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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

This year 1st of August was celebrated throughout Switzerland with more than usual solemnity. The theme of all the patriotic demonstrations was one of national unity which bordered on a sacred union of all the political forces of the country. As usual, bonfires were lit even in the smallest villages and the inhabitants listened standing and bareheaded at the lecture of the Federal Pact of 1291.

* * *

Bundeskanzler, Dr. K. Adenauer, who is on a vacation in Switzerland, paid a courtesy to Monsieur v. Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, head of the Swiss Foreign Office. He was the guest, at a luncheon, of the President of the Confederation.

Cantonal

The new Cantonal Hospital in Zurich was inaugurated on the fourteenth of July; amongst the invited guests were Federal-Councillor Nobs, representatives of various Swiss and Foreign Universities, members of the "Kantonsrat" and delegations from cantonal and municipal authorities. The following were honoured on this occasion with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Jakob Heusser (Uster), a member of the government of the canton of Zurich, Dr. Hermann Fietz (Männedorf), and R. Steiger (Flawil), the architects to whom the planning of the hospital was entrusted. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The prize for literature, amounting to 5,000.—frs., of the town of Zurich, was awarded to Professor Dr. Ernst, author, of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two sports aeroplanes collided on landing at the aerodrome of Ober-Winterthur. The pilot and his passenger of one of the machines received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

The newly appointed American Minister, M. Richard C. Patterson, has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. Louis Locher (Berne) hitherto Vice-Director of the "Technikum" in Winterthur, has been elected to the post of Director, in succession to Professor Max Landolt, who recently retired from this office. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Federal-Councillors de Steiger, Escher, Kobelt, Nobs and Rubattel paid a visit to the Jubilee Exhibition at the "Kunsthaus" in Zurich. They were received by the members of the cantonal government and by the rector of the University of Zurich, Professor Dr. Paul Karrer. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Albert Schneebberger, a teacher at the "Technikum" in Biel, has been elected Vice-Direktor of this school. Dr. F. Leuch (Interlaken), has been elected "Kurdirektor" of Mürren. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Albert Debrunner has been elected rector of the University of Berne for the years 1951/52.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of his 70th birthday anniversary, the University of Frankfurt a. M. has honoured Dr. F. Dessauer, Professor at the University of Fribourg, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

* * *

National-Councillor Th. Brogle, Director of the "Mustermesse" in Basle, has been nominated Professor of "Betriebswirtschaftslehre" at the University of Basle.

Professor Brogle was born in 1893 in Sisseln (Ct. Aargau), and after studying National Economy, he

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held various posts as a teacher of commerce in Basle, Zurich and St. Gall. In 1931, he was elected rector of the cantonal school of commerce in Basle, and a year later (1932) he succeeded Dr. Meile as Director of the "Mustermesse". [A.T.S.] * * *

The commune of Schuls (Ct. Grisons), has elected Dr. Jakob Jud, Professor of the University of Zurich, an honorary citizen. [A.T.S.] * * *

Dr. Paul Altwegg, a former member of the government of the canton of Thurgau, and a member of the States Council (Ständerat), will shortly vacate his seat in Parliament. [A.T.S.] * * *

The Federal Gymnastic Festival was held at Lausanne from the 14th-16th July and in spite of bad weather a large number of spectators watched the various competitions.

On Sunday, July 15th a procession numbering 25,000 persons passed through the gaily beflagged streets of the town of Lausanne. Amongst those who watched the work of the numerous sections were: M. v. Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal-Councillors Kobelt and Rubattel, General Guisan, M. Pini, President of the National Council.

First in "Kunstturnen" was Jack Günthard (Zurich); Walter Flach (Pfungen), was accorded first rank in "Nationalturnen" and Armin Scheurer (Biel), was first in light athletics.

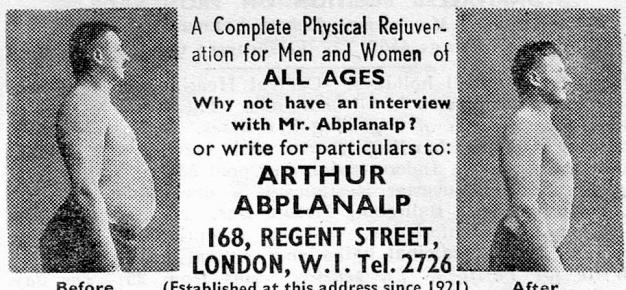
At the head of all the competing sections was the section of Chiasso (Ct. Ticino), which scored 147.75 points out of 150. [A.T.S.] * * *

The 30 million francs loan at 3 per cent issued by the "Crédit foncier Vaudois" has been oversubscribed. Allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.] * * *

Three men boarded a motor-boat at Bouveret for a trip on Lac Léman. They were caught by a heavy storm, which overturned the boat, all three were drowned, their names are: Jules Garni, locksmith, Schürmann, painter, both of Bouveret, and Donat Curty, licensee of Evouettes. All three were married. [A.T.S.] * * *

In September next, the town of Le Locle (Ct. Neuchâtel), is celebrating the 800th anniversary of its foundation. On this occasion, an exhibition called "Le Locle a huit cents ans" will be held. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Adolf Welti-Furrer, principal of the firm Welti-Furrer, A.G., Forwarding Agents, and the "Internationale Transport, A.G., Zurich", in Zurich, at the age of 80.

Robert Stehli-Zeifel, a former head of the firm Stehli & Co., Silk Manufacturers, Zurich, in Obfelden, at the age of 87. The deceased was for many years President of the "Zürcherische Seiden-Industrie Gesellschaft" and of the "Seidentrocknungsanstalt", Zurich. In the army, he reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of artillery.

Peter Balmer, a former school-teacher, and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, and member of Parliament (National Council) from 1928-1935, in Grindelwald, aged 79.

Dr. med. vet. Jean Krauer, for 30 years President of the commune of Stäfa (Ct. Zurich), and a well-known veterinary surgeon, in Stäfa, at the age of 78.

Prof. Dr. Ernst Blumenstein, one of the best-known jurists in Switzerland.

The deceased was born in Erlach (Ct. Berne), in 1876. He studied law at various universities, and after having practised as a lawyer for four years, he was appointed, in 1904, Professor of law at the University of Berne of which he was its rector in 1929-1930; he retired from his post in 1947. Professor Blumenstein was the author of a large number of works specially dealing with administrative and income tax law.

Dr. de Montet, for many years head of the clinic "Mont Pelerin" and a teacher of psychiatry at the University of Lausanne, in Vevey, at the age of 71.

Eugen Losinger, Engineer, and co-founder of the building-contractors firm Losinger & Co. A.G., Berne, in Berne, aged 60.

Dr. Lucien Bovet, from 1936-1942, Vice-Director of the Asylum at Cery. In 1942, he was appointed head of the Institute of Medicine and Pedagogics of the canton of Vaud; since 1946 he had been also a teacher of psychology at the University of Lausanne. He died at the age of 44 due to a motoring accident.

Arnold Künzler, a well-known heraldician and antiquarian, at Staad nr. Rorschach, at the age of 83.

Jean-Louis Berthoud, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Colombier, aged 69.

Max Ettinger, a reputed composer of songs, sonatas and chamber music, in Basle, at the age of 77.

Jos. Jaccoud, a judge of the District Court of Glâne, President of the commune of Promasens, and since 1909 a member of the Grand Council of the canton Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 71.

Colonel Albert de Haller, a member of the Federal Instruction Corps (Medical Section) in Zurich, aged 54.

Dr. med. Eugen Nienhaus, from 1900-1903, physician-in-chief of the "Basler Heilstätte" Davos, and a well-known specialist for tubercular diseases, in Basle, at the age of 83.

Dr. Otto Rascher, President of the Board of the Stahl & Hartmetall-Import Handelsgesellschaft, in Zurich, aged 48.

Pater Ildefons Heule, a former Professor of the "Kollegium Sarnen" and afterwards rector of the parishes Boswil and Hermetschwil (Ct. Aargau), in Muri-Gries, nr. Bozen. [A.T.S.]

* * * * Various mountaineering accidents with loss of life have occurred in Switzerland.

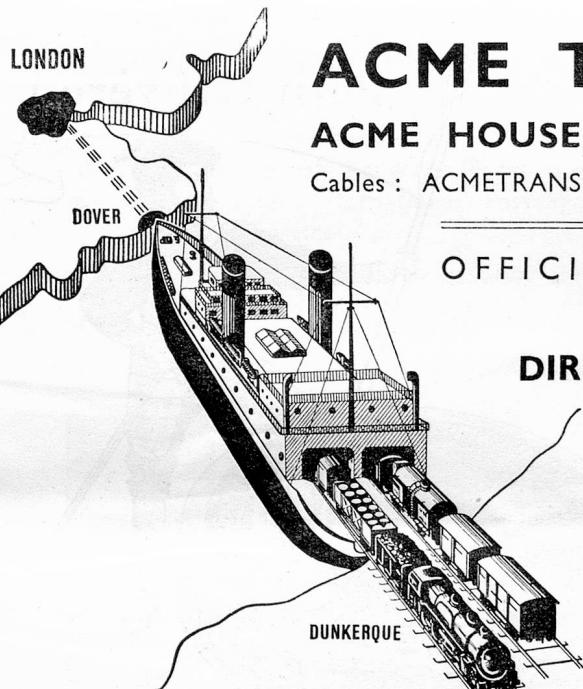
Two young men, Josef Wobmann (aged 21) and Robert Fischer (aged 25), both from Emmenbrücke (Ct. Lucerne) fell to death in the Arnizingels district of the Nidwaldner mountains when gathering "Edelweiss".

Three Zurich tourists on a mountaineering excursion in "Wäggitaler" mountains fell to death on the "Bockmattli", the names of the victims are: Max Fritschi (aged 28) a clerk of Zurich, and his wife Verena, née Broch (aged 27) and G. Beskines, a Lettian, a commercial employee of Zurich.

Mr. Fritz Schären of St. Gall (aged 41) was found dead near Rongellen, he had left Obermutten, nr. Tiefenkastel on a mountaineering excursion.

The well-known mountain guide Otto Furrer (aged 48), father of four children lost his life on an ascent of the Matterhorn. He was thrice winner of the Kandahar race. (Twice at St. Anton and once at Mürren.) [A.T.S.]

* * * * Ugo Koblet, 26 year old Swiss cyclist won Europe's greatest bicycle race, the 2,900-mile Tour de France with an aggregate time of 142 hrs. 20 mins. 14 sec. [A.T.S.]



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Three Swiss youths on a motoring holiday in this country were in a German "Volkswagen" which ran off the road and overturned at Carfraemi, Berwickshire, on the 25th of July. They were taken by ambulance to Edinburgh Infirmary. The driver was Christoph Marx (19), of Zurich, and his passengers were his 16 year old brother, Dietrich, of Basle, and Erich Weber (18), also of Zurich.

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced from Switzerland.

Rudolf Schlatter (90), author and journalist, of Lucerne. He writes under the *nom de plume* "R. E. Anders.

Robers Marchand (75), Honorary President of the International "Automobil Salons", he was one of the pioneers of motoring in Switzerland; from 1923-1933 he was President of the Organisation Committee of the International "Automobil Salons". [A.T.S.]

* * *

The passenger traffic on the Rhaetian Railways in 1950 continued to be adversely affected by the increasing road competition; the number of passengers conveyed, 5,187,060, was only 0.2 per cent. lower than in 1949, but more serious was the decline in passenger-km., from 113,800,000 in 1949 to 104,440,000, or 8.2 per cent.

The road competition chiefly affected the first and second class traffic was down by 9 per cent. The only class of passenger traffic which increased was group and collective travel — 55,158 passengers, compared with 21,356 in 1949.

Goods traffic registered a decline of 3.2 per cent. only (compared with one in 1949 of 14.8 per cent.) to 336,400 tonnes; goods mileage increased by 5.8 per cent. to 13,530,000 tonne-km.

Because of the financial situation, the scheduled services had to be reduced beginning with the 1950-51 winter time-table, by 7 per cent. Offers to substitute road services for the discontinued train services, made by the Postal Administration and also private road hauliers, had to be declined because it was found that they would have cost the Rhaetian Railways more than the train services which they were intended to replace.

* * *

Music lovers from all over the world are journeying to Lucerne for the International Music Festival from August 11th to September 2nd. Five symphony

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concerts, scenes from "The Twilight of the Gods" by Richard Wagner, Bach's "Mass in B Minor", two serenades, three chamber music concerts, and a cathedral concert are in the programme.

The festival offers more than that, however. To the devotee of music among the most important items are the courses in pianoforte, violin, violoncello, and singing for all professionals and students who are sufficiently advanced.

These are held at the Himmelreich Conservatoire and are conducted by famous musicians — Professor Edwin Fischer (pianoforte), Wolfgang Schneiderhan (violin), Enrico Mainardi (violoncello), and Franziska Martienssen-Lohmann and Paul Lohmann (singing).

In its setting of quiet beauty at the foot of the Alps, the festival has grown steadily year by year since its inception in 1938. In 1939 the number of events was increased and the framework created for the following years. Even during the war the festival was kept alive.

It is the festival committee's ambition to present the best that music has to offer, and it spares no pains in gathering musicians of the highest calibre. This year Leopold Stokowski will be a visitor for the first time, conducting the opening concert.

There are also many sporting events for the entertainment of the visitors.

* * *

Lazar Wechsler, the Swiss producer who gave us "The Search" and whose "Four in a Jeep" United



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Artists is handling here now, is the recipient of the One World Award for Motion Pictures for 1951, it is announced. The Award committee cited Mr. Wechsler for "the outstanding quality and the cosmopolitan and humanitarian spirit" of his films.

* * *

The Tessin, the sunny Italian-speaking region of Switzerland is the subject of a new guide published by the Swiss Touring Club. Called "Unknown Switzerland — The Tessin", it gives a selection of itineraries covering almost the whole of the highways in Switzerland's most southern canton. It is part of the Club's campaign to persuade tourists to leave the beaten track and take "zigzag" holidays.

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION.

The Swiss Minister and Madame H. de Torrenté have left for Switzerland. They will be absent until the middle of October.

During the absence of the Minister, Dr. Erwin Bernath, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

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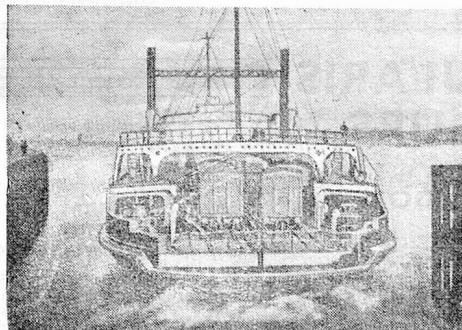
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The Swiss Legation inform Swiss Nationals born between July 1st, 1883, and December 31st, 1920, that the time-limit for joining the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance abroad has been extended from March 31st, 1949, to December 31st, 1951.

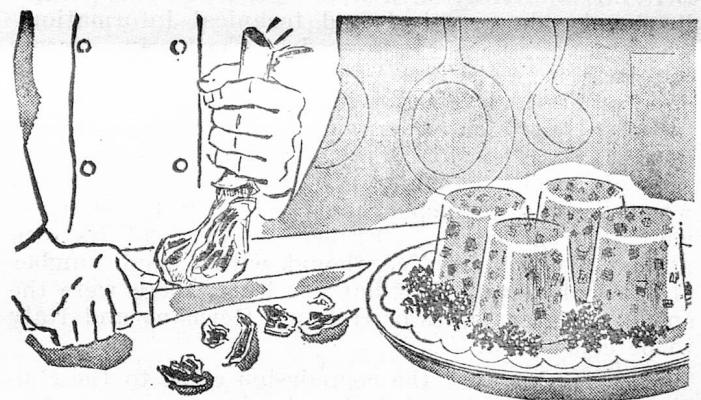
Applications from the persons concerned will be accepted provided that these persons pay the contributions as from the date at which the Insurance came into force, *i.e. January 1st, 1948*.

Facilities for payment of the arrears will be granted to those who should not be able to meet the amount due before the end of this year. In the case of persons who have already reached the age of 65 or who will be 65 in the next few months, these arrears could be deducted from the pension.

All applications from the above-mentioned persons posted after December 31st, 1951, will have to be turned down.

Those interested are further informed that a new decreasing scale came into force on January 1st, 1951, reducing contributions due by members whose yearly income is equivalent to less than *Swiss francs 4,800.—* [instead of Sw.Frs.3,600.— for 1948, 1949 and 1950].

The Legation and the Consulate in Manchester are at the disposal of anyone who might require further information in this matter.



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