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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

MINISTER ALPHONSE DUNANT.

Monsieur Alphonse Dunant, Swiss Minister in Paris, is shortly retiring from his post which he has occupied for many years with great distinction.

Minister Dunant is the son of M. Albert Dunant, who was at one time State Prosecutor of the canton of Geneva, President of the cantonal government, and President of the Appeal Court.

He was born on the 29th of June, 1869, in Petit-Saconnex near Geneva, and received his schooling in Geneva and Schaffhausen, later on he studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Basle and Heidelberg. He finished his studies with the degree of doctor of law, he then joined the diplomatic service. In 1894 he was appointed attaché at the Swiss Legation in Berlin, and five years later (1899) he was transferred to Paris as first secretary of Legation. He then spent a few years at the Political Dept. (the Swiss Foreign office) in Berne.

In 1910 M. Dunant was appointed Swiss Minister to Argentine, Uruguay and Paraguay, but shortly after the commencement of the war he returned to Berne as chief of the "division des Affaires étrangères"; two years later (1917) he was appointed Minister in Paris, a post which he has now held for 20 years.

Minister Dunant has represented our country in difficult times, his tact and his great knowledge soon made him a *persona grata* with the many French governments with which he came in contact during the last 20 years. In 1925 he was elected President of the "Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs" in Paris, and since 1931 he has held the post of President of the "Bureau International des Expositions"; he was also, since 1928, President of the "Délégués d'Etat près l'Institut International de Co-opérations Intellectuelle."

HERMANN LINDT.

The death of Hermann Lindt, late Mayor of the town of Berne, at the age of 65, has caused wide-spread regret in the Capital; what Dr. Lüger was to Vienna, Hermann Lindt was to Berne; his life work was devoted to the town of his birth; with an unrivalled affection he watched for the last 30 years over the welfare of the town which he loved with every fibre of his big heart.

If to-day the capital of our country enjoys the reputation of having preserved a truly Swiss character both in spirit and outside appearance, it is greatly due to Hermann Lindt, who was not out to make a modern city of Berne, it would have been contrary to the wish of its citizens, whose motto has and still is: "Slow but sure."

Hermann Lindt was born on February 9th, 1872, in Berne, the son of Joh. Paul Lindt an advocate in that town. After having frequented the schools he studied law at the University of Berne where he took his degree as an advocate. For some time he practised as such, being at the same time a member of the Grand Council of the Canton of Berne.

In 1909 he entered the town administration (Gemeinderat) of which he was a member until his retirement early this year. His election as Mayor (Stadtpräsident) of the town of Berne took place in 1920.

A life full of great services has thus come to an end, and the town of Berne has lost one of its most eminent citizens.

A NEW FLIGHT-MILLIONAIRE OF THE "SWISSAIR."

We extend heartiest congratulations to Flight-Captain Alfred Künzle of the "Swissair," who has just flown his 1 millionth kilometer.

M. Künzle hails from Rorschach and was born in 1902, he received his education at the "Volksschule" in Rorschach, and later at the "Kantonschule" in St. Gall. After having made his apprenticeship as a skilled mechanic he was for some time employed by a Technical office.

In 1925, after having attended the school of military pilots, he received a commission in the Swiss Flying Corps, and four years later was appointed a pilot of the "Ad Astra" Company. After the amalgamation with the "Balair," from which the "Swissair" emerged he became a pilot of the latter concern.

Since 1935 he has principally flown on the London-Zurich line, in fact no less than 250 times during the last two years. All his flights were accomplished without the slightest mishap.

In 1929/31, Flight-Captain Künzle accompanied Walter Mittelholzer on his epoch making flight over the Kilimanjaro. Numerous are his flights over the Swiss Alps. During the last year he has occupied the post as assistant chief of navigation together with Flight-Captain Nyffenegger.

The "Swissair" now counts amongst their staff no less than five "flight-millionaires," namely: Hans Schär (since retired); Franz Zimmermann, Ernst Nyffenegger, Walter Ackermann and Alfred Künzle.

PRESIDENT LEBRUN AT THE SWISS PAVILION.

Monsieur Lebrun, the French President, paid a visit to the Swiss Pavilion at the Exhibition in Paris. On his arrival he was received by M. Dunant, the Swiss Minister. The President was specially interested in the exhibits of the watch and tourist industry.

LEGACIES.

Mme. Elisabeth Meyer, of St. Gall, has left an amount of 46,000 frs. to various charitable institutions.

The "Spar and Leihkasse" in Lucerne, has made a donation of 30,000 frs. towards the costs of erecting a new school at Goldingen.

ERNEST ANSERMET HONOURED.

M. Ernest Ansermet, the distinguished Swiss conductor, has been elected on the jury for the Festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music, which will take place in London in June, 1938.

DR. H. C. ALBERT PAILLARD.

The death is reported from St. Croix, of M. Albert Paillard, President of the Board of the S. A. Paillard & Co., St. Croix and Yverdon, at the age of 66. The deceased was one of the leading personalities in the Swiss precision industry.

Dr. Paillard was born in 1871 at St. Croix, he studied in Lausanne at the "College Scientifique" and later on in Germany; he travelled extensively in the United States and England. In 1912 he took over the management of the Paillard works. From 1917-1919 M. Paillard was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In the army he held the rank of colonel (St. Maurice Fortress).

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the University of Lausanne, M. Paillard received the degree *docteur honoris causa*.

FASCIST APPEAL IN BERNE COURT.

The 40-year-old mystery of the protocols of the Elders of Zion will be again debated when the appeal against the decision that they are forgeries is heard by the Berne Court of Appeal. The protocols are alleged in anti-Jewish propaganda to be the records of a secret meeting of

Zionist leaders held at Bâle in 1897, at which plans were made for Jewry to gain control of the whole world.

The present trial began more than three years ago, when the Union of Jewish Communities in Switzerland brought an action against a Swiss Fascist party, the Union of National Socialist Confederates. The Union alleged that the protocols and other anti-Semitic propaganda published by the party were libellous and that the protocols were forgeries.

Under a Swiss law which forbids anybody to publish anything designed to embitter any community, the Fascists were found guilty and fined. From this conviction they have now appealed.

PLANES AND TANKS FOR SWITZERLAND.

The expenditure of Switzerland on her defences will be over 16 per cent. higher in 1938 than this year, it was announced in Berne by the Federal Military Department. This year's estimates for the army and air service together amounted to £5,300,000. For 1938 this sum will be £6,175,000.

The special credit allotted for buying new aircraft will be increased next year by over 150 per cent. Most of the additional expenditure will be for the fortification of Switzerland's northern frontier and the provision of tanks and anti-tank weapons. The number of machine-guns and quick-firing guns will be increased.

S. RIGHINI.

Sigismund Righini, the well-known Ticinesi painter, has died in Zurich at the age of 68. He studied art in Paris, Milan, Florence and Venice.

WILLIAM TELL'S CHAPEL RESTORED.

Traffic requirements have made it necessary to widen and modernize the road from Küssnacht, on the Lake of Lucerne, to the Lake of Zug, threatening the historic Hohle Gasse, where William Tell is said to have killed the despot Gessler, whose ruined castle is still to be seen in the vicinity.

The scheme involved the felling of all the trees of the Hohle Gasse and the rebuilding of Tell's Chapel. Schoolboys and schoolgirls of Switzerland decided to save them and collected over £14,000 to rebuild a by-pass road and to restore Tell's Chapel. The work was recently completed, and on Sunday last several thousand boys and girls from all the Swiss cantons attended the ceremony of inauguration of the renovated chapel and the Hohle Gasse.

A LABORATORY AT 11,000 FEET.

The fine weather which prevailed during the greater part of the summer made it possible to complete most of the installations at the High Alpine Scientific Institute, on the Jungfraujoch, in the Bernese Oberland. The institute was opened in 1931, and stands at a height of 11,475 ft.; it is built against a rock wall between the Jungfrau and the Mönch, close by Europe's highest hotel, railway, telegraph, and telephone stations.

The Jungfraujoch is accessible in all weathers by means of the electric railway from Interlaken, either *via* Grindelwald or Lauterbrunnen. Earlier attempts at scientific observation in high altitudes had generally to be abandoned owing to inadequate transport facilities and shelter.

The first scientific observations on the Jungfraujoch were made in 1921 by two Geneva scientists, Dr. Schaefer and Mr. Kölleker, and the Basle astronomer, Professor de Quervain. The first observatory was a wooden hut erected on the snow. Later the scientists were given a room in the Berghaus.

The High Alpine Scientific Institute was completed in 1929. The £20,000 needed for its construction was contributed by individuals and scientific bodies, such as the International Education Board, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Deutsch Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft.

The institute stands a short distance from the railway station, with which it is connected by a tunnel 272 yards long. It has several laboratories, a library, and a stable for the animals used for experiments, as well as the ordinary domestic amenities. The house has five floors, the top floor being an observation terrace partly covered to protect it against avalanches. Research is being made there into short-wave radiation, astronomy, physiology, and glaciology. Scientists of all countries are entitled to use the Jungfraujoch Institute for their studies.

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The final stage in the development of the institute will be the construction of the top of the Sphinx of a meteorological station, which is to work in connection with the Zürich Meteorological Office, and for the erection of which the Swiss Alpine Club has presented a sum of about £900. Once that work is completed — probably next year — the Jungfraujoch will be one of the best equipped Alpine research institutes in Europe.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. Adolf Meyer, the well-known Swiss Sculptor, who lives in Zollikon, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

* * *

The new town Hall in Horgen, which was built at the cost of 910,000 frs. was inaugurated by States Councillor M. Maurer.

* * *

M. Paul Keller, for twenty years Pastor at the "Neumüster," has died at the age of 69.

* * *

M. Adolf Hug, senior partner in the firm Hug & Co., Zurich, Music Publishers, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

BERNE.

M. Joseph Choquard, late National-Councillor, has died at Porrentruy at the age of 82. The deceased played for many years an important part in the political sphere of the canton of Berne. When 26 years old, M. Choquard became a member of the Grand Council, and he kept his seat for 14 years.

In 1890 he entered Parliament (National-Council), he kept his seat until 1895. In 1900 he was again sent to Parliament and this time he sat for nearly 30 years in the National-Council. M. Choquard was a member of the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways and the Cantonal Bank; for many years he was "Statthalter" of Porrentruy.

URI.

By the death of M. Martin Gamma, late "Landammann," the canton of Uri loses one of its eminent citizens. The deceased entered the "Landrat" in 1896, and 19 years later (1915) he represented Zug in the National Council, the same year he was elected a member of the cantonal government.

He retired from Parliament in 1925, and from the cantonal government a year earlier. M. Gamma was for many years the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of the canton of Uri.

FRIBOURG.

At the age of 65, died in Fribourg, M. Joseph Pauchard, since 1907, editor-in-chief of the "Freiburger Nachrichten." From 1901 to 1906 the deceased was in holy orders first in Thierwil (Basle Country) and later in Berne. M. Pauchard was a member of the Central Committee of the Swiss Press Association.

ZUG.

M. Hermann Gallmann, a member of the cantonal government since 1924, has died at the age of 68.

ST. GALL.

Colonel Jos. Otter, for many years commander of the "Schießschulen" in Wallenstadt and a former commander of the Mountain Brigade 9, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary.

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF US.

A Visit To Switzerland.

Red roofs peeping through trees, more trees, a strip of blue, blue, Lake Geneva, dotted here and there with white and red sailed boats, then dominating the whole scene lie the Alps of Savoy, towering high into the clouds their white topped peaks, lords of creation majestic ... yet looking down tolerantly on the trivial activities of mankind, the meaningless hum and bustle of modern life, bestowing peace to the frenzied mind and balm to the troubled soul giving a sense of proportion to a world that has lost its sense of proportion.

Not only for its geographical position was Switzerland chosen to be the birth-place of that idealistic fancy, the League of Nations. For in the very air, there seems to be a sanity, a balance, a calmness which is conspicuous by its absence in almost every other country.

A Tolerant People.

This sanity and balance is reflected in the Swiss themselves. They are tolerant, polite, kind, very honest, thrifty, even responsive to other people's point of view and to new ideas. They are clever. Most of them speak and think in two languages, French and German and do very creditably in English. What boatman in this country could talk to one in French and German? How many waitresses, hall porters, road sweepers? Even those in this country who have been taught French and German for six years or more at school cannot be said to speak either language. There must be something fundamentally wrong in the teaching of foreign languages to

permit of such a length of time being more or less wasted. What does it benefit one to know all the conjugation of irregular verbs which are very rarely used in conversation? What use is it to be able to recite in parrot fashion, a long list of prepositions that require the subjunctive mood when the subjunctive is avoided in conversational French?

Tourist Types.

One should learn to speak a foreign language first, then bother about the rules that govern the finer points of grammar. It can't be that we, as a nation, are too stupid to learn to speak a foreign language fluently and yet ... look at these two common types of people abroad who afford me amusement mingled with pity. There is firstly the arrogant type who calls the Swiss "foreigner," when he is the foreigner in their country; the one too lazy (or too stupid) to remember his schoolboy French and thinks that if he speaks English loudly and slowly enough, everyone will be magically endowed with a thorough knowledge of English and fly to do his bidding.

Then there is the conceited type who starts off in French with an English accent one could cut with a knife and looks most hurt when he is not understood. The fault is not his. Oh dear no! "These foreigners can't even understand their own language." Of the two types I prefer the former. He is amusingly dense but the second is pathetically obtuse. Most things can be forgiven anyone if they tickle one's sense of humour.

However, let it pass! what strikes the traveler in Switzerland is the eagerness of the Swiss to speak English. They have not that silly self-consciousness when speaking in an alien tongue that assails so many English people when abroad. The Swiss are eager to discuss everything in England and of England from the King and Queen and the little Princesses (for whom they have a tender regard) to the playing of the bagpipes in Scotland. I heard rather an amusing anecdote (I can vouch for its truth), of a lady who enquired of a policeman in her best French for Cook's office "le cabinet de Cook." You can guess the sequel when you realise that the French word for Public Convenience is "cabinet." The lady was not escorted to Cook's office but the above-mentioned place and left there at the threshold with a most courteous bow. "Toujours la politesse!"

The Swiss are the most honest people in the world. You can leave your luggage on the platform of any station in the country and it will be there when you go back for it. Foreigners struggling with the intricacies of the franc and centime know that they will never be given wrong change or charged too much.

Confidence in England.

As soon as the Swiss know that you are English, there are delighted smiles, cordial handshakes, and frantic attempts on the part of everyone to get in his "little piece" in English first. Their confidence in England manifests itself when even shopkeepers, in a very small way, accept English money with the remark that one can go to Heaven or Hell with the English pound.

With my feeble pen I have not the presumption to describe the scenery. Sufficient be it that from now on my idea of Heaven, is not, as it used to be perennial summer in a little cove in Cornwall, but perennial summer in Switzerland.

Chillon.

One place did make so deep an impression on me that I will try, though with some diffidence, to describe it. This was the Château of Chillon. Chillon! The very name breathes out History, Poetry, ungoverned hate and Martyrdom. Imagine a very cold grey turreted castle arising sheer from the depths of the sapphire blue lake, surrounded by towering snow-capped mountains. After gazing with spellbound eyes for some minutes with thoughts of Byron flitting through my brain my soul shuddered with the realised grim purpose. It was a prison! A prison from which there could be no escape. One of its most famous prisoners was Bonnivard, a Genevieve, who was imprisoned in a noisome dungeon for six years chained to a pillar, by the cruel Duke of Savoy, whose power he was brave enough to resist. It is on this pillar that Byron overcame with Bonnivard's tragic story, has inscribed his own name. He went away so deeply impressed that he wrote that famous poem "The Prisoner of Chillon."

"Chillon! thy prison is a holy place

And thy sad floor an altar for 'twas trod,
Until his very steps have left a trace,

Worn, as if thy cold pavement were a sod,
By Bonnivard! May none these marks efface

For they appeal from tyranny to God."

N. M. C.

(Enfield Gazette and Observer.)

PERSONAL.

We extend our sincere sympathy to M. and Mme. Marius Paschoud in Paris; M. Paschoud's mother having died in Lausanne at the age of 81.



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