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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Mario Fumasoli, at present Swiss Minister in Mexico, to the post of Swiss Minister to the Argentine Republic, in succession to Minister Fer.

Minister Fumasoli, was born in 1901 at Corzonesco (Ct. Ticino). He studied law at the University of Fribourg and at various Universities in Germany. In the year 1925, he entered into the Diplomatic Service and a year later (1926) he was transferred to Istanbul as Attaché of Legation, during his stay at Istanbul he was promoted to Secretary of Legation. Other posts held by Minister Fumasoli were at The Hague, Buenos-Aires and Rome.

In 1939, he was promoted to Counsellor of Legation and sent to the Swiss Legation in Madrid. In 1948, Monsieur Fumasoli, was nominated Swiss Minister in Mexico.

Monsieur Patrick Scrivener, British Minister in Berne, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Minister Scrivener, was until recently Deputy Commissioner-General for the United Kingdom in South-East Asia. He was formerly Minister in Damascus. Earlier he served in Warsaw, Cairo, Budapest, Addis-Ababa, Ankara, Rome and Lisbon.

Official figures published of the amount of sterling balances held by Switzerland at the end of October last year are of special importance owing to the fact that the fate of these balances will be discussed at the present Anglo-Swiss talks.

Balances held at that time amounted to Frs.135.8 millions, compared with Frs. 139.4 millions at the end of September, and with Frs.261.3 millions at the end of August.

The sharp decline during September is attributable to the devaluation of the pound, and to the demand for sterling following devaluation.

No official explanation is available for the fall in October, but there, too, the drop may have been caused by demands for sterling on a more moderate scale.

* * *

Czechoslovakia and Switzerland have completed a new five-year trade and payments pact and a compensation agreement covering nationalised Swiss property.

* * *

Mr. W. M. Warnock, who has been appointed Irish Minister to Switzerland, is at present chargé d'affaires at Stockholm, having held a similar appointment in Berlin from 1939 to 1943.

Cantonal

The late Colonel, Dr. Franz Rickenbacher, formerly State Prosecutor of Goldau (Ct. Schwyz), has left an amount of 80,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Ernst Frey, head of a screw manufacturing firm in Butikon (Ct. Zurich), made bequests to various charitable institutions amounting to 150,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A motor-car carrying four Ice-Hockey players on the way from Glarus to Chur, to attend a Match, left the road in a thick fog on the Kerenzerberg and fell twenty metres into a ravine. One of the passengers, the 29 years old Christian Linder from Glarus, was killed, whilst the remaining three, received injuries and had to be taken to hospital in Wallenstadt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mademoiselle Julie Barbezat, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary in Lattringen (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

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Dr. Urs Dietschi, has been elected "Landammann" of the canton of Solothurn, and Dr. Oscar Stampfli, "Vice-Landammann." [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Wilhelm Vischer, Professor of Pharmaceutical Botany at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Professor Vischer is at present President of the Swiss Botanical Society and a member of various scientific Societies. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Ed. Dussy, Manager of the CIBA Basle, has retired from his post; he has been connected with the firm for the last 50 years. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Emil Notz, Manager of the Studio Basle, of the "Radio Genossenschaft, Basel" is shortly retiring from his post, which he has held during the last 23 years. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Max Gerwig, Professor of Civil Law at the University of Basle, and for many years President of the Appeal Court in Basle, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Various changes have occurred on the Editorial staff of the "National Zeitung" Basle. Richard Amstein, Editor for "Lokal Politik", and Dr. Edwin Strub, have at their own request, been relieved of some of their duties. Dr. Strub has been replaced by National Councillor, Dr. Eugen Dietschi. Dr. Hans Bauer will edit the commercial part of the paper. Dr. Walter Allgöwer, until recently Editor of the "Schweizerischen Beobachters" has joined the Editorial Staff. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Philipp Zinsli, physician-in-chief at the Cantonal Hospital in Lucerne, has been elected "Kurarzt" of the "Bad Passugg" in succession to Dr. Bandli (Chur), who for 35 years has occupied this post.

The Management of the "Kurhaus" Passugg has been entrusted to Hans Arpagans, Hotelier in Arosa. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Emil Hügli, a journalist and writer, has celebrated his 50th jubilee as a Journalist. He started his career of a Journalist in Berne as Assistant-Editor of

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"Der Bund", and afterwards held the post of Editor of the "Freien Rätier" for 23 years. Since 1923, Hügli was a correspondent for various papers, he is 77 years old. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Josephine Suter-Bütler of Sins (Ct. Aargau), has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Othmar von Matt, has been elected Surgeon-in-Chief of the District Hospital in Muri (Ct. Aargau), in succession to Dr. E. Heller, who recently vacated his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the year 1949, altogether 592 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Thurgau (1948: 552). Thirty people were killed (1948: 17). 502 people were injured (1948: 460). In 31 cases drunkenness was the cause of the accident. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mme. Anna Eberli, who died recently at Bürglen (Ct. Thurgau), has left an amount of 20,000.—frs. to charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The paper "Il Dovere" organ of the Liberal Party of the canton of Ticino, which is published in Bellinzona, has celebrated its 75th Jubilee. The publishers of this paper, Salvioni, printers in Bellinzona can look back on 100 years of existence. [A.T.S.]

Monsieur Pilet-Golaz, late Federal-Councillor, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Lausanne. He was a member of the Federal Government for 16 years and President of the Swiss Confederation in 1934 and 1940. He was born in Cossonay and is a citizen of Château-d'Oex. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Paul Nerfin, has been nominated President of the Government of the canton of Vaud for the year 1950, and M. Arthur Maret Vice-President. Both have been members of the cantonal government since 1946.

[A.T.S.]

Army

The Federal Council has fixed the following remunerations for leading (professional) Officers of the Swiss Army:

Chief of the General Staff: 29,091.—frs. p.a.; Army-Corps Commanders: 26,364.—frs. p.a.; Commanders of Division: 22,273.—frs. p.a.; Commander of the Fortress Sargans, and Commanders of Mountain Brigades: 20,364.—frs. p.a. In addition to the above mentioned salaries, they will receive until 1952, a bonus of 10 per cent. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Eugène Perrier, formerly Chief of Police of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 82.

Dr. Alexander Roesle-Boesch, Manager of the Electricity Power Station in Laufenburg (Ct. Aargau), at Laufenburg, aged 71.

Mme. Rosalie Etter-Schaffroth, the oldest inhabitant of Weinfelden (Ct. Thurgau), in Weinfelden, at the age of 98.

Dr. Martin Trepp, formerly Head-Master of the "Progymnasium" Thun, in Thun, aged 72.

Dr. Paul Rumpf, from 1926-1947, a teacher, and from 1935-1944, rector of the "Mittelschule" Morges, in Morges, at the age of 64.

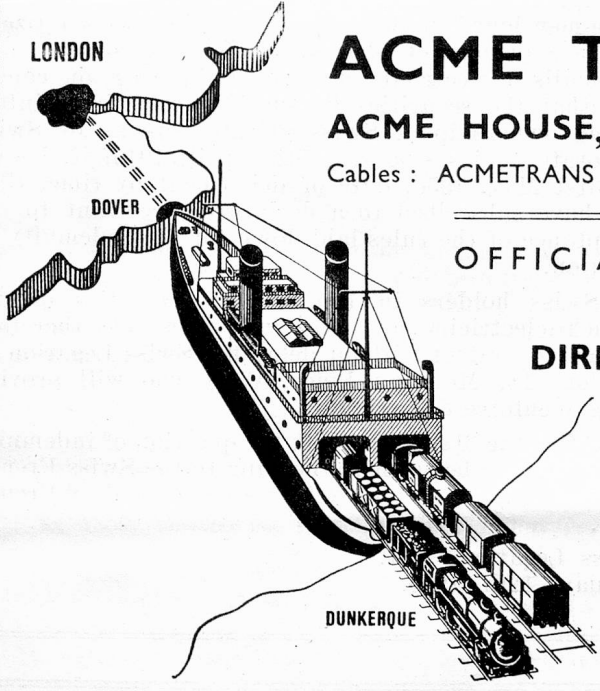
Anton Gwerder, States-Councillor, in Schwyz, aged 56. The deceased, was during the first world war, head of the cantonal "Rationierungswesen", and later on Financial Secretary of the canton of Schwyz and Manager of the Cantonal Bank. In 1947, he entered Parliament (States-Council) as a Conservative. During the last war he was "Platzkommandant" of Schwyz, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Colonel Alphonse Sidler, a former "Platzkommandant" of Sitten and President of the District Court in Sitten (Ct. Valais), at the age of 72.

Dr. Max Isler, for 35 years, Manager of the CIBA, Basle, in Basle, age 61.

Fritz Schmuziger, President of the Board of the "Landis & Gyr, A.G." Zug, in Lenzerheide, at the age of 71. The deceased, entered the firm in 1911, and was, for 26 years Manager of the Manufacturing Department. In 1943, he was elected a member of the Board, and three years later (1946) became President of the Board.

Guido Ronchetti, for many years General Manager of the firm Gondrand, in Lugano, aged 67.



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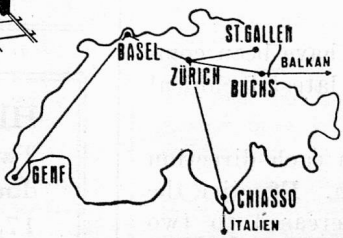
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Léon Daguet, formerly President of the Board of "Banque d'Etat" of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 77.

Armand Spicher, rector of the boys secondary school, Fribourg, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, aged 47.

Karl Müller-Lauberg, Manager of the "Blechwarenfabrik" Münchenstein, in Münchenstein, at the age of 62. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. A. Bizozzero-Broder, of Sargans; Mr. and Mrs. J. Affolter, of Peseux (Ct. Neuchâtel). [A.T.S.]

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The following Swiss papers have celebrated their jubilees: "Bodensee-Zeitung", Romanshorn (100 years); "Glarner Nachrichten", Glarus (75 years); "Brugger Tagblatt", "Rorschacher Zeitung", and "Schweizerische Maschinenmarkt" (50 years). [A.T.S.]

* * *

After the big success of the 5th International Competition for Musical Performers in Geneva, in which 250 candidates from 24 countries participated, the Organising Committee has decided to carry out another International Competition in 1950. This is to take place from September 25th to October 8th and will comprise the following categories: Singing, Piano, Violin, Organ, Clarinet and Trumpet. Young artists, between 15 and 30 years, from all countries may compete. Money prizes amounting to 10,800 Swiss francs are expected.

The prospectus, in four languages, giving the Rules and Programmes is available from the Secretary of the International Competition for Musical Performers in the Conservatory of Music, Geneva.

* * *

The Swiss Bank Corporation and Credit Suisse have granted the French railways a five-year credit of 250 million Swiss francs.

SWISSAIR TRANSATLANTIC SERVICES IN 1950.

Swissair — The Airline of Switzerland, which will celebrate its 20th Anniversary next year — will resume its regular transatlantic services between Zurich/Geneva and New York, via Shannon and Gander, from February 24th, after having reduced the frequency of its flights during the winter months.

Its long-distance 4-engine aircraft have been completely overhauled and adapted to the latest technical requirements.

There will be one weekly flight in each direction between February 24th and March 27th. Effective the latter date, the frequency will be increased to two flights per week, eastbound and westbound.

FROM SWISS LEGATION — COMMUNIQUE.

Swiss interests in nationalised French banks, insurance companies and mines.

Some banks (French Laws No. 45-015 of the 2.12.1945 and No. 46-1070 of the 17.5.46), insurance companies (Law No. 46-835 of the 25.4.1946) and mines (Law No. 46-1072 of the 17.5.1946) have been nationalised in France during the years 1945/1946.

In order to establish the Swiss interests affected by these nationalisations, the Swiss Legation in London (18, Montagu Place, W.1) are investigating which shares, bonds, etc., of these undertakings are the property of Swiss persons. Swiss holders of such securities are therefore invited to contact without delay the Swiss Legation who will provide them with the necessary forms for the registration of their claims. Swiss Legation, W.1. January 12th, 1950.

* * *

Swiss interests in the nationalised French electricity and gas industries.

The Swiss and French Governments have agreed to special arrangements regarding the indemnification of Swiss interests in the nationalised electricity and gas industries in France. These provisions form a Convention with appendix signed in Paris on the 21st November, 1949, which came into force on the 22nd December, 1949. The benefice of this Convention is extended to Swiss nationals abroad who are creditors to an indemnity in the sense of the French Law No. 46/628 of the 8th April, 1946, relevant to the nationalisation of the afore-mentioned undertakings (i.e. to Swiss citizens who are owners of shares, bonds, etc., of the now nationalised electricity and gas industries, on condition that the securities in question were in uninterrupted ownership of Swiss private persons or Swiss corporate bodies since the 8th April, 1946) if, before the 31st May, 1950, date of debarment by time, they will have subscribed to a declaration relevant to the acceptance of the rules laid down for the indemnity in question.

Swiss holders in England of securities of the French electricity and gas industries are therefore invited to contact without delay the Swiss Legation in London (18, Montagu Place, W.1) who will provide them to enforce their rights.

After the 31st May, 1950, the question of indemnity will no longer be settled according to the Swiss-French Convention, but will be exclusively governed by French Law.

Swiss Legation, W.1.
January 12th, 1950.

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