

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Four of the seven members of the Federal Council which forms the Swiss Federal Government are retiring at the end of this year, namely Dr. h.c. H. Streuli (head of the Finance Department), Dr. Philipp Etter (chief of the Department of the Interior), Mr. Thomas Holenstein (chief of the Department for Public Economy), and Dr. G. Lepori (head of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Department).

Dr. H. Streuli was born in 1892, and is a citizen of Wädenswil. He studied architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and at the University of Munich. From 1928 to 1935, Dr. Streuli was President of the commune of Richterswil. In 1935, he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich where he took over the Finance Department, which post he held until his election to the Federal Council in 1953, as successor to Dr. Max Weber. In 1940 the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in recognition of the work he had rendered as president of the organisation committee of the "Landesausstellung" in 1939. In the army Dr. Streuli held the rank of Colonel (Engineering Corps). He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1957.

\* \* \*

Dr. h.c. Ph. Etter was born on December 21st 1891 at Menzingen (Ct. Zug). He received his schooling at the "Kantonsschule" in Zug, and the "Stiftsschule" in Einsiedeln, after which he studied at the University of Zurich. In 1917, he established himself as a lawyer at Zug. Dr. Etter took a great interest in the politics of his native canton. In 1918, at the age of 26, he entered the "Kantonsrat" Zug, and four years later (1922) he became a member of the cantonal government.

In the year 1930 he entered Parliament (States Council) where he soon made a name for himself as a shrewd parliamentarian. Four years later (1934) Dr. Etter became a member of the Federal Government in succession to Federal Councillor Musy.

Dr. Etter occupied the Presidential chair in 1939, 1942, 1947 and 1953. He belongs to the Catholic-Conservative party, and was the first representative of the canton of Zug to become a member of the Federal Government.

\* \* \*

Dr. Thomas Holenstein, who gives ill health as the reason for his retirement, was born in 1896, and is a citizen of Buetschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He studied law at the Universities of Basle, Geneva, Berne and Rome after which he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall. From 1931 to 1945 he was a lecturer (Dozent) at the Commercial University of St. Gall. In 1936, Dr. Holenstein was elected a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and a year later (1937) entered the National Council over which he presided in 1952/53. In 1954 he was elected a member of the Federal Government. He belongs to the Catholic-Conservative party. In the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel. He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1958.

\* \* \*

Dr. Giuseppe Lepori, who is retiring for reasons of health, was born in 1902 at Massagno, and is a citizen of Lopagno (Ct. Ticino). He studied law at the Universities of Fribourg and Munich, and afterwards became editor of the Conservative paper "Popolo è Libertà" from 1927 to 1935. Afterwards, up till 1940, he practised as a lawyer in Bellinzona, when he became a member of the government of the canton of Ticino. Dr. Lepori sat in the Grand Council from 1927 to 1940. He was elected a member of the Federal Government on the 16th December 1954. During the current year he was Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Robert Boetschi, formerly 1st Secretary of Legation, to the post of Consul-General in Leopoldville and Brazzaville, in succession to M. Theodor Curchad.

\* \* \*

Mr. Armin Jeker, Director of the Federal Finance Control is vacating his post at the end of the current year on reaching retiring age. The Federal Council has appointed as his successor Dr. jur. Eduard Lehmann (43) of Basle and Trimbach, since 1953, "Adjunkt des Rechtsdienstes der Bundesanwaltschaft".

\* \* \*

The Swiss Legation in Bangkok (Thailand) has been raised to the status of an Embassy. Monsieur Erwin Bernath, at present Minister in Bangkok has been nominated as Ambassador.

Dr. Erwin Bernath was born in 1911, and hails from Thayngen (Ct. Schaffhausen). He studied law

at the Universities of Geneva, Paris, Berlin and Zurich, obtaining his doctorate at the Zurich University, after which he was *stagiaire* for a year at the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade in Lausanne.

In 1936, he entered the diplomatic service, occupying a post at the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne until 1939. In the latter year he was transferred — until the end of the civil war — to the Swiss Legation in San Sebastian, and then to Madrid.

At the end of 1945, he was appointed Attaché, and subsequently 2nd Secretary of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Tokio as head of the Division for Foreign Interests.

In 1946, Dr. Bernath returned to the Political Department in Berne, where for the next four years he held an important position. In the meantime (1949), he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In January 1951, Dr. Bernath was appointed 1st collaborator to the then Swiss Minister in London, and five years later (1956), he was transferred to Bangkok (Thailand) as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary. (Whilst in London, Monsieur and Madame Bernath took a great interest in the life of the Colony, and their departure was much deplored).

The election of four new Federal Councillors has been fixed for December 17th. It is anticipated that Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre, head of the Federal Political Department, will be the next President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillor Fritz Wahlen, Vice-President.

#### Cantonal

Dr. h.c. Max Oechslin, head forester of the canton of Uri for the last thirty-seven years, and all together forty-one years in the service of that canton has retired from his post. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Basle, and an honorary citizen of the Corporation of Uri. [A.T.S.]

The art prizes of the town of Lucerne for the year 1959, have been awarded to the following: Alfred Schmidiger (67), Painter of Lucerne (3,000. — francs), and Roland Beetschen (29), sculptor in Lucerne (1,500. — francs). [A.T.S.]

The municipal council of Zurich, in accordance with a century old tradition, has bestowed honorary citizenship on Dr. phil. Pater Raimund Tschudy, Abbot of the monastery of Einsiedeln. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eduard Freimüller (Socialist), Mayor of the town of Berne, has been re-elected for a further term of three years [A.T.S.]

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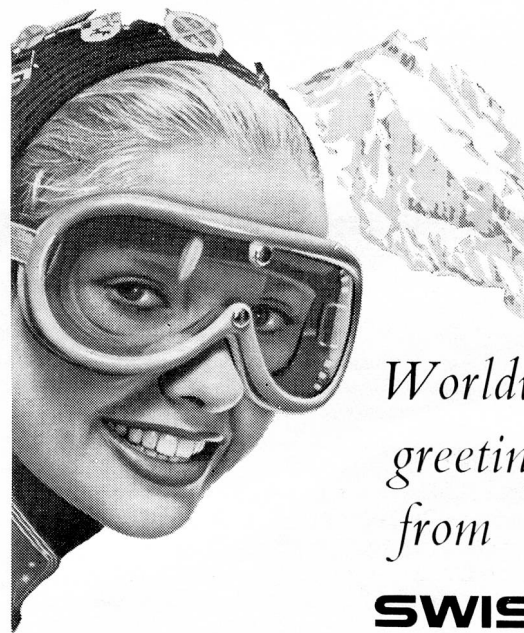
A fire which broke out at the "Reisswollfabrik, A. Herzog" Lyss, caused damage estimated to amount to 500,000. — francs. [A.T.S.]

Deacon Armin Perrin, "Stadtpfarrer" of the town of Bulle (Ct. Fribourg) has been honoured by the commune of Bulle with honorary citizenship [A.T.S.]

M. Paul Torche, has been elected President of the government of the canton of Fribourg for 1960. He received 92 votes out of 95. [A.T.S.]

The resignation of M. Louis Barras, from the government of the canton of Fribourg is reported. He is taking up the post of President of Swiss cigarette manufacturers. [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Fribourg has received the Danish Ambassador, Madame Bodil Gertrud Begtrup at the governmental building. [A.T.S.]



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Madame Ernesta Martinelli-Gatti, has celebrated her 101st birthday in Aarau. [A.T.S.]

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Frau Marie Grob-Sutter has celebrated her 102nd birthday in Amriswil (Ct. Thurgau). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Henri Goldstein, since 1934, Professor of organic chemistry at the University of Lausanne, has resigned. He is the author of a large number of scientific works. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Antonio Antognini (Conservative) has been re-elected a member of the States Council. Dr. Feruccio Bolla (Radical) enters the States Council as successor of States Councillor Bixio Bossi.

States Councillor Bolla was born in 1911. He studied law at the University of Lausanne, and was from 1939 to 1947, an Appeal Court Judge, since then he has been practising as a lawyer in Lugano. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Monsieur François Clerc, has been elected rector of the University of Neuchâtel, in succession to Professor Felix Fiala. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A shop window of a jewellery establishment at the Rue de la Confédération in Geneva was smashed, and goods valued over 20,000. — francs were stolen.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Jean Treina (Socialist) has been elected President of the government of the canton of Geneva, and M. Edouard Chamay, Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

## DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. h.c. Carl Moser, in Berne at the age of 93. The deceased held at one time the post of Director of the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule" Rütli. He was a member of the National Council from 1917 to 1919, and of the States Council from 1920 to 1935.

From 1908 to 1931, Dr. Moser was a member of the government of the canton of Berne, and afterwards President of the "Kantonalbank" Berne. The deceased was one of the founders of the Peasant and Bourgeois party.

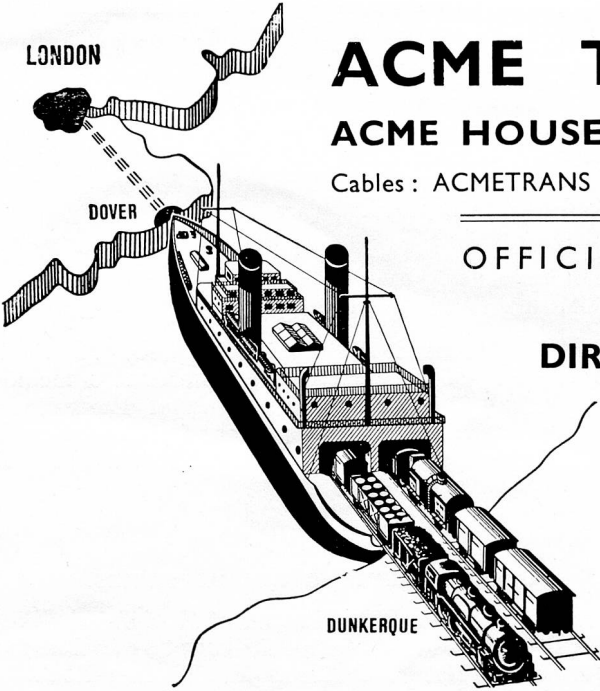
Dr. jur. Alfred Wieland-Zahn, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, in Basle aged 90. During the first world war, he was in command of a mountain brigade.

Eugen Loeb, for 50 years in a leading position of the "Warenhaus, Gebrüder Loeb A. G." Berne, in Berne at the age of 82.

Dr. A. Sager, since 1947, Director of the "Verbandes der Genossenschaften 'Konkordia' der Schweiz", and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich aged 47.

Dr. med. Oscar Naegeli, formerly Director of the Dermatological Institute of the University of Berne, in Fribourg at the age of 74.

Dr. Werner Zemp, from 1939 to 1953, a teacher at the "Töcherschule" Zurich, and author, in Mendrisio aged 53. He was awarded the Schiller prize, and the literary prizes of the canton and town of Zurich for his books of poetry.



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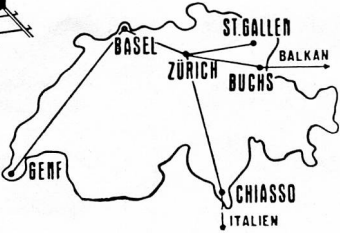
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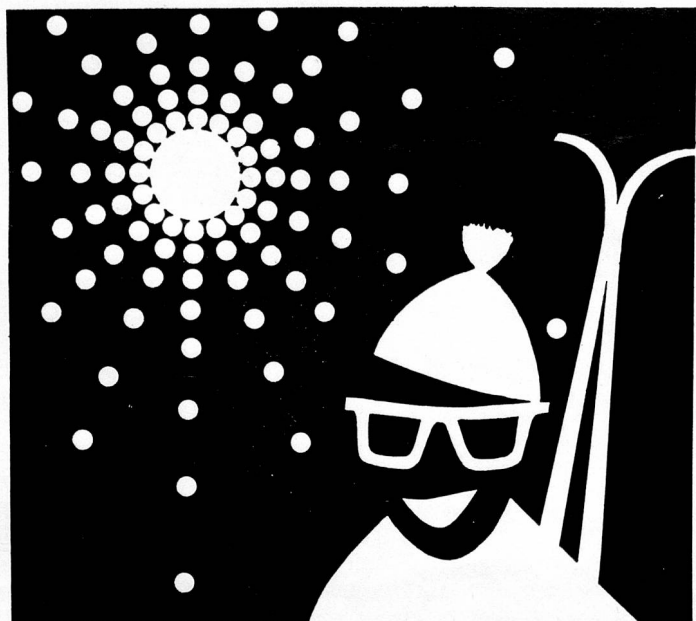
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Dr. Auguste Brandenburg, from 1943 to 1951, Manager of the Lausanne branch of the Union Bank, in Lausanne at the age of 73. Until 1957, he had been President of the "Société climatique de Leysin", and one of the founders of the "cahier vaudois".

Robert Roth, a former world wrestling champion, in Nidau aged 61. In 1920, he was "Olympia Sieger" at Antwerp, and in 1919 and 1921 "Schweizerischer Schwingerkönig".

Dr. h.c. Rudolf Streiff-Becker, scientist and painter in Zurich at the age of 87. The University of Zurich bestowed on him in 1934 the degree of *doctor honoris causa* for his geographical studies.

Walter Schiess, Inspector at the General Management of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration, in Berne aged 61. For the last fifteen years he was editor of the "PTT Technischen Mitteilungen".

Professor Dr. Louis Comte, a former rector of the University of Fribourg, in Fribourg at the age of 89.

M. Henri Kamm, at one time conductor of the "Grand Théâtre" orchestra, in Geneva, aged 87.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### LEGACIES.

The recently deceased Dr. h.c. Alfred Büchi of Hurden nr. Pfäffikon (Ct. Schwyz) has left the amount of 200,000.—francs to a number of charitable and cultural organisations.

The late Urs Meister of Herbetswil has left his entire fortune, amounting to 100,000.—francs to the R.C. parish of Herbetswil.

The commune of Wohlen (Ct. Aargau) has received a legacy of 40,000.—francs from the estate of the late Herr Albert and Frau Flora Kuhn, of Wohlen. The interest on the money is to be used to help old people in need. [A.T.S.]

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#### ANNIVERSARY.

Dr. jur. Alfred Wieland-Zahn (90) of Basle, advocate and notary. He was at one time a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town. In the first world war he was chief of staff of the 2nd army-corps, and afterwards commander of a mountain brigade. [A.T.S.]

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#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Frei-Kupper of Zurich-Wiedikon, Mr. and Mrs. A. Letsch-Müllhaupt of Dietikon (Ct. Zurich), Mr. and Mrs. M. Thomer-Boehl of Zurich-Seebach, Mr. and Mrs. U. Schuppisser-Beck of Winterthur, Mr. and Mrs. Wicht-Curty of Payerne, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Blanc of Geneva, Mr. and Mrs. A. Notz-Stolz of Oberwinterthur.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Matter-Buser of Haefelfingen (Ct. Basle-Country) celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]