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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Enrico Celio, has recently celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

Enrico Celio was born in Ambri (Ct. Ticino) on June 19th, 1889, he received his education at the Colleges of Balerna, Milano and Einsiedeln, and the Universities of Fribourg, Florence and Milano. He obtained the degree of doctor of law and philosophy at the University of Fribourg.

Returning to the canton of Ticino he practised as an advocate. He was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino and became its President in 1932. A few years later, M. Celio entered the Ticino Government over which he presided in 1938; in the same year he was elected to Parliament (National Council). In 1940, he was elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to M. G. Motta. Dr. Celio was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1942 and 1948.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Henri Blanchard to the post of Swiss Consul in New Zealand in succession to Consul Theiler.

Consul Blanchard was born in Malleray (Ct. Berne) in 1903. He entered the Consular Service in 1931, and occupied various posts in Montreal, Dublin and Beirut. In 1946, he was Chargé d'Affaires in Syrie and Lebanon.

* * *

The 100 million francs Loan at 3 per cent., issued by the Swiss Confederation was heavily oversubscribed, allocations had to be reduced.

* * *

Solvan Viteanu, the Rumanian diplomat, was sentenced by a Federal Court, which was sitting at Winterthur, to 18 months imprisonment.

The Court declared him convicted of economic espionage, usury and corruption, but acquitted him of charges of political espionage.

Tried at the same time for giving political information to a Foreign Power, his wife, Renée, was

acquitted and granted an indemnity of 500 frs. for her one month's detention in Prison last summer.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Eduard Weber, Departmental head of the Federal Post and Railway Department, to the post of General Manager of the Federal Post-Telegraph and Postal administration. He was born in 1901 in Bienne (Ct. Berne).

* * *

The Swiss cost-of-living index declined to 221.2 at the end of April in the series based on the average for June, 1914, equalling 100 from 222 a month earlier, and to 161.2 in the series based on August, 1939, equalling 100 and 161.8 at the end of March.

* * *

Britain, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland signed two international treaties. They aim at making certain road traffic conditions uniform throughout Europe, and at extending to lorries the facilities for crossing frontiers now open only to cars.

Swiss National Day Celebration

AND

Annual Swiss Sports

MONDAY, 1st AUGUST, 1949

(Bank Holiday)

at

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The SPORTS EVENTS begin at 11 a.m. and again at 2.15 p.m. (for details see separate notice), and will be followed by the NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

The Programme includes

Patriotic Address by the
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Poland and Switzerland signed a five-year trade pact, providing for a £20 million turnover during the first year.

* * *

The trade agreement signed last September between Egypt and Switzerland has been extended for a further six-month period beginning 1st May, 1949.

Under the new arrangements Egypt will supply cotton to a value of 30.6 million Swiss francs and receive in return machinery, textiles, etc. Egyptian cotton which will be drawn from Government stocks will be supplied on a basis of 71 tallaris per kantar for Karnak and 50 tallaris for Ashmouni (fully good).

Cantonal

Dr. Adolf Lühinger, Mayor of the town of Zurich, has died in Zurich, at the age of 55.

The deceased studied law at the University of Zurich where he obtained the degree of doctor of law. From 1935-1944 he was a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Zurich. In 1944, Dr. Lühinger was elected Mayor of the town of Zurich, in succession to M. E. Nobs, who was elected a member of the Federal Council. He has rendered eminent services to the town of Zurich, and his death, at an early age, is very much regretted. [A.T.S.]

* * *

National-Councillor, Gottlieb Duttweiler, has vacated his seat in Parliament (National Council). He is succeeded by Dr. Alois Grendelmeier (Landesring party) advocate in Küsnacht.

Duttweiler was a candidate for a seat in the States Council (Ständerat); at the elections of the 3rd of this month, he obtained more votes than his two opponents, a liberal and a member of the Peasant Party, but did not reach the necessary majority, a second poll will have to be taken. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Fritz Ernst, Professor at the Technical University in Zurich, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Professor Ernst, who is a well-known essayist made a name for himself with a number of works, amongst them "Studien zur Europäischen Literatur," "Die Schweiz als geistige Mittlerin," "Weltgeschichtliche Begegnungen," etc., etc.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Volkmar Andrea, well-known composer and for forty years conductor of the "Tonhalle" orchestra in Zurich has retired from his post. To celebrate

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this event Dr. Andrea was invited by the Municipal Council of Zurich to a farewell party which was held at the "Muraltengut." On this occasion speeches were made by Dr. Lühinger, Mayor of the town of Zurich (since deceased), Dr. Vaterlaus, a member of the cantonal government, Dr. H. Escher, President of the "Tonhalle" committee and Hermann Oermatt.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mme. Anna Katharina Hemmerle-Staub of Glarus has left an amount of 80,000.—frs. to various charitable institution in the canton of Glarus.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Jakob Ackermann (Dem.), has been elected President of the "Landrat" of the canton of Glarus for 1949/50. Caspar Oswald (Bilten, Lib.) was elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Ursula Salvagni-Darani has celebrated her 104th birthday anniversary in Zug. Madame Salvagni is the second oldest inhabitant in Switzerland.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A motor-car driver, aged 23, who caused the death of a man, whilst driving when drunk, was sentenced to six months imprisonment (!) by a tribunal of the Sense District. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 8th Federal "Jodler" competition was held in Berne from June 11th to 13th, and was attended by a large number of choirs from all parts of Switzerland.

[A.T.S.]

Georges Zwahlen, a former teacher at the "Gymnasium" in La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 67, was killed when on a climbing expedition in the Doubs district. The deceased was known as a keen mountaineer.

[A.T.S.]

Arnold Baumgartner, founder and head of the watch manufacturing works, A. Baumgartner, Frères, S.A. of Grenchen (Ct. Solothurn) has celebrated his 85th birthday anniversary. M. Baumgartner is one of the pioneers of the Swiss watch industry. [A.T.S.]

After a lapse of 17 years, the Passion Plays of Selzach (Ct. Solothurn) have started again. The first performance took place on the 26th of June. [A.T.S.]

Jacques Schmid, a member of the Government of the canton of Solothurn, from 1931-49, has retired from his post, he is succeeded by Gottfried Klaus. [A.T.S.]

The "Basler Gesangverein" has celebrated its 125th jubilee, on which occasion Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* was performed at the Minster in Basle.

[A.T.S.]

Professors E. Stähelin (Theology) and A. Portmann (Philosophy), of the University of Basle, have been nominated Honorary senators of the University of Freiburg i. Br. [A.T.S.]

Gottfried Becker, for forty years conductor of the orchestra of the Municipal Opera House in Basle, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary, so has J.

Hecht, founder and head of the "Neptun Transport- und Schiffahrts, A.G." in Basle. [A.T.S.]

Rudolf Schäublin, President of the District Court Arlesheim, who has recently retired from his post, has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* from the University of Basle. [A.T.S.]

K. Häring (Soc.), has been elected President of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-County for 1949/50. Dr. H. Gschwind, was elected President of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

Whilst climbing in the "Alpstein" district (Ct. Appenzell), Gertrud Jmhof (age 18), from Tägerwilen, and Emil Lenzinger (age 28), from Weinfelden, fell over a rock and were killed. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Jakob Elser, Director of the "St. Gallisch-Appenzellerischen Kraftwerke" is shortly vacating his office, for reasons of health. Dr. Elser was from 1928-1935, Vice-Director of this concern. [A.T.S.]

H. Bösch, "Gemeinderatsschreiber" of Neslau (Ct. St. Gall), has celebrated his 40th service jubilee, he is 76 years old. [A.T.S.]

The mountain village of Selva (Ct. Grisons), was destroyed by a fire which burned out thirteen of its fifteen houses and the church. Damage is estimated at more than 500,000.—frs. and 150 people are homeless. A collection for the relief of the population has been started, and the Swiss Government has sent an amount

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of 10,000.—frs., and a number of military huts for housing the people. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Shooting competition in Chur (Ct. Grisons) started on the 23rd of last month; amongst the many sections which competed were several from abroad. The Swiss Rifle Team London was represented by a small team.

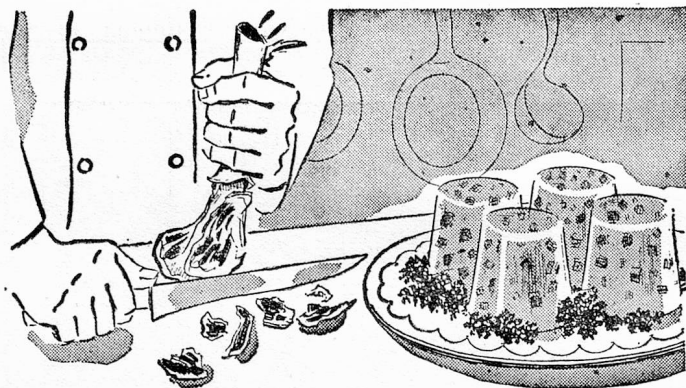
The Federal Council attended *in corpore* on the Official Day, as well as General Guisan and the French Ambassador. Monsieur Nobs, President of the Swiss Confederation spoke at the Banquet which was attended by 450 people. [A.T.S.]

The "Schweizerische Leinenindustrie" of Niederlenz (Ct. Aargau), has made a donation amounting to 100,000.—frs. to the community of Niederlenz for the erection of a hall for gymnastics; the same firm had previously subscribed 65,000.—frs. for the same purpose. [A.T.S.]

The late A. Widmer-Hanselmann, of Altnau (Ct. Thurgau), has left an amount of 10,000.— for charitable purposes.

Paul Straub, notary in Arbon, who recently died, left an amount of 22,000.—frs. to similar institutions. [A.T.S.]

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Colonel Giuseppe Antonio Rusconi del Polascia was celebrated in Giubiasco (Ct. Ticino).



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Colonel Rusconi was one of the most eminent personalities of the canton of Ticino in the 18th century. After having served for 27 years in Swiss regiments of the King of Spain, he returned to the Ticino, where he took a great interest in politics. He was in turn, Prefect of Bellinzona, commander of the forces of the canton of Ticino, and a member of the Grand Council. [A.T.S.]

Auguste Marguerat, Director of the Visp-Zermatt and Gornergrat railways, and since 1925 also a Director of the Furka-Oberalp and Schöllenen railways, is retiring from his post at the end of September. M. Marguerat is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The Girls' high school, in Lausanne, has celebrated its 100th anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Alfredo Vannetti, Professor at the University of Lausanne, has been elected a member of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva. Dr. Vannetti hails from Bedigliora (Ct. Ticino). [A.T.S.]

A lorry, heavily laden with cement, collided at a level-crossing near the station of Gland (Ct. Vaud) with a goods train. The lorry was completely smashed and the driver and his wife were killed. The driver of the goods train received injuries. [A.T.S.]

The hospital of Préfargier (Ct. Neuchâtel), which was founded by Auguste, Frédéric de Meuron, has celebrated its 100th anniversary. The celebrations held on this occasion were attended by Federal Councillor M. Petitpierre, and members of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

Pasteur Marcel Pradervand, General Secretary of the World Alliance of the reformed churches, has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the Maryville College in Knoxville (U.S.A.).

(Pasteur Pradervand was for many years, Pasteur at the Eglise Suisse in London. Heartiest congratulations. Ed.) [A.T.S.]

Raymond Déonna, Journalist in and from Geneva, has been elected a member of the National Council, in

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succession to M. Albert Picot, who has been elected a member of the States Council. [A.T.S.]

Traffic

Regular air services using the two Zurich airports of Dubendorf and Kloten totalled 9,191 flights, originating and terminating during 1948, compared with 7,646 for Dubendorf alone in 1947, when the new Kloten airport was still under construction. Both airports totalled 114,339 passengers in 1948, 308 tons of mail, 1,036 tons of freight, and 2,279 tons of luggage. The corresponding figures for Dubendorf in 1947 were: 360 tons, 723 tons and 2,058 tons.

Total traffic of both airports in 1948, including regular services, training flights, special flights, test flights, circular flights and tourist trips amounted to 28,194 flights, 145,195 passengers, 314 tons of mail, 1,436 tons of freight, and 2,305 tons of luggage. The corresponding figures for Dubendorf in 1947 were: 30,453 flights, 133,209 passengers, 380 tons of mail, 1,041 tons of freight, and 2,147 tons of luggage.

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Dr. Auguste Lassueur, a well-known specialist of dermatology, in Lausanne, at the age of 75.

Dr. Emil Schlittler-Fanconi, from 1922-1941 lecturer on ear diseases at the University of Basle, in Küssnacht (Zurich), aged 70.

Robert Thomann, from 1916-1935 on the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" and for 14 years a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 78.

Walter Schnebli, Director of the International Stung, at the age of 56.

Mme. Colomba Fonti, in Arosia, at the age of 100.

Ernst C. Flury, former Swiss Consul in Calcutta, during a business visit to London, at the age of 57.

Dr. Eugène Wassmer, lecturer at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 70. The deceased was one of the founders of the Swiss Radium Institute (1913).

Louis Pelet, for over 40 years in the service of the Swiss Federal Railways as architect, in Lausanne, aged 85.

Fred Poulin, Journalist and Publisher in Geneva, at the age of 57.

Dr. Gion B. Giger, medical practitioner in Teufen, following a motoring accident, at the age of 46.

Dr. Felix Christoffel, secretary of the Grisons "Hotelier" Association and former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Chur, at the age of 57.

Dr. Franz Della Casa, a well-known eye specialist, in Burgdorf, at the age of 70.

Friedrich Reinhardt, senior partner of the Printing works and Publishing firm Friedrich Reinhardt, A.G., Basle, in Basle, aged 83.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Henri Fischer, administrator of the armament works in Colombier.

Hermann Schüpbach, advocate of Thun, in Thun, at the age of 72. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne from 1905-1919. He entered Parliament (National Council) in 1911 over which he presided in 1934/35. He vacated his seat in 1936. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel.

Dr. Alfred Ziegler, a former teacher at the "Kantonsschule," in Winterthur, from 1887-1928, in Winterthur, at the age of 86.

Julius Wiederkehr, President of the Board of the "Metallwerke Refonds, A.G.," Niederglatt, at the age of 71.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond (60 years) wedding anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. Vinz Morger-Binkert, in Rorschach, and Mr. & Mrs. Fidèle Boinay, in Vendlincourt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

According to the 76th Annual Report of the "Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Verein" the membership of the "Zentralverein" has reached 50,217, with 88 sections in the German speaking part of Switzerland, 29 in the French and 4 in the Italian-speaking part including 6 sections abroad. The number of Lady members is 11,779 and youth members number 5,601.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The first consignment of 50 lightweight all-steel welded coaches for the Indian railways is expected to arrive in India from Switzerland early in 1950. These will be in shell form, will be fitted and equipped in Indian railway workshops and pressed into service in the middle of next year. Under the agreement the Swiss manufacturer has undertaken to supply fifty such shells annually for four years.

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