for Switzerland.

Dr. A. J. Turner, president of the institute, was in the chair and Professor Honegger, who was unable to attend the September convocation of the institute, was awarded the Fellowship which he should then have received.

The Swiss cycling team of Hugo Koblet and Armin von Bueren, won the six-days cycling race, which ended at Frankfurt.

The Swiss guide Arnold Glatthard has left Geneva for Darjeeling at the request of the Indian

Government to examine the possibility of setting up a climbing school for Indian guides.

Britain's crack Hunter Mark 2 jet fighter will show off its paces soon to the Swiss army, who are interested in incorporating certain of its engine features in Swiss fighters.

In co-operation with the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits, the Compagnie Suisse des Wagons-Restaurants has now been operating dining-cars on the Swiss railways for 50 years. In 1952, the company's pay roll numbered 334; its turnover amounted to 6.4 million francs. Swiss Federal Railways places the dining-cars at the company's disposal. In celebration of this anniversary, the managing director of the company, Mr. W. Seewer, organised a special train to carry guests to Lake Constance where they enjoyed a trip on a lake steamer.

On 2nd October last, Mr. Krähenbühl, licensee of the Berne Station Buffet and President of the Organizing Committee of the forthcoming *Travel Trades and International Culinary Exhibition* (HOSPES), to be held in 1954 (14th May-21st June), in Berne, laid the first stone on the Allmend site, just outside the Federal capital, where, next spring, the grounds and buildings of this outstanding Fair will cover a total area of 165,000 sq. metres. Mr. von Stürler, General Secretary of the Exhibition, summarised the plan and purpose of this event.

In the Section reserved for the travel trades, the most modern types of transport will be on view. The Swiss Federal Railways intend to set up a station which will function (showing the working of railway switches) and a dining car with kitchen will be open to the public, demonstrating the organisation of a restaurant on wheels. Private transport companies will also participate in this section, and a new type of dining-car with cinema will be displayed.

A hover-plane service will be run between Berne and the Exhibition. A miniature train will circulate within the Exhibition grounds, one of the halts being a model hotel erected and equipped by the Swiss Hoteliers Association; its rooms, variously fitted and arranged to suit all tastes and requirements, will serve as an excellent demonstration of the Swiss conception of the hotel business. Of course, the art of good eating will be a preponderant factor at the Exhibition. The finest "Chefs" from seven countries are

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expected to attend, including a team from the United States. There will be competitions and contests for all branches of the culinary arts: bakery, confectionery, pastrycooks and cooks. Dietetic cooking will also feature on these programmes and a Barman's Contest will certainly not fail to attract attention.

The exhibition as a whole is to be the first of its kind and, for six weeks, the public will be able to view a practical demonstration of the culinary arts. Every day, special dishes and exhibition specialities will be prepared. Apart from an international restaurant (under collective management) several other restaurants and inns will be open for the enjoyment of a great variety of local and regional dishes: in rustic "Weinstuben" connoisseurs of good wines will be able to taste and relish the best vintages.

Not only French, but Italian and Burgundian cuisine will delight the palates of international gourmets, Far Eastern specialities will be served in a Chinese junk moored in an artificial lake in the Exhibition grounds. Even Swiss military "mess" will be prepared by genuine Swiss army cooks. Another attraction for lovers of good food will be a pond in which the hungry visitor can catch trout and have it prepared at a nearby inn.

On 1st October, it was announced that off the Island of Ponza, Professor Auguste Piccard had, on the previous day, plunged to a record depth in his bathyscaph "Trieste". He was accompanied by his son and the two men stayed down from 8.18 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Professor Piccard is of Swiss birth, his birthplace being the small village of Lutry on Lake Geneva. On his return to the surface of the sea, the Professor and his son were greeted enthusiastically by crews of the two Italian ships standing by; Swiss and Italian flags were flown on the bathyscaph.

A news brief published in the "Daily Telegraph" under the title, "St. Bernard Dogs want jobs; Monastery to close" roused great indignation in England, and the news was also broadcast by the B.B.C.

Fortunately, the rumour has now been denied by Monseigneur Lovey, Prevost of the St. Bernard Monastery. He writes that, although the building of the Simplon Tunnel in 1906, and the coming of modern road traffic greatly diminished the utility of the Hospice during the four summer months, there still remain eight months of the year when the Pass is

completely snow-blocked, and "Then", writes Mgr. Lovey, "... there are no more motor-cars or tourists. The guests in the monastery become few, but they gain in quality as they lose in numbers. They are pilgrims, travellers, friends of sport and the mountain. All these are received under a warm roof of hospitality".

Mgr. Lovey concluded by saying that the news of the closing down of the Monastery brought a heavy English mail. People hoped that the news would be denied. Let us hope they are now satisfied.

From the 25th to the 29th August 1954, the European Athletics Championships will take place on the Neufeld Stadium in Berne. European Athletics Championships are only held once in four years. Their importance is almost equal to the Olympic Games. 800-100 athletes from 29 countries are expected to participate in next year's competitions.

A great number of guests from abroad are also expected to combine their Swiss holidays with a visit to the European Athletics Championships.

The Federal Council refused to permit a Swiss firm, Hispano Zuiza, to export anti-aircraft guns to Western German. A communiqué said the firm's request was to be allowed to export twenty centimetre guns worth about £230,000.

On the other hand, the council had allowed the export of a small number of pistols destined for the West German police.

## SWISS WINTER SPORTS

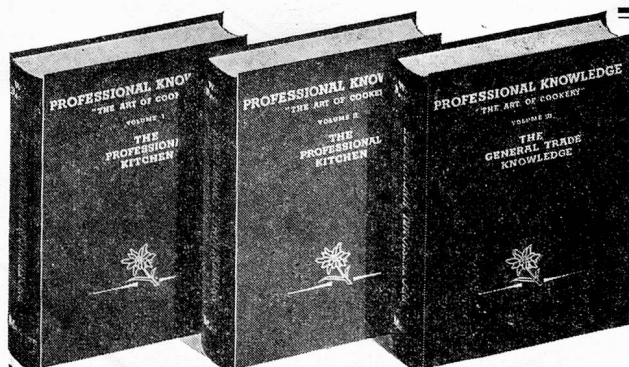
The Sports Hotel Alpina, Flums Berg, St. Gallen, 1½ hours from Zurich, hitherto mostly known to the Swiss, is developing fast, and is becoming an international rendez-vous. Downhill from 2500 metres to 450 metres, easy training slopes quite close to the Hotel.

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