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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Hans Zurlinden, since 1948, Swiss Minister in Moscow, has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council. Failing health is the reason given. Minister Zurlinden has already left the Russian capital.

The Swiss Government have banned foreign "political extremists" from speaking in Switzerland. They noted that the Swiss Communist party had recently been inviting an increasing number of foreign speakers to address Meetings.

Customs receipts during February, 1950, amounted to 35.3 million francs or 1 million francs more than in the same month the previous year. In the first two months of the current year, 68.9 million francs were collected, against 68.8 during the same period in 1949.

During January, 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.19 million passengers, or 250,000 less than in January 1949. The receipts from passenger traffic have declined by 287,000.—frs. and amounted to 19.77 million francs.

Goods traffic has declined by 131,000 tons and amounted to 1.06 million tons, the receipts of which totalled 20.51 million francs, which is 3.08 million francs less than during January 1949.

The German Vice-Chancellor, Herr Franz Blücher, paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Council in Berne. In Zurich, he gave a conference on current problems in Germany to-day.

Switzerland finished the financial year 1949 with a surplus of 12,000,000.—frs. Receipts for the year amounted to frs. 1,564 m., against an expenditure of frs. 1,552 m.

Cantonal

Dr. Dominik Auf der Maur (Conservative), President of the cantonal Tribunal of Schwyz, has been elected a member of the States Council (Ständerat) with 8,618 votes. His opponent Joachim Weber (Liberal) received 7,050 votes. [A.T.S.]

Hans Zürcher, a well-known painter, and former teacher at the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in Lucerne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

According to figures published by the Statistical Office of the canton of Zurich, the population of the canton since 1900 has increased from 431,000 to 751,000 persons. The population of the town of Zurich alone has increased from 168,000 to 385,000 and is 51 per cent. of the population of the canton. The population of the town of Winterthur during the same time has increased from 40,000 to 65,000 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Albert Meyer, a former Federal Councillor, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Zurich.

Dr. Meyer is a citizen of Fällanden and Zurich. He studied jurisprudence at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin, and obtained in 1895 the degrees of *doctor juris utriusque* and *doctor publici et rerum cameralium* at the University of Zurich. For two years he occupied the post of Financial Secretary of the town of Zurich, and in 1897, Dr. Meyer was appointed to the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung"; of which paper he became Editor-in-Chief in 1915.

In 1907, he was elected a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" of Zurich, over which he presided in 1912. Three years later (1915) he was elected a member of Parliament (National Council). On December 12th, 1929, he entered the Federal Government in succession to Dr. Robert Haab. Nine years later (1938) he retired from his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Franz Tank, Professor of Physics at the Federal Technical University (ETH) in Zurich has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Leo Wehrli, the well-known geologist, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Zurich. He

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was, from 1900 — 1935, Professor of Geology and Chemistry at the "Höheren Töchter Schule" in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Zipkes, lecturer on road constructions at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, has been appointed Director of the Central Road Research Institute of India in New Delhi. [A.T.S.]

The late Mlle. Fanny Hubert, has left an amount of 26,500.—frs. to various charitable institutions in Courtelary-Cormoret. [A.T.S.]

Damage amounting to over 100,000.—frs. has been caused through a fire at the Paillard Works in Yverdon. [A.T.S.]

Dr. E. Christen, Manager of the "Basellandschaftlichen Hypothekenbank" in Liestal, has been appointed President of the Board, in succession to the late Dr. A. Seiler. Dr. E. Weisskopf has been elected Manager of the Bank in Liestal. [A.T.S.]

Mr. J. Mosimann, from 1925-1946, a member of the government of the canton of Basle-County, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Liestal. [A.T.S.]

As a result of the recent elections, the government of the canton of Basle, has, for the first time since 1935, again a bourgeois majority, it contains three Socialists (Dr. Wenk, Dr. Ebi and F. Brechbühl); two Radicals (Dr. Zweifel, and Dr. Schaller); 1 Liberal (Dr. Zschokke) and one Catholic (Dr. Peter).

The result of the poll for the Grand Council show also a majority of the bourgeois parties. The new Council consists of 39 Socialists, 21 Radicals, 18 Communists, 16 Catholics, 15 Liberals, "Landesring" (Duttweiler) 10; "Bürger & Gewerbe Partei" 7 and Evangelical Party 4.

Dr. Alfred Schaller, the newly elected member of the cantonal government, was born in Flüelen in 1908. Having been previously in the service of the Swiss Federal Railways, in 1931 he entered the Harbour Administration in Basle, and ten years later was appointed "Schiffahrtsdirektor". In 1938, he entered the Grand Council of the canton of Basle and in 1947, was elected a member of Parliament (National Council). [A.T.S.]

Mr. Richard Amstein, for 45 years on the Editorial Staff of the "National Zeitung", Basle, has recently celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. He has made a name for himself as "Briefkasten Onkel". The "Nordwestschweiz. Presse Verein" has made him an Honorary Member for the services he has rendered. [A.T.S.]

Fieldmarshall Lord Montgomery has recently paid a visit to the town of Basle, where he was received by members of the cantonal government.

After a visit to the Docks at Basle, to the "Kembser Stauwerk" and to various Chemical Works, he was offered a luncheon at the "Drei Könige Hotel." [A.T.S.]

Watches and Jewellery to the value of over 50,000.—frs. were stolen from a Jeweller's shop in Basle. The thief entered the premises by forcing a fanlight. [A.T.S.]

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Professor Wilhelm Bruckner, a former teacher at the "Humanistische Gymnasium" in Basle, is 80 years old, and Professor Rudolf Thommen, formerly Professor of Swiss History at the University of Basle, is 90 years old. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Rud. Stamm, Professor at the University of Basle, has been elected Professor of English language and literature at the "Handelshochschule" in St. Gall, in succession to Professor Dr. Wildi. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Albert Lardelli and Dr. Josef Violi, have been re-elected as representatives of the canton of Grisons in the States Council (Ständerat). [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 90th Jubilee of the firm "Gebrüder Bühler" of Uzwil, the management has made a donation of two million francs to the Pension Fund of their employees. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out in the premises of the firm of Urech, furniture manufacturers of Brunegg (Ct. Aargau) caused damage amounting to between 200,000 and 300,000 frs. [A.T.S.]

The late Friedrich Wächter-Fridrich, of Zofingen, has left an amount of 20,000.—frs. to the Urban Council of Brittnau to be used for the education of needy children. [A.T.S.]

All the five members of the government of the canton of Thurgau have been re-elected, namely: Dr. J. Müller, Dr. W. Staehelin, Dr. A. Roth, H. Reutlinger and Dr. Reiber. [A.T.S.]

The well-known novelist Paul Jlg, in Uttwil (Ct. Thurgau), has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. Amongst his best known novels are "Das Menschlein Matthias" and "Probus." [A.T.S.]

This year's Fiera Svizzera will take place in Lugano from September 30th to October 15th, 1950. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Louis Michaud, since 1913, Professor of Medicine at the University of Lausanne, surgeon-in-chief of the cantonal hospital and founder of the Nestlé hospital, has tendered his resignation. He was born in Berne in 1880. Professor Michaud is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Aix-en-Provence and a corresponding member of the Medical Academy in Paris. [A.T.S.]

Professors Arthur Maillefer and Adrien Bovy, Professors of Botany and History of Arts, respectively at the University of Lausanne, have resigned on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

The population of the Canton of Geneva, at the end of December, 1949, numbers 204,906 persons. [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Geneva has held a reception in honour of Colonel Corbat, commander of the 1st Army Corps. [A.T.S.]

Considerable damage was caused by fire at the organ works of Ziegler in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

Economics

During February Swiss imports from the U.K. rose from Frs.26.1m. to Frs.30m. compared with January. This latter figure represents 11 per cent. of Switzerland's total imports during the past month.

The U.K. ranked second among Switzerland's supplies, preceded by the United States (Frs.39.8m.) and followed by France (Frs. 27.8m.) and Germany (Frs. 27.5m.).

Swiss exports to the U.K., in February, advanced from Frs.7.4m. to Frs.10.5m., the latter figure representing 4.1 per cent. of Switzerland's total exports during the past month.

The price of petrol was reduced six per cent. throughout Switzerland. The net price is 4/6 a gallon.

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SWISS HOLIDAYS FOR U.K. SWISS CHILDREN.

Once again the London Group of the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique" is organising, in co-operation with "Pro Juventute" in Zurich, a holiday in Switzerland for children of 12—16 years, of Swiss parentage, who live in the United Kingdom, provided always that there is a sufficient number of participants. To secure this, however, should not be difficult, as these holidays constitute a unique occasion for the children to see and get to know a good portion of our homeland.

As usual, these holidays will start at the best and most attractive time to enjoy Switzerland, *i.e.*, towards the end of July, and are scheduled to last some 6—8 weeks.

It is hoped that the journey London-Switzerland and return may again be carried out in an aeroplane of the SWISSAIR Company on special terms, and at a cost not exceeding 50% of the normal fare, *i.e.*, about £14.10.0 per child. Should this not be possible this time, the journey would be undertaken by rail.

In cases where parents would value such holidays for their youngsters, but are not in a position to defray the cost of the journey, the N.S.H., in conjunction with the Swiss Benevolent Societies, would endeavour to provide the necessary funds. As regards the means for board and lodging in Switzerland, "Pro Juventute" would, in these cases where parents are unable to bear any costs, provide the sums involved for a limited number of children. For paying members of the party, the specially reduced price would be near 9/- per day or about £19.0.0 for six weeks.

Children who are in the happy position of holding an invitation from relations or friends in Switzerland, are, of course, also welcome to join the party on the terms just explained.

It should be made clear in this connection that, owing to the very large and still growing number of children from war-ravaged countries all over Europe, who have a moral claim to be provided for with priority, PRO JUVENTUTE finds it increasingly difficult to find board and lodging in Swiss homes free of charge. Parents who are in a position to pay either the whole or at least part of the cost, which is kept as low as possible, are consequently entreated most earnestly to contribute as much as they possibly can.

It is expected that many Swiss parents in the United Kingdom will very gladly avail themselves of this opportunity of enabling their children to enjoy a healthy and happy holiday of worthwhile duration in the most pleasant surroundings and scenery of our homeland.

Applications should be sent in writing if possible by latest the 25th of April

- (a) by Residents in the London Area to Mr. A. C. Boller, 115, Burdon Lane, Belmont, Surrey.
 - (b) by Residents in the Consular District of Manchester to the Consulate for Switzerland, 53, Spring Gardens, Manchester.
 - (c) by Residents in the Consular District of Liverpool to the Consulate for Switzerland, African Chamber, 19, Old Hall Street, Liverpool.
 - (d) by Residents in the Consular District of Scotland to the Swiss Consular Agent, Balloch, Scotland.
- whereupon parents will be supplied with all relevant information.