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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Ulrich Oertli, at present Sub-Manager of the "Schweizerischen Unfallversicherungsanstalt" (SUVA), to the post of Manager, and Dr. Walter Thalmann to the post of Sub-Manager.

* * *

Averell Harriman, U.S.A. Ambassador at large for the Marshall Plan, who is on holiday in Switzerland, has paid a courtesy visit to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, he also attended one of the sittings of the Swiss Parliament.

* * *

The receipts of the Swiss Federal Railways are still on the down grade.

During February, 15.62 million passengers were carried (February 1948: 15.84 million) for which the receipts were 17.87 million francs (February 1948: 18.12 million francs).

1.08 million tons of goods traffic were carried (February, 1948: 1.38 million tons) producing 22.24 million francs (February, 1948: 27.50 million francs).

* * *

Monsieur Dana Wilgress, the Canadian Minister in Berne, has paid a farewell visit to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, previous to his departure for London, where he will take up the post as High Commissioner of Canada.

* * *

The traditional Dinner of the Consular Corps was held in Berne under the Presidency of Dr. Turrian.

The President of the Swiss Confederation was unable to attend, but he was represented by Counsellors of Legation Cuttat and Boissier of the Swiss Foreign Office. The Diplomatic Corps was represented by its Doyen, Mgr. Bernardini, Papal Nuntius.

* * *

The accounts of the Swiss Confederation for 1948, close with a Credit Balance of 176 million francs.

The Federal Council has appointed the following Delegates to take part in the 16th International Congress of Historical Art which will take place in Lisbon from the 18th-24th April, 1949. Professor, Dr. Paul Ganz, Professor Adrien Bovy, Professor, Dr. H. R. Hahnloser and Professor W. Wartmann.

* * *

An agreement was signed in Dublin by Mr. MacBride, Eire Minister for External Affairs, and Dr. Walter de Bourg, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires to Dublin, which provides for an exchange of employment facilities between Eire and Switzerland for persons wishing to acquire training and experience in industrial, technical and other fields. The number of persons is limited to 200 on either side annually.

* * *

The Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires was handed the Swiss Government's formal protest against an article recently published in the Budapest newspaper Nepszava. The article, alleged to contain attacks on

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W.1 (Pad. 0701), Secrétaire.

Swiss justice, was written by Ivan Boldizsar, Hungarian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He led Hungary's delegation to the Freedom of Information Conference at Geneva 15 months ago.

* * *

Negotiations are reported to begin soon between Italy and Switzerland to settle overdue interest on Italian bonds held by Swiss citizens. Italian loans have been concluded in Switzerland under conditions that would permit the Swiss to ask for a more advantageous settlement than with the United States.

Nevertheless, since the latter enjoys a most-favoured-nation clause, and is a creditor for much bigger sums, Swiss negotiators are not likely to press the point too hard even if the commercial balance remains favourable to Italy.

Interest arrears are estimated at 40 per cent. If the so-called American solution is applied — which seems very probable — they will be converted into capital.

Cantonal National Councillor Karl von Weber, late "Landammann" of the canton of Schwyz, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. The "Jubilar" is President of the "Kantonal Bank" Schwyz and President of the Board of the "Schwyzer Strassenbahnen, A.G." [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Altdorfer Tell Spiele" will commence this year on Sunday, July 31st. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Lucerne for 1948, close with a deficit of 1,258,871.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following sentences were passed in an action against "Stadtrat" Edgar Woog (Communist) Zurich and six of his communist sympathizers, who were charged with subsidising a communist newspaper with the proceeds of a collection for Polish and Yugoslav war orphans. Edgar Woog: 6 months imprisonment; Dora Staudinger: 4 months imprisonment (conditional); Hedwig Streiff: 1 month imprisonment (conditional); Alfred Hässler: 1 month imprisonment (conditional); Helen Keller: 2 months imprisonment (conditional).

The costs of the action will have to be born by the defendants. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Spinning Mill Langnau (Ct. Zurich) has made a donation amounting to 20,000.—frs. to the community of Langnau for the erection of a "Kindergarten." [A.T.S.]

* * *

A "Danish Week" (Det danske Selskab) was held at the "Pestalozzianum" in Zurich from March 13th to 20th, 1949, during which an exhibition concerning the school system in Denmark was opened by the Danish Minister in Berne.

The Mayor of Copenhagen, M. Viggo Christensen, attended the opening ceremony, delivering the greetings of his country. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The population of the town of Zurich on the 28th of February, 1949, numbered 382,884 persons.

[A.T.S.]

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During the month of February, 1949, altogether 321 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Zurich (February, 1948: 320). Five persons were killed (February, 1948: 7). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Male Choir Wollishofen (Ct. Zurich) has celebrated its 100th anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Hans Staub (Oberrieden — Zurich) at present Professor of Physics at the Stanford University in Palo Alto (California) has been nominated Professor of Experimental Physic and Director of the Physical Institute at the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Zug for 1948 show a deficit of 432,640.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the election of Pope Pius XII, a special service was held at the "Dreifaltigkeits" church in Berne. Amongst the congregation was Dr. Celio, Federal Councillor, and members of the Diplomatic Corps. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A passenger train travelling from Berne collided with a goods train at the Langenthal railway station.

Considerable material damage was caused, but fortunately nobody was seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The well-known watch manufacturing firm "Omega" in Bienne, has, on the occasion of its centenary, established a foundation, called "Prix Omega"

out of which an amount of 75,000.—frs. will be handed over to the "Uhrenforschungs" Laboratory in Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Franz Patzen (Socialist), has been elected Mayor of the town of Burgdorf (Ct. Berne), with 1,594 votes. His opponent, Dr. Max Lüthi (Liberal), polled 963 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Madame Veuve Crausa, née Bondallaz, from Cheiry (Broye District) has left her entire fortune, amounting to 100,000.—frs., for the building of a new church in Cheiry. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The government of the canton of Fribourg has accepted the resignation of Abbé Joseph Bovet, Professor at the cantonal teachers seminary, acknowledging the eminent services which he had rendered over a long period. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. G. Vogt-Schild, Publisher of the "Solothurner Zeitung," which appeared for the first time in 1907, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A new Chair for Pharmacology has been created at the University of Basle. Professor, Dr. Karl Bucher, since 1917 head of the Institute of Pharmacology in Basle, has been elected as *Ordinarius*. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The University of Lodz (Poland) has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon Dr. Alfred

Schmid-Respinger, a member of the Board of the CIBA, S.A., in Basle. Dr. Schmid is the founder and President of the Swiss-Polish Society; during and after the last war he rendered great services in connection with Polish war prisoners and fugitives. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor W. Wartburg, of the University of Basle, has been nominated an honorary member of the Linguistic Society of America. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts for 1948, of the canton Appenzell a-Rh., close with a credit balance of 357,150.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The paper "Ostschweiz", which appears in St. Gall, has celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

States Councillor Fricker (Aarau) has tendered his resignation as a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Aargau, for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau show the following strength of the various parties:— Socialists: 62 seats (hitherto: 67); Communists: none (hitherto: 2); Liberals: 40 seats (hitherto: 37); Cath. Cons.: 44 seats (hitherto: 42); Christian Socialists: 2 seats (hitherto: 1); Peasant and Bourgeois Party: 32 seats (hitherto: 34); Landesring (Duttwiler): 7 seats (hitherto: 4); Young Peasant Party: 2 seats (hitherto: 3); Liberal-Socialist Party: 1 seat (hitherto: 0); Evangelical Popular Party: 3 seats (hitherto: 3). [A.T.S.]

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The "Fiera Svizzera, 1949" will be held in Lugano from the 1st-16th October. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande" has celebrated the 30th anniversary of its foundation.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Valais for 1948 show a deficit of 727,787.09 frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 5.8 million Conversion Loan, issued at 3½ per cent., by the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, has been fully subscribed. [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Robert Chappuis, for 33 years pastor in Montreux, in Montreux, at the age of 63.

Hans Blumenstein, since 1933 a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Berne, aged 59. The deceased was, at one time, Chief of Staff of the 3rd Division.

Madame Sophie Hofstetter-Illi, at the age of 102. The deceased was the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich.

Ernst, Th. Zutt, aged 65, at one time Editor-in-Chief of the "Schweiz. Illustrierten" and founder of the children's periodical "Der Schweizer Kamerad." The deceased was connected with the Management of the firm Orell Füssli Verlag in Zurich, and from 1919-1924 was "Kurdirektor" of St. Moritz, at Ruvigliana.

Professor, Dr. Ernst Hafter, in Kilchberg, at the age of 72.

The deceased studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Berlin, Strassburg and Berne. In 1902, he was appointed a lecturer at the University of Zurich. In 1910, he was appointed Professor at the same University, and rector from 1922-1924. He was one of the principal collaborators of the "Schweiz. Strafgesetzbüches." Professor Hafter was Editor of the "Schweiz. Zeitschrift für Strafrecht." The University of Geneva bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Mario Musso, for many years a leading member of the Society "Pro Ticino" and Honorary President of the Zurich section, in Zurich, at the age of 62. He was closely associated with the Swiss Red Cross and the "Bundesfeier" Committee.

Professor, Dr. Ludwig Zehnder, in Oberhofen (Ct. Berne), at the age of 95. The deceased was the oldest citizen of the town of Zurich. He was, at one time, assistant to Professor Röntgen. In 1890 he established himself as a lecturer at the University of Basle and later on held posts at the Universities of Freiburg i. B., Würzburg, Berlin and Munich. From 1919-1936, he was Professor of Physics at the University of Basle.

Dr. Gottlieb Lüscher, in Aarau, at the age of 81. He was for many years a town councillor of Aarau and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel.

Tobias Rämy, for 35 years keeper of the archives of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg, aged 86. The

deceased was the author of a number of works dealing with the history of the canton of Fribourg.

Jakob Haltner-Bergamin in Basadingen, aged 49. The deceased was for 12 years "Gemeindeammann" of Sennwald. In the army, he reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Mgr. Thomas Fässler, a priest for 41 years, and from 1912-1929 Prefect of the College Mariahilf in Schwyz. The deceased was for ten years (1929-1939) priest in Muotathal and from 1939-1949 "Spiritual" at the "Heiligen Kreuz" in Ingebohl, at the age of 71.

Pastor Bailly, Pastor since 1925 at the Church St. Martin, in Rheinfelden, and also rector of the Secondary School in Rheinfelden.

Gustave Bovon, Manager of the Bank "Crédit du Léman" from 1918-1937, and former President of the Board of the Railway Company Vevey-Chexbres, in La Tour de Peilz, at the age of 82.

J. Blöchliger, for more than fifty years, Manager of the "Leih & Sparkasse vom Seebzirk & Gaster," in Uznach, at the age of 77.

Walter Hammer, Manager and member of the Board of the "Autophon" A.G. of Solothurn, in Solothurn, at the age of 56. [A.T.S.]

* * *

General Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army during the last war, was the guest of the Swiss Colony in Genoa. He spoke on "Our Defence during 1939-1945." The General received an enthusiastic reception from our compatriots. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The net result of the 1st of August, 1948, collection is given as 1,160,000.—frs., or 90,000.—frs. more than in 1947. The collection was destined for combatting tubercular diseases. The report mentions, that Swiss colonies abroad had taken a substantial part in the collection. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary (sixty years) in Switzerland:— Mr. and Mrs. Locher-Merz, Speicher (Appenzell); Mr. and Mrs. G. Zobrist, Seon (Ct. Aargau); Mr. and Mrs. E. Bolinger-Schliesser, Zug. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Courtesy, given by a waiter to an hotel guest in Berne, has made the waiter a millionaire.

Henri Winzenried, for many years head waiter in the most fashionable hotel in the Swiss capital, has just been left two million Swiss francs (approximately £200,000) by a guest he used to serve, "in gratitude for the kindness he showed to a poor old woman."

The woman, a regular client, always took one of the cheapest rooms and rewarded the staff's efforts with nothing more than a curt "Thank you."

Some time ago the visits ceased, and nothing was heard of the woman until Winzenried received official notification of her death — and her will.

—oOo—

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Dans une de ses émissions, Radio Ankara a fait allusion aux grandes possibilités d'échanges commerciaux entre la Turquie et la Suisse.

Lors du concours d'élégance pour cars et omnibus, à San Remo, la carosserie Ramseier et Jenzer, de Berne, a remporté un premier prix avec attribution de la "Rose d'Or de San Remo."

Un bureau de voyage suisse sera ouvert à Francfort sur le Main à la fin mars.

7,500 étudiants américains vont venir cet été en Europe. Plus de la moitié veut passer ses vacances en Suisse. Environ 9,000 enfants américains, dont les pères appartiennent aux troupes d'occupation en Allemagne, viendront faire un séjour d'étude de trois mois dans nos instituts privés.

Une nouvelle expédition suisse à l'Himalaya va se mettre en route en avril pour le Sikkim.

A Paris a eu lieu la première audition de la Sonate op. 62 d'Albert Moeschinger. A Bruxelles, le "Requiem des vanités du monde," d'Henri Gagnebin, a remporté un grand succès.

Les premières représentations allemandes de l'opéra "Raskolnikoff" d'Henri Sutermeister auront lieu en avril et mai à Hambourg, Munich, Wiesbaden, Wuppertal et Hanovre. La Scala de Milan s'est réservée la première représentation pour l'Italie. Paul Sacher, de Bâle, a remporté un succès extraordinaire à Francfort, où il a dirigé entre autre l'exécution de la "Symphonie liturgique" d'Arthur Honegger. Les journaux viennois parlent du grand succès remporté par la pianiste bernoise Rosemarie Stucki.

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