

News at random

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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Clemente Rezzonico, at present Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Chinese Peoples Republic, in Peking.

The new Minister was born at St. Jmier and is a citizen of Pedrinato (Ct. Ticino). He received his schooling at St. Jmier and afterwards studied economic and political science at the University of Berne where he obtained his doctorate.

Dr. Rezzonico entered the Swiss Political Department in 1923 and was subsequently transferred to the Swiss Legations in London and Rome. In 1937, whilst in London, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. During the last war, Dr. Rezzonico was in charge of the Press section of the Swiss Foreign Office, and from 1946 — 1949 held the post of 1st Counsellor of Legation in Paris, after which he was sent to Pakistan as Chargé d'Affaires.

The newly elected Federal Councillor, Dr. J. Escher, will take over the Federal Post and Railway Department.

During the month of August 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 15.27 million passengers, which is 2.22 million less than in August of the previous year, the receipts of which amount to 26.39 million francs (August, 1949: 30.05 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 346,000 tons, and amounts to 1.74 million tons, the receipts of which totalled 31.90 million francs (August, 1949: 27.69 million francs).

The Italian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Egidio Reale, gave a reception in honour of Dr. E. Celio, late Federal Councillor, and newly appointed Swiss Minister to Rome. Amongst the distinguished guests who attended the reception, were the members of the Government *in corpore*, late Federal Councillors Baumann, Minger and Pilet-Golaz, members of the Diplo-

matic Corps as well as a deputation from the canton of Ticino.

M. A. de Kaenel, Federal Factory Inspector of the District I (Lausanne) is shortly relinquishing his post on reaching retiring age. M. de Kaenel has been in the service of the Confederation for the last 40 years.

Mr. Miroslav Tucek, Czechoslovak Vice-Consul at Zurich, has asked the Swiss authorities to grant him refuge. He said that he had not been recalled by his Government, but had decided to break with the Communist Party because it was an instrument for enslaving the workers in the interests of Russian expansion.

Twenty-nine members of the Swiss Parliament have signed a petition asking the Government to explain why certain legations, under the protection of their diplomatic immunity, are circulating bulletins that not only praise the Communist régime but violently attack other countries represented in Switzerland.

The Swiss Federal railways have addressed to the chief of the Federal Department of Posts and Railways a protest against the proposed road tunnel either through the Great St. Bernard or through Mont Blanc.

The protest against the Great St. Bernard is much the more energetic of the two, since the railways point out that, as well as depriving Switzerland and its railways of much needed tourist traffic if motor-cars can drive straight through to Italy, a consideration which applies to both tunnels, the Great St. Bernard tunnel would have the additional disadvantage of serving no good commercial purpose except for purely local and small-scale traffic. Large-scale traffic such as cereals, coal, and mineral oils would continue to go by railway through the tunnels of the Simplon

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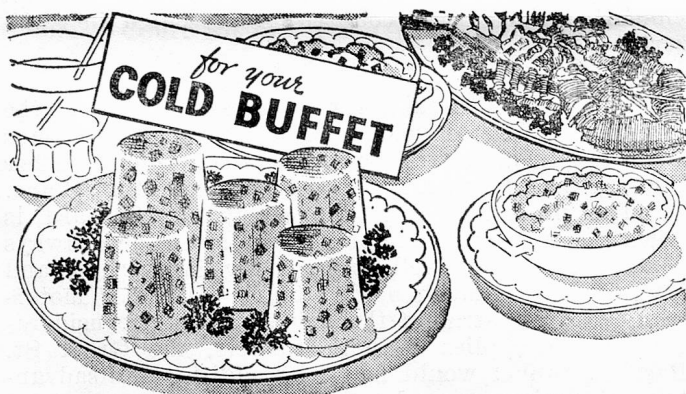
and St. Gotthard. It is improbable, therefore, say the railways, that the tunnel would cover the expenses of construction. In summer time motorists would prefer to go over the pass, and in winter the traffic is negligible.

With regard to the Mont Blanc tunnel the report is less decisive, but the conclusion is reached that in all probability this tunnel, too, would be a financial disappointment.

On a preliminary survey the Swiss Press tends to take the view that the railway protest need not be taken too seriously, at least with regard to the Mont Blanc tunnel. Some papers even go so far as to say that the object of attack is not the Mont Blanc tunnel at all, but the Great St. Bernard tunnel.

In accordance with recent measures designed to weed out unreliable officials from the Swiss Civil Service, the Postmaster-General announces that after a careful examination in each case six postal officials are to be excluded from the service, while 19 others will be only temporarily employed. The Postmaster-General emphasizes that these persons have not been dismissed for belonging to a left-wing party or for being deputies of a left-wing party on communal or cantonal authorities, but because of some subsidiary activity which did not guarantee postal telephonic, or telegraphic security.

By a majority of over two to one, Swiss electors rejected a Socialist-sponsored Bill giving the Government control over property transactions.



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Cantonal

The next Swiss Agricultural Exhibition will take place in Lucerne in 1954. The last Exhibition took place in 1939, in connection with the "Landesausstellung" in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

One of the oldest Hotels in Lucerne, the "Luzernerhof" will shortly be pulled down, to make room for modern business premises. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. F. Lüthi (Solothurn) and Dr. med. Kartagener (Zurich), have been nominated Professors (titulary) of the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Oskar Farner, pastor at the Zürich-Grossmünster, and President of the Church Council of the canton of Zurich, will shortly retire from his post for health reasons. [A.T.S.]

During the month of August, 784 (August, 1949: 624) traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Zurich, 345 persons (August, 1949: 241) were injured of whom five (August, 1949: 7) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

Professor, Dr. Otto Waser has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary at Zollikon (Ct. Zurich), the "Jubilar" was for many years Director of the "Archäologischen Sammlung" of the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The "Gebrüder Sulzer, A.G." of Winterthur, have acquired the premises of the former "Waffen-

fabrik, A.G." Solothurn in Zuchwil, near Solothurn, for the manufacture of weaving machines. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the 21st of last month, Dr. A. Oeri, who has been for over 25 years Editor-in-Chief of the "Basler Nachrichten", celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. On this occasion he announced his retirement from the editorial staff of this well-known paper.

On completion of his studies in classical philology, he entered the editorial staff of the "Basler Nachrichten" in 1902, and soon made a name for himself by his "Leaders" concerning foreign policy. For many years he sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town, and in Parliament (National Council) as a Liberal.

Dr. Oeri was one of the first Swiss Journalists who sounded warnings about the dangers of National Socialism in Germany. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A new theatre called "Die Komödie" was recently opened "in der Steinen" in Basle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. A. Hautle, for many years President of the "Nordostschweizerischen Verbandes für die Schifffahrt Rhein-Bodensee", has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Goldach (St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Margaretha Lutz-Allemann of Rheineck (Ct. St. Gall), has reached the age of 100. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Monsieur William Warneck, the Minister of Eire, accredited to the Swiss Confederation, has recently paid an official visit to the town of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Jürg Jenatsch" hut of the Swiss Alpine Club, which was recently rebuilt at a cost of 42,000.—frs. in the Piz d'Err district, was inaugurated in the presence of a great number of alpinists. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. h. c. Max Schiesser, Vice-President of the Board of the "A.G. Brown, Boveri & Cie" of Baden, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A former cashier of the Cantonal Bank of Vaud, who recently resigned, has been arrested and charged with embezzlement, the amount of the defalcation has not yet been finally ascertained, but as far as it is known exceeds several 100,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

In protest against the Swiss Government's refusal to give a price guarantee, furious farmers in the can-

ton of Valais dumped 150 tons of tomatoes in the river Rhone. Autumn's bumper fruit crop has caused a price crash, and many small farmers are facing financial ruin. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 37th annual rally of the Swiss Banker's Association was held on September 23rd at Neuchâtel. From the topics discussed and the outspoken expression of opinion, deep concern was felt at the difficulties that will confront European economy in the coming year.

Besides the 250 Swiss bankers about fifty distinguished guests attended, including M. Max. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, who spoke at length on problems of State finance in Switzerland; Minister Dr. Alfred Zehnder, representing the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Max Iklé, director of the Swiss Finance and Customs Department, Professor, Dr. Paul Keller, President of the Swiss National Bank, M. Max Schwab, President of the Swiss Compensation Office, many prominent representatives of Swiss industry and commerce, foreign note-issuing banks, the Bank for International Settlements, the International Bank, the International Chamber of Commerce, and foreign stock exchanges.

In his presidential address, Dr. Charles de Loes (Hentsch & Cie, Geneva) reviewed outstanding developments over the past year, declaring that monetary devaluation in a great number of countries a year ago had exercised profound influence on the evolution of world economy, necessitating the adaption of the new parities of certain currencies to the lower purchasing power of money. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the "Kursaal" in Geneva, for the recent season close with a deficit of 100,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Army

An important statement on Swiss national defence was made in Parliament by M. Kobelt, chief of the military department. Replying to a written question submitted by all parties except the left-wing extremists, M. Kobelt said that the army's efficiency must be increased and its forces provided with all possible weapons. The gravity of the international situation was such that it was urgently necessary to act rapidly and give the army the means of assuring an effective defence.

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Emphasizing that a much larger sum than hitherto would have to be spent on rearmament, M. Kobelt announced an extraordinary credit of 72m. francs this year, an increase of the 1951 military budget to 720m. francs, and a further credit of 1,400m. francs to be spent in the next four years to enable the modernization and armament of the Swiss forces. He did not refer to the measures contemplated for raising the necessary funds.

* * *

An Israeli military Mission, headed by the assistant chief of the General Staff, General Mordehai Maklev, have visited a number of military centres in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A military plane, C-36, caught fire when flying near Werthenstein (Ct. Lucerne), the pilot, sergeant-major Max Dübendorfer, parachuted from the machine and landed safely, the plane crashed and was burnt out. [A.T.S.]

Economics

During the week to September 23rd the Swiss National Bank's gold stocks declined by Frs.22m. to Frs.6,122m. This loss, however, was almost offset by an increase in foreign exchange holdings of Frs.21.6m. to Frs.360m.

—xxx—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Josef Amstad, senior-partner of the cheese export firm Josef Amstad & Son, in Beckenried, at the age of 85.

Alexis Porchet, a former school inspector and conductor of the Lutry "Union Chorale", in Lutry, aged 79.

Dr. Henri Biso, of the Federal Office of Taxation, in Berne

Ulysses Pocotolli, well-known "Ticinese" writer and drawing master at the "Gymnasium" of Lugano, in Lugano, at the age of 63.

Fritz Kunz, a member of the Board of the "Buchdruckerei Geschwister Ziegler & Co., Winterthur, in Winterthur, aged 68.

Paul Matter-Bally, head of the "Buntweberei & Färberei Gebrüder Matter, A.G." in Kollikon, at the age of 82. The deceased was from 1923-1940, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the canton of Aargau.

Dr. Anton Castell, keeper of the archives of the canton of Schwyz, and from 1925-1944, Professor at the "Kollegium Mariahilf" in Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 53.

Dr. R. Habicht, Editor of the "Volksfreund" Flawil, in Flawil, at the age of 53.

Paul Girardin, since 1911, Professor of Geography at the University of Fribourg, of which he was rector during 1925/26, in Fribourg, aged 75.

Albert Rooschütz, Pastor, and for many years Editor-in-Chief of the "Sämann," in Spiez, at the age of 84.

Fritz Wernli, biscuits manufacturer in Olten, aged 59.

Colonel Walter Sennhauser, for many years a member of the Federal Instructors Corps, in Zurich, at the age of 63.

Emil Preisig, President of the "Schweiz. Haus- und Grundeigentümer Verbandes" and a member of

the "Obergericht" of the canton of Appenzell a. Rh., in Herisau, at the age of 62.

Matthäus Theiler, a former "Landammann" and from 1928-1936 a member of the government of the canton of Schwyz, in Wollerau, aged 86.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Jules Emery, of Fribourg, and Dr. and Mrs. Karl Jud-Jenny, of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A small group of Swiss and English mountaineers have climbed, for the first time, the Abi Gamin (7,355 m.); this mountain is situated on the Tibetan frontier (Garwhal-Himalaya). The following Swiss alpinists took part in the ascent: René Dittert (Geneva), Dr. A. Tissières (Lausanne) and Dr. G. Chevalley (Box). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Institute for Applied Mathematics at the "Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule" in Zurich finished, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. E. Stiefel, a mathematical calculator which is the only one of its kind in Europe next to a similar one in Sweden.

It was constructed by an engineer Zuse and equipped with a large memory consisting of a great number of mathematical basic problems punched on cards. Mathematical problems may be fed to the machine according to a certain program or prescriptions and which will work and spend answers automatically.

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* * *

Swiss wholesale price indexes continued their rise in August. That, based on August, 1939, equalling 100, rose to 204.8 from 198.9 in the previous month, and that, based on July, 1941, equalling 100, to 219.9 from 213.7.

* * *

Switzerland is to build Europe's most up-to-date television station with a picture quality 50 per cent. higher than present B.B.C. transmission — if experiments are satisfactory.

* * *

Important archaeological finds have been made by Dr. Theodor Schweizer, the well-known Swiss archaeologist, on a site he discovered some time ago in the Kaltbrunnental, in the Jura region of Canton Berne. In exploring some caves he had unearthed numerous remains in the two upper layers, the upper one belonging to the Magdalenian period, the second one to the Aurignacian period. His researches last summer were made in the inferior layer which belongs to the Mousterian period, and he has already brought to light the petrified remains of several prehistoric animals which he estimates to be about 100,000 years old. All these finds are now in the museum at Olten.

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(Swiss Reporter.)

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

C'est en 1520 que les premières fèves de cacao firent leur apparition en Europe. Juste 4 siècles plus tard, la Suisse exportait pour plus de 100 millions de francs de ses chocolats réputés. La consommation en Suisse a quadruplé pendant ces 20 dernières années. Elle se montait en 1949 à 22 millions de kilos.

* * *

La Maison Brown Boveri & Cie, Baden, vient de créer un nouvel appareil électronique de régularisation de la lumière, le "Thyralux".

* * *

Le général Nobile, au nom du ministre italien des transports, a visité différentes installations de télésièges, dans les montagnes de la Suisse.

* * *

Griesser S.A., Aadorf, vient de mettre sur le marché une nouvelle sorte de stores à lamelles pour fenêtres et vitrines, patentée dans 12 pays.

* * *

Selon les médecins anglais, le succès médical de l'action suisse d'hospitalisation des invalides de guerre britanniques — aujourd'hui terminée — a dépassé toutes les attentes.



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On a joué à Dresde des chansons et un quatuor pour instruments à cordes de Richard Flury. Les émetteurs de radio de Stockholm, Nüremberg et Innsbruck ont diffusé récemment des œuvres de ce compositeur soleurois.

* * *

L'Université de Hambourg a décerné le prix hanséatique Goethe 1950 au professeur d'histoire Carl-J. Burckhardt.

* * *

Le professeur J. Ackeret, de Zurich, a été nommé membre de l'Institut Max Planck pour l'étude des courants hydrauliques à Göttingen.

* * *

M. Petitpierre, président de la Confédération a été nommé membre d'honneur de l'Association de la presse étrangère en Suisse.

* * *

Le Dr. E. A. Zeller de Bâle, a été nommé professeur de chimie des ferments à la Northwestern University de Chicago.

* * *

L'exposition du livre suisse aux Etats-Unis a dû être organisée dans 26 villes ou universités, au lieu des 10 prévues et encore n'a-t-on pas pu donner suite à toutes les demandes.

* * *

L'état indépendant africain du Libéria a donné à l'un de ses fleuves côtiers le nom de Hofmann's River en l'honneur de son ministre à Paris et à La Haye, un Suisse de vieille roche.



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CVS—26

CRONACA NOSTRANA.

L'ELEZIONE AL CONSIGLIO FEDERALE. —

La stampa ticinese ha fatto eco al disappunto provato dall'opinione pubblica del Cantone Ticino per il fatto che la nomina del successore dell'on. Enrico Celio — entrato in questi giorni in carica quale Ministro di Svizzera a Roma — non sia caduta sul candidato ticinese. Le cause che hanno ora portato a cinque i rappresentanti dell'elemento alemannico nel governo federale sono svariate: ci limitiamo ad accennarne alcune. Pare che l'ex-presidente della Confederazione abbia lasciato il seggio governativo contrariamente ad una sua solenne, non lontana affermazione, ed abbia pertanto colto gli ambienti politici del suo Cantone alla sprovvista. Vi fu esitazione nel rivendicare immediatamente il posto per la Svizzera italiana. In un primo tempo il partito liberale ticinese non era propenso ad appoggiare la candidatura di un conservatore, siccome per anni quest'ultimo partito aveva rappresentato l'elemento italiano a Palazzo federale. Quando venne insistito che la successione Celio era sul piano federale di preta natura di parte e che spettava al partito conservatore cattolico svizzero di designare il proprio candidato, il maggiore partito cantonale dava la sua adesione alla candidatura dell'on. avv. Franco Maspoli, membro conservatore del Consiglio Nazionale. Nel frattempo, in seno al partito conservatore svizzero, il seggio veniva rivendicato dai conservatori del Vallese e da quelli dei Grigioni. Il gruppo conservatore cattolico delle Camere Federali, riunitosi l'11 settembre a Berna per designare la candidatura ufficiale del partito all'Assemblea Federale, già al primo scrutinio nominava il presidente del partito stesso, nonché candidato del Vallese, on. Giuseppe Escher di Briga, il quale raccoglieva la maggioranza assoluta con 35 voti su 55, contro 11 per il grigionese on. Condrau e soli 9 per l'on. Maspoli. La scelta dei conservatori svizzeri riceveva poi la convalida da parte dell'Assemblea federale che eleggeva l'on. Escher al Consiglio Federale, la mattina del 14 settembre con 165 voti su 219 schede distribuite. Se, come già affermato, nel Cantone Ticino si è vivamente delusi per l'interruzione della rappresentanza della Svizzera italiana nel governo federale, i ticinesi condividono la soddisfazione del Vallese, cantone finitimo, per la nomina per la prima volta di un suo figlio nell'alta carica. Legittima tuttavia rimane la speranza nell'entrata di un ticinese nell'Esecutivo supremo, in un non lontano avvenire, per rispondere alle esigenze insopprimibili della parità giuridica e di

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