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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Alfred Escher to the post of Swiss Minister in Iran.

Minister Escher was born in Zurich in 1906, where he received his schooling, he studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Kiel and Berlin. Dr. Escher entered the diplomatic service in 1931 and occupied various posts in Bangkok, Warsaw, Berlin, Ankara, Bagdad, Athen and London. In 1945, whilst in London, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and three years later (1948) he was entrusted by the International Red Cross with several missions in connection with help for refugees.

* * * * *
Monsieur Otto Seifert has been nominated Swiss Minister to Israeli.

The new Minister was born in Wartau (Ct. St. Gall) in 1902. After having occupied posts in industrial concerns in Spain and Italy he entered in 1934 into the service of the Political Department (Foreign Office). He was attached successively to the Swiss Legations in Rome, Madrid and Budapest. In 1948, M. Seifert was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and transferred to the Legation in Vienna.

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The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Paul Ritter, until recently Consul General in Tel Aviv to the post of Consul General in Florence.

Dr. Ritter was born in 1898 in Yokohama. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Berne and Leipzig. In 1920, he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office). He was in turn attached to the Swiss Legations in London, Vienna, Bucharest, Berlin, Rome, Brussels and Warsaw. In 1939, he was appointed Consul

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, 28th July, 1951

2.30 to 5.30 p.m. (Doors open 1.45 p.m.)
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See Note page 6032

TICKET HOLDERS TO BE IN THEIR PLACE BY 2.15 p.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES : on Sunday, 29th July.

Joint Protestant Service in French and German at 11 a.m.
at Swiss Church, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

Catholic Service at 11.30 a.m. Solemn Mass and Sermon
at St. Anne's Catholic Church, Abbey-Orchard St., S.W.1.

General in Munich, and six years later (1945) whilst in Bucharest, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

* * *

The following foreign diplomats were received at the Federal Palais in Berne by Monsieur von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, for the purpose of presenting their credentials :

M. Richard Cunningham Patterson, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the United States of America. Minister Patterson was formerly American Minister in Yugoslavia and Guatemala.

M. Shmuel Tolkowsky, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the republic of Israel.

Minister Tolkowsky had been since 1949, Consul General in Zurich.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in May, 1951, 16.73 million passengers, or 1.32 million more than in May, 1950. The receipts from passenger service amounted to 24.18 million francs. (May, 1950 : 22.28 million frs.)

Goods traffic in May has increased by 371,000 tons, and is returned as 1.75 million tons, receipts for which totalled 31.90 million francs (1950 : 28.23 million frs.).

Cantonal

Mr. Alfred Regli (Andermatt) has been elected President of the "Landrat" of the canton of Uri, and Mr. Arnold Bigger (Erstfeld) its Vice-President. Both are members of the conservative party.

The accounts for the year 1950, showing a credit-balance of 52,924.—frs. were accepted. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Handelsschule" of the "Kollegium" Schwyz, has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Alphons Enzler, until recently physician-in-chief of the hospital in Wallenstadt, has been elected, in the same capacity, to the district hospital in Lachen (Ct. Schwyz). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mme. Elsa Affentranger-Fröhlicher, of Sarnen (Ct. Nidwalden), has left an amount of 100,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Nidwaldner "Landrat" has elected M. Zumbühl (Cons.), as President, and Mr. W. Vokinger (Lib.), as Vice-President. The accounts for the year 1950, showing a credit balance of 36,663.30 frs. were accepted. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of Swissair, which took place at Zurich, Dr. Heberlein (Wattwil), was elected President of the Board, in succession to Dr. Speich, the latter will remain on the Board.

The balance-sheet for 1950 represents a profit of 33,875.—frs., no dividend will be paid, this amount will be carried forward to the new account. [A.T.S.]

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Professor, Dr. Henri Favre has been elected rector of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich for 1951/53. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mlle. Melanie, Marie Weber, a former school-teacher of Meilen (Ct. Zurich), has left an amount of 450,000.—frs. to a number of charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Fritz Wanner, General-Secretary of the Swiss Federal Railways, has been elected Commercial Manager of the "Kantonalen Elektrizitätswerke" Zurich.

Dr. Wanner was born in 1906 and entered the services of the Swiss Federal Railways in 1929. He was elected General Secretary in 1944. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Paul Hauser (Winterthur), has been elected President of the Board of the "Kantonalbank" Zurich, and Mr. A. Meier (Birmensdorf), Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious motoring accident occurred near Bilton (Ct. Glarus), costing the lives of two persons, namely Hans Buser, locksmith of Chur, and Walter Gerber, aged 30, film operator of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Glarner Landrat" has elected Dr. Hans Trümpy (Ennenda), as President, and Dr. Georg Gähwiler (Glarus), as Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

In 1940, the government of the canton of Berne received an anonymous donation amounting to 50,000.—frs. for the benefit of the medical faculty of the University of Berne.

It has now been made known, that the donors are Dr. A. and Dr. S. Bangerter-Buser, of Biel. Dr. Bangerter, who has recently celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary, is a well-known surgeon and eye specialist practising in Biel, his wife is also a medical practitioner. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. jur. Röthlisberger has been elected head of the criminal police of the town of Berne, in succession to the late Colonel W. Müller. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. A. Marguerat (Lutry), until recently Manager of the Montreux-Oberland railway, has been elected Manager of the District I of the Swiss Federal Railways. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Agostino Bernasconi, a member of the government of the canton of Ticino, was killed when his car overturned on the Monte Ceneri Road.

M. Bernasconi was born in 1911, and entered the government of his native canton in 1947 as a Conservative, over which he presided in 1949/50. He was formerly a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 3 per cent. Loan of 12 million francs issued by the canton of Vaud has been heavily oversubscribed, allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

M. Henri Favez, Professor of electrical engineering at the University of Lausanne since 1921, has retired from his post.

Dr. Pierre Chavan has been appointed public prosecutor of the canton of Vaud, in succession to M. Pierre Boven, who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two persons were killed and one seriously injured when two motor-cars collided near Pontarlier. The names of the victims are: Mlle. Rose-Marie Thévoz and M. Ernest Barret (Neuchâtel); Mlle Verena Zbinden (Neuchâtel) was taken to the hospital at Pontarlier in a serious condition. [A.T.S.]

—oo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Carl Vogler, until 1945, Director of the "Konseratorium" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 77. The deceased was for many years President and later honorary President of the "Schweizerischen Tonkünstler Vereins."

Joseph Fritschi, for many years Professor at the "Technikum" Winterthur, in Winterthur, aged 74.

Arthur Balzer-Poltera, a teacher at the "Oberschule" in Alvaneu, and for a great number of years President of the commune of Alvaneu and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Alvaneu, at the age of 75.

Karl Steinle, President of the "Liga Einkaufs-und Rabattvereinigung" Basle, in Basle, aged 69.

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Paul Golay, Editor of the paper "Le Peuple" in Lausanne, at the age of 74. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1925-1942.

Pasteur Charles Durand-Pallet, from 1902-1908, Pasteur at the "Eglise libre" in Geneva, and afterwards Professor of theology at the University of Geneva. From 1923-1924, the deceased was Pasteur at the "Französischen Kirche" in Basle. He died in Geneva at the age of 75.

Dr. Theodor Gabriel, from 1911-1949, a member of the government of the canton of Nidwalden and from 1932-1935 a member of the National Council, in Stans, aged 77.

Dr. Em. Plattner, veterinary surgeon in Basle, at the age of 77.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned birthday anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:—

M. Edouard von Steiger (70), President of the Swiss Confederation.

M. Von Steiger was born on July 2nd, 1881, in Langnau, and belongs to an old Bernese patrician family. He studied jurisprudence at the Universities of Geneva, Leipzig and Berne. On the conclusion of his studies he practised as a lawyer in Langnau and afterwards in Berne. In 1914, he entered the Grand Council of the canton of Berne over which he presided in 1939. In the same year, he was elected a member of the government of the canton of Berne, and in the following year (Dec. 10th, 1940) he entered the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor R. Minger, as chief of the Federal Department of Justice. He belongs to the Radical Party and was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1945.

Adolf Rochedieu (90), Hotelier, in Montreux and Schaffhausen, and from 1911-1948, Secretary of the "Hoteliervereins" of the town of Lucerne.

Otto Cominx (80), President and member of the Board of the "Tages-Anzeiger für Stadt und Kanton Zürich, A.G."

Paul Ringier (75), head of the Publishing firm Ringier & Co., A.G.", Zofingen.

Professor, Dr. Paul Schläpfer (70), Professor of chemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Mlle. Marie Hirzel (70), President of the "Zürcher Frauenvereins für alkoholfreie Wirtschaften".

Dr. Carl Betschinger (70), for 40 years administrator of the "Gutsbetriebes Maggi" in Kemptthal, a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, and the National Council. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel of Cavalry. The Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, has bestowed on him the title of *doctor honoris causa*.

Hermann Niederer (70), Editor of the "Ostschweizerischen Tagblatt" Rorschach.

Dr. Erhard Granger (70), formerly Manager of the "Rhätischen Bahnen" and "Landammann" of Davos.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following traffic accidents have been reported during the month of May, 1951:—

Ct. Zurich : 818 (May, 1950 : 768) 9 persons killed and 360 injured; *Ct. Aargau* : 132, 5 persons killed and 120 injured.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A syndicate of leading Swiss banks announces the first public offering in Switzerland of bonds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The banks will offer 50,000,000 Swiss francs of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 12-year bonds, due August 1st, 1963, at par.

The issue will be known as the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Swiss Franc Bonds of 1951 and will be open to subscription from July 3rd to July 9th. The bonds are callable at par on or after August 1st, 1950. They will be listed on the Stock Exchanges of Basle, Zurich, Geneva, and Berne.

* * *

45,000 sportsmen and women will be taking an active part in Switzerland's 63rd Federal Athletic Festival, which is being held at Lausanne, on the Lake of Geneva, on July 7th-8th and 13th-16th. The first took place at Aarau in 1832. The last, held at Berne, attracted 20,000 participants. This month's will be the greatest of them all. Thirty thousand will be taking part and a further 15,000 in the women's events.

Thirty thousand athletes will contribute to the famous "general exercises", which consist of numerous demonstrations and relay races, to be held at La Blécherette on Monday, July 16th, at 10 o'clock.

In the new permanent hall of the Comptoir Suisse on July 7th and 16th, at 20.30, will be held a big folklore spectacle with a cast of 800. Called "Terres du Rhône" (Land of the Rhône), it has been written by the Swiss author C. F. Landry, with music by Hans Haug. Athletic clubs and musicians and singers from Lausanne will be taking part.

* * *

When His Excellency Francisco de Asis Cambo, who was Minister under King Alphonso XIII, went to live in the Canton of Vaud, in 1938, he took with him a large part of his collection of paintings, considered to be one of the most handsome and important private collections in the world. In 1941, he left for the Argentine, but he left his artistic treasures in the hands of the cantonal authorities, who undertook to keep them in perfect condition, and the Cantonal Fine Arts Museum reserved a specially adapted strong-

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room for the collection. The Ambassador died in April, 1947, bequeathing the entire collection to the town of Barcelona.

Recently a delegation from Barcelona, accompanied by the director of the town's art galleries and museums, visited Lausanne to take possession of the paintings. In recognition of the assistance received from the Canton of Vaud, and in memory of the happy time spent in Switzerland by His Excellency Francisco de Cambo, they made a presentation to the Cantonal Fine Arts Museum of a particularly fine and precious painting, "The Birth of the Virgin" (1330-1340) by the Amico di Giotto. Now, after ten years in Lausanne, the Cambo collection has returned to Spain, but the town's museum is all the richer by a magnificent piece of work which will arouse the admiration of all its visitors.

* * *

A new route in the centre of the Grisons, Switzerland's canton of 150 valleys, has been chosen for this year's classic mountain race organised by the Grisons section of the Swiss Automobile Club. On August 25th and 26th, the race will be held on the road linking Tiefencastel with Lantsch and Lenzerheide — a magnificent course where spectators can watch the tests in comfort.

* * *

Grindelwald has opened a new riding school with a dozen horses and a staff of experienced instructors. Rides are planned to Bachalpsee (7,500 feet above sea level), crossing the Great Scheidegg (6,500 feet) to Meiringen, through the delightful valley of Rosenlau and returning along the shores of the Lake of Brienz, through Iseltwald-Boenigen and Zweiluetschinen. An interesting booklet about the school, printed in English, can be obtained free of charge from the Grindelwald Tourist Office.

* * *

The Lake of Arnon (Arnensee), lying in a picturesque valley more than 5,000 ft. above the sea, has recently been stocked with 30,000 trout by the authorities in nearby Gstaad, who reserve the lake's fishing rights to the visitors of their resort. The lake, which is in the extreme south-west of the Canton of Berne near the Vaud frontier, can be reached comfortably by the Col du Pillon road from Aigle to Gstaad.

* * *

At the Congress Building in Zurich, the 1st International Congress of Allergists will take place from

the 23rd to the 29th of September, 1951. Delegates sent by 78 governments will debate various questions relating to the treatment of allergic diseases, such as hay-fever, bronchial asthma, goitre and diabetes.

Detailed information can be obtained from the General Secretary of the First International Congress of the I.A.A. — Institute of Hygiene, Zurich (Cable: Allergy Zurich.)

* * *

It has been announced that the Bâle Industries Fair 1952 will take place from April 19th, to 29th, 1952.

* * *

It was originally intended to run the Swissair Manchester-Zurich service until September 16th, 1951. Swissair now announce, however, that these twice weekly flights will operate to the end of the Time Table Period, i.e., October 20th, 1951.

* * *

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

En 1949, 29 navires battant pavillon suisse ont accosté à Gênes; ils étaient 51 en 1950. L'année 1951 verra ce chiffre s'accroître encore.

* * *

On a essayé avec succès, au col du Pillon, la nouvelle fraiseuse à neige système Bucher. Cette machine évacue 7500 m³ de neige fraîche à l'heure, ce qui constitue une avance de 4 km/h par une hauteur de 110 cm de neige.

* * *

En 1950, 162 savants et techniciens (dont 70 étrangers) ont travaillé à la station de recherches du Jungfraujoch; ils y ont étudié les rayons cosmiques ainsi que des problèmes d'astrophysique et de géophysique.

* * *

A l'exposition internationale d'architecture moderne et d'arts appliqués de Milan, la section suisse a particulièrement retenu l'attention par son agencement d'une conception nouvelle.

* * *

L'Académie française a décerné pour la première fois son Grand prix du roman à un écrivain suisse, en la personne de M. Bernard Barbey, attaché de presse et culturel auprès de la légation de Suisse à Paris.

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* * *

Le Dr. Franz Seiler, président de la Société suisse des hôteliers, vient d'être élu président de l'Union internationale des hôteliers.

* * *

Le professeur William Rappard, de Genève, délégué gouvernemental de la Suisse, a été élu à l'unanimité président de la 34ème conférence internationale du travail.

* * *

La "Chronocaméra Longines" donne en 4 secondes des temps photographiés, précis au centième de seconde. Cet appareil révolutionne la méthode de contrôle des temps, dans les applications techniques et sportives. Adoptée officiellement par la Fédération internationale de l'automobile, en octobre dernier, à Paris, elle vient de l'être également par la Fédération internationale motocycliste à Stockholm.

THE FOUNTAINS OF BERNE.

That pleasing feature, the public fountain, is nowhere in Europe in more abundant evidence than in the towns and villages of Switzerland. Many of them are exquisite artistic creations and their style ranges from the Gothic to Renaissance, from Baroque to just utilitarian.

Perhaps the most perfect of such artistic fountains are found in Berne where they are remarkable for both their number and their admirable setting. The wide streets and squares in which they are placed form a background from which they stand out in all their beauty. Not only are they admirable expressions of their builders' art, they also represent something of the town's cultural history, notably the influence of the Renaissance period. To this period belong the "Schützenbrunnen" (1527); the "Seilerbrunnen" (Käfigturm 1549); the "Ryfflibrunnen" (1540-50); the "Dudelsackspfeifer" (1507); the "Zähringerbrunnen" (1542); the "Samsonbrunnen" (1544); and many others, all creations of the 16th century. One of the most charming of these is the quaint *Kindlifresser*, built between 1540 and 1550, picturing the ogre with a collection of babies in his bag and a procession of bears around its column.

Classical fountains of the eighteenth century are also to be found but they are quite eclipsed by the older erections we have enumerated.

The fountains, of course, are not the only attractions offered to the visitor to Berne. The town itself, founded in the 12th century by the Dukes of Zähringen, is of great historical interest. Its ground plan is much the same as it was hundreds of years ago and its arcades give it a distinctive character and peculiar charm.

For the benefit of the tourist, the *Verkehrsverein der Stadt Bern* has published an illustrated folder and map with notes in four languages, one in English. Anyone visiting Berne will be well advised to obtain a copy, he will find it useful and instructive. To quote from the English version: "the fountains ... will tell you their own stories. Go and see them, look and listen!"

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION.

Dear Compatriot,

The First of August Committee of the Swiss Colony in London have much pleasure in extending to all Swiss and their families in Great Britain a cordial invitation to join in this year's celebration of our SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

The date, time and place will be found on the front page.

Admission will be BY TICKET ONLY, which will be FREE OF CHARGE and must be applied for in advance. Application should be made by post, to Mr. A. Gandon, The Hon. Secretary, THE FIRST OF AUGUST COMMITTEE, 53, Friars Place Lane, Acton, London, W.3. No ticket can be sent unless a 2½d. STAMPED and ADDRESSED ENVELOPE is enclosed with the application. The full names of all persons for whom tickets are required must be stated.

The Theatre holds some 2,400 people. All seats are reserved. Tickets will be issued in strict rotation. Early application is therefore advisable to save disappointment.

It will greatly help the Committee if ticket holders who find themselves prevented from attending the celebration will be kind enough to return their unwanted tickets AT ONCE to the above address for the benefit of other fellow countrymen.

And last but not least, it is hoped again that as many visitors as possible will wear national costume.

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