

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Camille Gorgé, at present Swiss Minister in Turkey, to the post of Swiss Minister in Moscow, in succession to Minister Hans Zurlinden, who recently vacated his post for health reasons.

Minister Gorgé was born in 1893 in Moutier (Ct. Berne), he studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Leipzig and Geneva. In 1918, he entered the Diplomatic Service of the Swiss Confederation, which he left in 1923, on his appointment as legal adviser to the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokio. On relinquishing this post in 1927, he re-entered the Diplomatic Service in Berne, where he was appointed Head of the International Organisations.

For a number of years, he represented our Government at various International Conferences.

In 1940, he was appointed Swiss Minister in Japan, and six years later (1946) Swiss Minister in Turkey.

Dr. Max Troendle, Delegate for International Commercial treaties, has received the title of Minister.

Minister Troendle was born in 1905 in Basle, where he received his schooling, and later on studied law at the Universities of Paris and Basle.

In 1931, he entered the Swiss Diplomatic Service, and was successively attached to the Swiss Consulates in Munich, Zagreb, Warsaw and Riga. In 1940, Minister Troendle was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Rome, and four years later (1944) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

In 1915, he returned to the Foreign Office in Berne, having been appointed Delegate of the Federal Council for commercial treaties.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Werner Fuchs, at present Counsellor of Legation in Washington, to the post of *Chargé d'Affaires* in Venezuela and Panama, in succession to M. René Naville.

Dr. Fuchs was born in 1903 in Zurich. He studied law at the Universities of Heidelberg, Munich and Zurich. In 1928, he entered the Diplomatic Service,

and held various posts in Manchester, New York and The Hague. In 1940, he returned to the Foreign Office in Berne, and four years later (1944) was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, after having held an appointment at the Swiss Legation in Lisbon.

Until recently, Dr. Fuchs, was 1st Counsellor of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Washington.

Monsieur François Châtelain, at present Vice-Consul in Besançon, has been appointed Swiss Consul at Singapore, in succession to M. G. Falquier, who has been transferred to Tangier.

M. F. Châtelain, was born in Geneva in 1917, and studied national economy at the University of Geneva. Having entered the Diplomatic Service in 1942, he was transferred a year later to the Swiss Legation in Teheran. Since 1947, M. Châtelain has held the post of Vice-Consul at the Swiss Consulate in Besançon.

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, gave a dinner in honour of M. Trygve Lie, General Secretary of the United Nations. Speeches were made by the President of the Confederation and M. Trygve Lie.

Customs receipts during the month of April, 1950, amounted to 44.8 million francs, or 4.9 million francs more than in April, 1949.

During the first four months of the current year, 156.8 million francs customs duties were collected, against 147.3 million francs during the same period in 1949.

The Swiss Government has presented a draft bill to Parliament introducing several changes into the present Swiss patent law. The most important changes proposed are the official examination of inventors' patents, expansion of the patent right in the textile

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industry, and a general prolongation of the duration of a patent from 15-18 years.

### Cantonal

M. Martin Meyer, who has recently died in Eschenbach (Ct. Lucerne), and for many years night watchman of the cloister of Einsiedeln, has left an amount of 38,000 frs. to the cantonal hospital in Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Two new members of the government of the canton of Zurich have been elected, in succession to the late members Kägi and Henggeler, namely: Dr. Paul Meierhans (Socialist), Editor-in-chief of the "Volksrecht" Zurich and Franz Egger (Seegräben), President of the District Court.

Dr. Paul Meierhans was born in 1895 in Tägerig (Ct. Aargau), he studied national economy at the University in Zurich, where he obtained his doctorate. From 1928-1934 he was Editor of the "Arbeiterblatt" Lucerne and later of the "Freie Innerschweiz." For some time Meierhans was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne. In 1935, he was nominated secretary of the socialist party of the canton of Zurich, and in the same year joined the editorial staff of the "Volksrecht" to become Editor-in-chief in 1943. In 1935, he was elected a member of Parliament (National Council).

Ernst Egger, was born in 1899 in St. Gall and was for several years a teacher at the "Waisenhaus" St. Gall, Burgdorf and Herisau. In 1931, he was nominated administrator of the "Pestalozzi Haus" Schönenwerd, which post he occupied for 19 years. In 1938, he was elected President of the rural council of Seegräben. Since 1944, he occupied the post of President of the District Court Hinwil. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor, Dr. Robert Bühler (Winterthur), has been elected a member of the Board of the "Gebrüder Sulzer, A.G." in Winterthur. [A.T.S.]

During the month of April 1950, two persons were killed and 16 injured, in traffic accidents in the canton of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

The following members of the government of the canton of Berne have been re-elected: Dr. Markus Feldmann (B.G.B.), Arnold Seematter (Liberal), Dr. Max Gafner (B.G.B.), Walter Siegenthaler (B.G.B.), Dr. V. Moine (Liberal), Dewet Buri (B.G.B.).

The following three socialist members: S. Brawand, Georges Möckli and Dr. Fritz Giavanoli not having received the aggregate number of votes, will have to face a bye-election. [A.T.S.]

M. Paul Burckhardt, a noted landscape painter, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Basle. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Heinrich Pletscher, since 1941, President of the Supreme Court of the canton of Schaffhausen has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. He is 72 years of age. [A.T.S.]

The following parties in the "Landrat" of the canton Basle-County are represented, according to the recent elections: Liberals: 20 seats (19); Socialists: 25 seats (24); Democrats: 12 seats (12); Peasant and Bourgeois Party: 8 seats (9); Catholics: 11 seats (9); Communists: 4 seats (7). [A.T.S.]

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The "A.G. Oederlin & Cie" of Baden, has made a donation of 10,000.—frs. towards the building costs of the hospital in Baden. [A.T.S.]

Eighty-seven traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Aargau, during the month of April 1950. Four persons were killed and 69 injured. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Louis Michaud, Professor of Medicine at the University of Lausanne, has been nominated a corresponding member of the "Société de médecine des hôpitaux de Paris." [A.T.S.]

M. Frédéric Chiapelli, has been elected Professor of Italian literature and language at the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the "Bijouterie Girod" in Montreux and decamped with a number of watches valued at over 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Peter Moore (27), of Coton (Cambs.), pilot of a helicopter, spraying crops, was seriously injured when his machine crashed into telephone wires, and fell in flames near Sion (Ct. Valais). [A.T.S.]

M. Samuel Perret, architect, has been elected Professor of History at the University of Neuchâtel, in succession to the late Professor Delachaux. [A.T.S.]

During the first four months of this year, 116 motorists in the canton of Geneva were deprived of their driving licence. In 61 cases the reason was for driving when under influence of alcohol. (!) [A.T.S.]

**Army**

M. Kobelt, chief of the Federal Military Department, speaking at the yearly rally of Swiss non-commissioned officers, emphasized the urgent necessity of a rapid rearming of the country's armed forces. Much had already been done to modernize the national defence, but there were still gaps, and they must be filled as rapidly as possible. The Government would not hesitate, in spite of all the inconveniences, to spend more on armaments. The maintenance of Switzerland's independence took precedence over financial considerations.

**Economics**

The Swiss Federal Council has decided on the issue of a 300 million franc conversion loan. Owners of holdings in the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Federal loan of 1941, maturing May 31st, 1950, and the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Federal loan of 1940, maturing June 15th, 1950, will be given the opportunity of converting their holdings into the new loan. The new loan is divided as follows into two parts: 1. 150 million francs for 3 per cent. bonds maturing in 30 years with the possibility of repayment after 22 years. This part will be issued at 105.40 per cent. plus 0.60 per cent. for the Federal stamp tax. 2. 150 million francs for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Treasury notes maturing in 10 years. This part will be issued at 100.40 per cent. plus 0.60 per cent. Federal Stamp tax.

\* \* \*

According to official figures just published, sterling balances held by Switzerland at the end of February, 1950, amounted to £12 million.

Since the credit ceiling agreed to by Switzerland under the present Anglo-Swiss payments agreement amounts to £15 million, Britain still has a margin of £3 million before gold transfers become imminent.

The U.K. has undertaken to make such transfers to the extent of £10 million during the twelve months to March, 1951, should there be a deficit in the balance of payments of the sterling area with Switzerland.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Bernard de Weck, a former member of the government of the canton of Fribourg (1919-1946) and a member of Parliament (States Council) from 1925-1950, in Fribourg, at the age of 60.

Bernhard Sarasin, a Partner in the Banking firm "Sarasin & Cie" of Basle.

The deceased was President of the Swiss Bankers Association, and a member of the Board of a large number of Banking and Industrial concerns. He sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town for a number of years as a Liberal, over which he presided in 1936. He was 58 years of age.

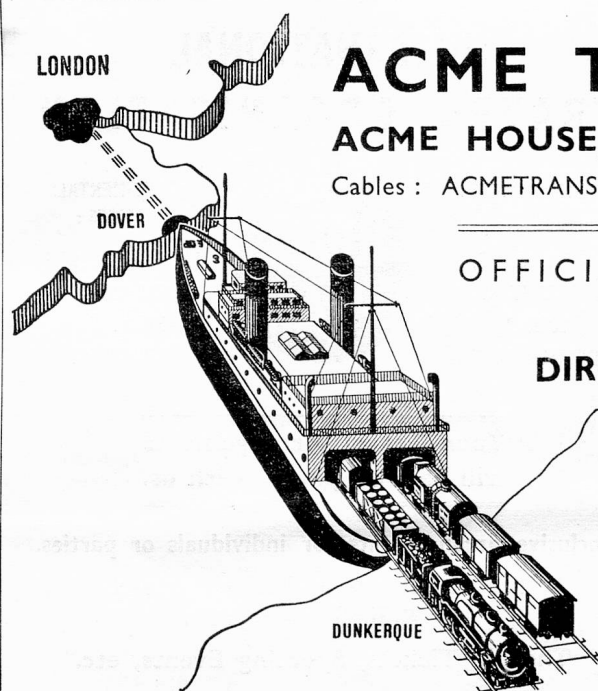
Jakob Burkhardt, one of the pioneers of the Swiss Cino industry, in Lucerne, aged 60.

Mme. Mathilde Kiefer-Halblitzel, a great benefactress of the town of Lucerne, at the age of 73.

Dr. Siegfried Stocker-Dreyer, a well-known surgeon, in Lucerne, aged 72.

Professor Oehl, since 1917, Professor of Philology at the University of Fribourg, and rector in 1932/33.

[A.T.S.]



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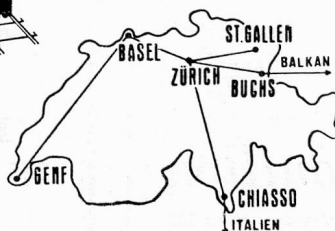
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The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. F. Xaver Klarer-Wettmer in Gonten (Appenzell I.Rh.); Mr. and Mrs. F. Leup-Haas in St. Gall; Mr. & Mrs. E. Häberli-Straub of Amriswil, Mr. and Mrs. Stüdli-Meier of Flawil (Ct. St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

Here are further balances of the accounts for 1949, of the following cantons:

Neuchâtel .....	Credit Balance: 500,000.— frs.
Basle Town .....	Credit Balance: 7.3 million frs.
Thurgau .....	Credit Balance: 476,171.— frs.
Berne .....	Credit balance: 518,538.— frs.
Schwyz .....	Credit Balance: 88,430.— frs.

[A.T.S.]

:o:

Every branch of photographic art will be represented in a world exhibition to be opened in Lucerne in 1952. There will be a special section for amateur photography and each country taking part will have its own pavilion.

Swiss housewives were recently urged by the Government to lay in stocks of essential provisions. The appeal stressed the military importance of such stocks in the event of "unforeseeable circumstances" preventing supplies from reaching the country.

The Minister declared that the military defence plans of the country would be inadequate if measures

were not taken to guard against economic strangulation in time of war. Housewives and industrial plants could, he said, help by finding storage space for laying in supplies.

The Minister added that this was a normal precaution which did not mean that war was more imminent than before.

A group of Swiss firms interested in the exploitation of the River Inn in the Engadine, has now obtained the approval of six out of the ten Swiss communes concerned, and the consent of the remainder is expected to be given. This project, which will require the co-operation of the Austrian and Italian authorities, is estimated to yield about 1,000 million kWh. per annum, about half of which would be available during the winter months.

One hundred Swiss Guards, in their 16th century red, blue and yellow sashed uniforms, recently pronounced their solemn oath of loyalty to the Pope. The ceremony marked the anniversary of the massacre of the Swiss Guard outside St. Peter's Basilica four centuries ago.

Col. Heinrich Pfyffer D'Altishofen, Commander of the Guard, laid a wreath of laurel on the monument commemorating the 147 Swiss soldiers who died in defence of Pope Clement VII during the sack of Rome on May 6th, 1527.

Thirty-eight recruits took the oath for the first time, bringing the force up to its full strength of 100 in view of the increased duties of the Holy Year.



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Bulgaria headed the list of importers of Swiss radio sets in February with purchases valued at 632,000 Swiss francs. Portugal followed with imports valued at 216,000 Swiss francs, with Hungary third with 196,000 and Germany fourth with 117,000. Other purchasers were Spain, France, Belgium and Yugoslavia. Exports to the latter five countries declined from the January level.

## PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

*"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).*

Selon le "Manchester Guardian", les U.S.A. et la Suisse sont à la tête de la production des machines textiles. Les Suisses auraient une préférence marquée pour le travail bien fait, pour la qualité et la précision.

Une imprimerie parisienne a reçu une puissante rotative livrée par la fabrique bernoise Winkler, Fallert & Cie S.A. Cette machine se compose de 5 cylindres d'impression permettant de sortir une revue de 80 pages, en une ou plusieurs couleurs, à une vitesse double de celle qui est possible actuellement.

Le professeur Dr. E. Matthias, de Zürich, a inventé et fait breveter la pédale à pendule Proma pour cycles. Ce système permet l'utilisation rationnelle des forces et a un rendement qu'il sera difficile de dépasser. Il est étonnamment agréable de rouler avec cet appareil et on accomplit les mêmes performances qu'auparavant avec un déploiement de forces bien inférieur. La nouvelle pédale est fabriquée en Suisse et peut être montée sur n'importe quel pédalier.

## THE SWISSAIR SUMMER TIME-TABLE.

The Swissair flight-programme for the summer of 1950, as compared to the winter time-table, has only been slightly altered.

Particular attention may be called to the inauguration of a direct line between Zurich and Rome. In a little more than two hours fast Convair-Liners connect the economic centre of Switzerland with the Eternal City. The flight over the highest peaks of the Alps is an unforgettable experience. There are direct connections in Zurich for travellers from London, Amsterdam,

Paris, Brussels, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Prague.

The daily service Zurich — Stuttgart — Frankfurt has been extended to Hamburg four times a week.

There are also very good connections from Zurich to the Near and Middle East and the United States. The services to Istanbul, Athens, Tel Aviv, Cairo and Basra are being maintained, also the twice weekly (from 16th May three times weekly) transatlantic service between Switzerland and New York. Passengers from Turkey, Greece, the Near and Middle East can fly direct to the United States by Swissair.

The Swiss Air Transport Company links also Stockholm and Copenhagen with Zurich and Geneva where travellers will find direct connections for Rome, Nice and Spain.

There are good daily Swissair services between Paris, Geneva or Zurich.

Brussels is also linked with Zurich and Geneva.

In addition to its day services on its various lines to England, Swissair will introduce a night service at very reduced fares on the London-Zurich route. B.E.A. will start a corresponding service between London and Geneva. It will, therefore, be easy, this summer, to fly to Switzerland. It may be remembered that this summer, Swissair will link London, not only with Geneva, Zurich or Basle, but also with Berne and that there is a four times weekly service between Manchester and Zurich.

## PIANO-RECITAL.

We have much pleasure to direct the attention of our readers to a Piano-Recital by our compatriote, Ruth Huggenberg, which will take place on Friday, June 16th, 1950, at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.1.

Ruth Huggenberg enjoys a great reputation in the musical world of this country, and her recitals in the past have been greatly enjoyed.

She has, on numerous occasions, put her services at the disposal of the Swiss Colony at several functions, and by attending her recital our countrymen have a splendid opportunity to show her their appreciation for her always ready help.

We sincerely hope that Ruth Huggenberg will have a "full house" on June the 16th.