

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Philippe Zutter, at present Swiss Ambassador in Spain, has been appointed Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Rome, in succession to Dr. A. Escher, who has been transferred to Bonn.

Ambassador Zutter was born in 1904 in Bevaix, and is a citizen of La Chaux-du-Milieu (Ct. Neuchâtel). He entered the diplomatic service in 1930. In 1935 he was sent to Bucharest, and four years later to Buenos Aires, where he was promoted in 1943 to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In the same year M. Zutter was transferred to Santiago de Chile as Chargé d'Affaires.

In 1946 he returned to the Federal Political Department in Berne as Head of the Division for International Organisations, during which period he received the title of Minister. Two years later (1951) M. Zutter was appointed Swiss Minister to Spain, and later on he received Ambassadorial rank.

* * *

The Federal Council has nominated Dr. Arturo Marcionelli, Consul-General in Milan, to the post of Swiss Ambassador in Iran, and Minister Plenipotentiary in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Marcionelli was born in 1910, and is a citizen of Bironico (Ct. Ticino). He studied Law at the Universities of Milan and Berne. In 1935 he entered the service of the Federal Political Department in Berne, where he remained for five years. He has occupied successively posts in Rome, Milan, Paris, Brussels and Vienna. Monsieur Marcionelli was appointed Consul-General in Milan in 1954.

* * *

Monsieur Guido Lepori, Counsellor of Embassy in Rome, has been nominated Consul-General at Milan, in succession to M. Marcionelli. He was born in 1914 at Origlio (Ct. Ticino). On concluding his Law studies at the University of Berne, he entered the diplomatic service in 1942, and successively held posts in Rio de Janeiro, Stockholm and London. In 1955 M. Lepori returned to Berne, and a year later (1956) was sent to Rome.

Monsieur Matthys Iza Botha, the newly appointed Minister of the Union of South Africa, has presented his credentials to M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

March 28th marked the 25th anniversary of Dr. Philipp Etter's entering the Federal Government.

Federal Councillor Etter was born on 21st December 1891 at Menzigen (Ct. Zug). He received his education at the *Gymnasium*, in Zug, and at the "Stiftsschule", in Einsiedeln; afterwards he studied Law at the University of Zurich.

In 1917 Dr. Etter was appointed examination judge at Zug. He entered the "Kantonsrat" a year later, and in 1922 became a member of the cantonal government. In 1924 he was sent to parliament to represent the canton of Zug in the States Council, where he soon earned a great reputation. He was also editor of the "Zuger Nachrichten".

Dr. Etter was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1934, in succession to M. Musy, and was the first representative of the canton of Zug to become a member of the Federal Council. Etter belongs to the Catholic-Conservative party. He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1939, 1942, 1947 and 1953.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur René Naville, at present Swiss Ambassador in Chile, to the post of Swiss Ambassador to China, in succession to Monsieur F. Bernoulli.

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, 21st April 1959, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.,
at Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Agenda: Minutes of last meeting.

Admissions.

Resignations.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Elections.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than, Monday, 20th April 1959.

THE COMMITTEE.

Ambassador Naville was born in 1905 in Cologny (Geneva). He studied Law at the Universities of Geneva, Basle, London and Berlin, entering the diplomatic service in 1931. Two years later he was sent to Paris as Attaché, and later on was promoted to the rank of Secretary of Legation. From 1941 to 1945 he was in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Paris. In 1945 M. Naville was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and transferred to Venezuela as Chargé d'Affaires, where he remained until his return to Berne in 1949. In 1952 he went to Djakarta as Chargé d'Affaires, and later on to Chile

M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, have received Monsieur Nikolai Koryukin at the Palais Fédéral in Berne on the occasion of the presentation of his credentials as Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Soviet Union.

The International Court of Justice rejected the Swiss Government's claim against the United States for restitution of the assets of the "Interhandel" Company. The judgment said that the court had no jurisdiction in the matter as the company had not exhausted the local remedies available to it in the United States courts.

The Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration closed their accounts for 1958 with a profit of 70.3 million francs.

Customs receipts for the month of February 1959 total 67.5 million francs, of which the Confederation receives 47.5 million francs, which is 2.8 million francs less than in February 1958.

The number of civil servants employed by the Confederation at the end of 1958 was 103,094, or 687 more than at the same period in 1957. The increase is principally due to more staff required in the foreign representations.

The Norwegian Foreign Minister, M. Halvard Lange, paid a courtesy visit to M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne. The distinguished visitor was on this occasion entertained to dinner at the "Wattenwyl Haus" by the members of the Federal Council.

Cantonal "Landammann" Dr. Gotthard Odermatt, since 1944 a member of the Government of the canton of Obwalden, has tendered his resignation. He sat in parliament (National Council) from 1943 to 1951.

[A.T.S.]

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An attempt at robbery was made at the Zollikon branch of the "Konsum Denner" Zurich. A man entered the shop and producing a revolver asked for the contents of the till. The shop attendant — a 64-year-old woman — gave the intruder a push and shouted for help, whereupon he hastily disappeared in a waiting taxi-cab, which had been reported as having been stolen. The gangster and his accomplice, both aged 23, were later arrested in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Swissair has made a profit of 5,101,613.— francs during 1958. A dividend of 6 per cent has been declared (the same as for the previous year). [A.T.S.]

The Israeli Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur J. L. Linton, has paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Zurich. He was received at the town hall by Mr. R. Meier, President of the cantonal government, and by Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

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Furs valued at 111,000.— francs were stolen from a furrier's establishment in Zurich. The police arrested a German in Basle, who was found in possession of the stolen goods. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Glarus close with a credit balance of 8,976.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Otto Kreis has celebrated his 40th anniversary as conductor of the " Berner Männerchor ". [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Fribourg has dismissed M. Jacques Schorderet, Director of the cantonal social insurance office, from his post. [A.T.S.]

The well-known inn, " Croix Verte ", at Echarlens (Ct. Fribourg), has been totally destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at 120,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Solothurn show a deficit of 2,356,632.— francs. [A.T.S.]

A cashier, employed by a Bank in Basle with head office at St. Gall, has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment for embezzling 1,339,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The 20 million francs loan at 3½ per cent of " J. R. Geigy, A.G." Basle was heavily over-subscribed and allocations had to be considerably reduced. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Emil Looser-Kraemer, industrialist, and his wife have been accorded honorary citizenship by the commune of Vilters (Ct. St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

The commune of Anetswil (Ct. Thurgau) has bestowed honorary citizenship upon Fräulein Clara Reimer, for 50 years a schoolteacher. [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Ticino has received the British Ambassador in Berne, Sir Horace Montagu-Pollock, in special audience, after which the distinguished visitor was entertained to a luncheon. [A.T.S.]

M. Jacques Favre, architect, of Pully, has been appointed Professor of Architecture at the " Ecole polytechnique de Lausanne ", in succession of M. P. Waltenspuhl, who has received an appointment at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. [A.T.S.]

At a Meeting of the " Institut Neuchâtelois " presided over by the former chief of the General Staff, Army-Corps Commander Louis de Montmollin, the following have been elected as Honorary Members: Federal Councillor Ph. Etter; M. Le Corbusier,

architect; Professor Edgar Bourquin (Basle); and M. Robert Vauder, journalist in Paris. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Geneva, including the communes of Carouge, Chêne-Bougeries, Lancy and Vernier, on 1st March 1959 numbered 200,253. [A.T.S.]

The shop-window of a jeweller's establishment at the Grand Quai in Geneva was smashed, and goods valued at 100,000.— francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

M. Rey-Pelet, postmaster of Sitten, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, in Sitten, at the age of 62.

Karl Wiesendanger, since 1942 a district judge, and from 1943 to 1947 a member of the " Kantonsrat ", in Winterthur, aged 55.

Edwin Bosshardt-Forster, foundry expert, in Küssnacht (Zurich), at the age of 91.

Pietro Chiesa, the well-known painter, in Sorengo nr. Lugano, aged 83.

Professor Dr. Werner Naef, in Gümligen (Berne), at the age of 65. Since 1925 the deceased had been Professor of History at the University of Berne. He was the author of a large number of historical works, the best known amongst them being " Der Sonderbundskrieg als Vorspiel der deutschen Revolution ", " Kriegsursachen und Kriegsschuldfragen von 1914 ", and " Die Eidgenossenschaft und das Reich ".

Otto Müller, formerly a well-known advocate in Langenthal, aged 82.

Augustin Currat, landscape painter, in Geneva, at the age of 74. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Hermann Odermatt, editor-in-chief of the " Neuen Zürcher Nachrichten ", has celebrated his 40th anniversary as a member of the editorial staff.

Karl Koelle (100), of Zurich, formerly director of the " Erziehungsanstalt " Regensburg.

Jules Decrauzat (80), of Geneva, well-known journalist and photographer.

Karl von Weber (80), of Schwyz, a former " Landammann " of the canton of Schwyz, and member of the National Council.

Arnoldo Arcioni (70), editor of the paper " Cooperazione " from 1941 to 1954. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Magnenat-Truan, of Chavannes, near Renens; Mr. and Mrs. Furler-Trefzer, of Riehen (Basel). [A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES.

The late Fräulein Clara Uster, of Küsnacht (Ct. Zurich), has left 90,000.— francs to the commune of Küsnacht, to be distributed amongst various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

One person was killed and three were seriously injured when a motor-car skidded and crashed into a tree near Niedererlinsbach (Ct. Solothurn). The person killed was Franz Liechti (31), of Lucerne.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

In February 1959 Switzerland exported 2,525,200 watches, representing a value of 73,200,000.— francs. This is a considerable increase on the figures for January 1959, when 2,019,000 watches, valued at 59,500,000 francs were exported. [A.T.S.]

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15,116 claims have been received by the Central Office for the "Help to Swiss Abroad" (for those who suffered losses during the last war), which has to date dealt with 3,000 claims. So far, the claimants have received aid amounting to 4,845,659.— francs

[A.T.S.]

* * *

At the end of 1958 450,000 foreigners were registered in Switzerland, or 8.2 per cent of the entire Swiss population. [A.T.S.]

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The "Schweiz. Bundesfeier Komitee" (1st of August Committee) has announced that last year's collection for the benefit of needy mothers totalled 1,562,000.— francs.

The receipts of the 1959 collection are earmarked for the Swiss abroad, in particular for helping Swiss schools, and the "Auslandschweizerwerk" of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. (It is hoped that Swiss newspapers published abroad will also get some support.—Ed.) [A.T.S.]

* * *

Swiss Institute of Transport and Communications is the official denomination of a new museum which will be inaugurated in Lucerne on 1st July 1959. The museum is to feature vehicles of all kinds in the original size, replicas, informative shows on travel, transportation and communications by rail, road, air and sea, etc., as well as a conspicuous library of books, trade magazines, documents, photos, etc., accessible for studies in the field of travel and tourism.

* * *

In Switzerland some 4,800 surgeons are practising to-day. In the canton of Geneva, one surgeon is counted for every 656 inhabitants, whereas in the canton of Appenzell, Ausserrhoden, the proportion is one to 2,680. More than 3,000 students of medical sciences have been enrolled at Swiss universities during the winter term of 1957-58, about 60 per cent of whom were Swiss.

* * *

The 14th International Music Festival "Septembre Musical" at Montreux has been scheduled for 2nd to 24th September 1959. The performing orchestras will be the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Paris Orchestre National and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande; the list of the soloists includes such

famous names as Yehudi Menuhin, Nathan Milstein, Wilhelm Backhaus, Clara Haskil and Artur Rubinstein.

* * *

The Casino Kursaal at Interlaken will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. The Kursaal is a centre of entertainment and cultural activities in this charming Swiss lakeside resort in the Bernese Oberland.

* * *

The 12th International Film Festival of Locarno, Southern Switzerland, will take place from 9th to 19th July 1959.

* * *

World-famed violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, will probably settle down at the Swiss mountain resort of Gstaad, Bernese Oberland, where he is having a chalet built this spring. It is supposed, therefore, that the Yehudi Menuhin Festival of Gstaad, which will be organized, for the third time, this summer from 3rd to 9th August is going to be a permanent feature of Gstaad's calendar of events. This "personal" festival of Menuhin can only be compared to the one of Pablo Casals at Prades.

* * *

The Swiss mountain resort of Pontresina in the Engadine has been steadily growing in the past few years, and the water supply may soon prove insufficient. The local authorities recently decided to construct a storage and supply system for subsoil water, in addition to spring-water. It will be the first of its kind in Europe, at an altitude of 5,900 feet above sea level.

* * *

An envious but joyful bunch of schoolmates were recently waving farewell at the Swiss mountain resort of Mürren, Bernese Oberland, to nine-year-old, fair-haired Trudi von Allmen, leaving for South Africa, where she will be starring in a 30-minute publicity film for a British sea carrier. Little Trudi, who never in her life had travelled farther than Interlaken, some 15 miles north of Mürren, had been picked out of her class earlier to do some bit-playing for the final shootings in the Bernese Oberland. Her completely natural way of acting fascinated the British filming team, who stated that she is "a genuine talent" and hastily changed the whole script. One strange coincidence: The title of the film, right from the beginning, had been "Trudi".

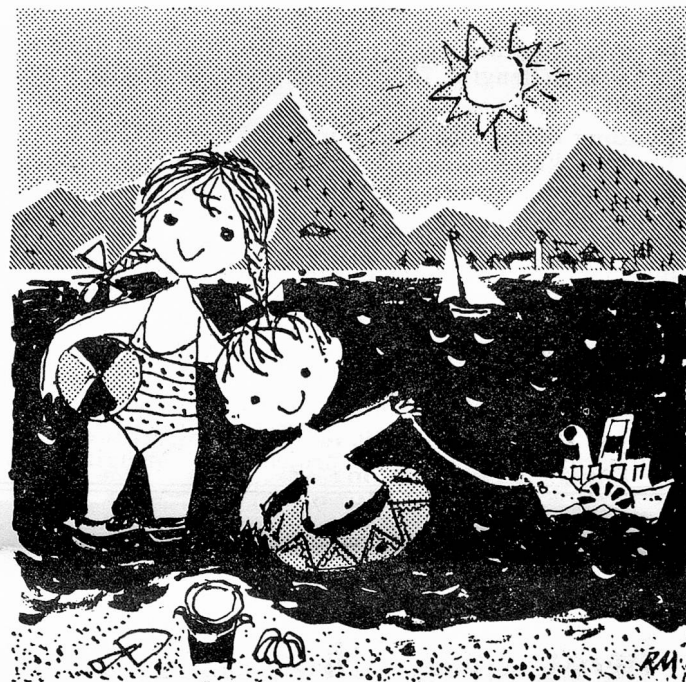
* * *

Swiss industrial circles recently established a new committee aiming at a generous project of the training of technicians, engineers and skilled workers in economically backward countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. This committee is at present "scouting" for a future Swiss foundation to maintain training schools for apprentices run by Swiss experts in these countries. It is hoped that the costs, which are estimated at one million Swiss francs per year, can be covered by Switzerland's private industry. Swiss newspapers have always been requesting that Switzerland as a prosperous and neutral country should intensify its assistance to underdeveloped nations in such fields as training and education.

* * *

The world's largest replica of a famous railway is now being projected at the glamorous mountain resort

of Pontresina, in the Engadine, tourist officials have announced. This model will show the Bernina railway, which connects the Engadine with the Italian town of Tirano, on two reliefs 170 feet long. The Bernina railway, which is run by the Rhaetian Railway, is one of Switzerland's technological miracles, as it is the only Alpine railroad which connects Northern and Southern Europe really over the mountains and not through a tunnel.



All the Joys for Girls and Boys

Switzerland holds a magic charm for children and for the young in heart, and you who know this so well should tell your friends over here about it. Tell them of the mountains, the snow, woods, chalets, cowbells, fairy tale towns and villages, of the kindly people who love and understand children, making it a land of enchantment for children as well as a playground for grown-ups. On Railways, Steamers and Alpine Coaches children travel free up to six years of age and at half rate up to sixteen. Hotels usually reduce pension terms for children up to twelve. For about £30 your TRAVEL AGENT can arrange a 12-day all-in holiday including the fare from London. Further information concerning holidays in Switzerland is available from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W.C.2.

Switzerland