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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

M. Albert Huber, head of the Swiss mission, accredited to the Allied High Commissioners, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Federal Republic of Germany. Minister Huber, the "Times" correspondent writes: "is one of the most popular members of the diplomatic community in Germany, and for that reason, and also for its political significance the appointment has been warmly welcomed."

The seat of the Legation is in Cologne.

* * *

The Swiss Government has announced that 54-year-old, Mr. Oscar Schneider, at present Swiss Consul in Manila, will be coming to Manchester in September to become Swiss Consul in that City.

The present Vice-Consul, Mr. J. J. Huber, who has been in charge for the last five years, will take up another appointment, which will be announced later.

* * *

Dr. Adolf Ammann, at present in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Baden-Baden (Germany), has been appointed Consul General in Frankfurt, a.M.

Dr. Ammann was born in 1894, at Ermatingen (Ct. Thurgau). He studied law at the Universities of Leipzig and Berne. In 1930 he entered into the service of the Swiss Confederation, and received an appointment at the Swiss Legation in Belgrade. In 1946, he was promoted to the rank of General Consul, and put in charge of the Consulate General in Bratislava, which Consulate was closed in June, 1950. Since then, he has been at the head (*ad interim*) of the Swiss Consulate in Baden-Baden.

* * *

During the month of February, 1951, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 15.03 million passengers, or 455,000 less than during the same period in 1950. The receipts have diminished by 527,000.—frs. and are returned as 17.42 million frs.

Goods traffic has, however, increased by 430,000 tons, and amounts to 1.54 million tons, bringing in

27.93 million frs. or 7.76 million frs. more than in February, 1950.

Cantonal

M. Paul Perrelet, a teacher at the "Volksschule" La Chaux-de-Fonds, has been appointed Director of the Municipal Primary Schools of that town, in succession to M. William Béguin, who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Johann, Ernst Etzenberger-Spleiss, soap manufacturers, of Schaffhausen, has left a legacy of 200,000.—frs. to the town of Schaffhausen for the renovation of the Minister. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Fritz Zaugg, has been elected "Landammann" of the canton of Aargau for 1951/52, and Dr. Kurt Kim, "Landstatthalter" for the same period.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. H. Sigg, has been elected Director of the "Nordostschweizerischen Kraftwerke, A.G. Baden," in succession to Dr. P. Corrodi. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late J. Brüschiweiler, a notary of Schocherswil (Ct. Thurgau), has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Charles Voillon" literature prize for 1950, amounting to 5,000.—frs. has been awarded to Carlo Cocciali, of Chiasso (Ct. Ticino). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Marchese d'Ayala-Valva, an Italian, who lived for many years in Lausanne, has left the contents of his library, comprising 20,000 books dealing with

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the following subjects: old and modern classics, art, history, travel, etc., to the town of Lausanne.

[A.T.S.]

—oo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Pater, Dr. Romuald Banz, rector of the *Gymnasium* of the "Klosterschule" Einsiedeln, in Einsiedeln, aged 85.

Charles Schnetzler, for many years Pastor of the Free Church, Cormoret-Courtelary (Ct. Berne), in Lausanne, at the age of 84.

Otto Bosshard, *Regisseur* and Director of the "Tellspiele" Altdorf, in Winterthur, aged 67.

Colonel Alfred Odier, a former member of the Federal Instruction Corps, and the General Staff, in Geneva, at the age of 74.

Dr. Eduard Naef, for a great number of years chief physician and Director of the cantonal "Asyl" in Wil (Ct. St. Gall), aged 59.

Professor, Dr. Manuel Saitzew, from 1921, Professor of National Economy at the University of Zurich and Editor of the "Zürcher Volkswirtschaftlichen Forschungen" in Zurich, at the age of 66.

Simon Julen, one of Switzerland's best-known mountain guides, after a fall on an icy road, in Zermatt, aged 54.

Jules Coindet, President of the commune of Chavannes-des-Bois for 54 years, in Nyon, at the age of 88.

Dr. Edgar Simon, General Manager of the "Basler Versicherungsgesellschaft" in Basle, aged 75.

Jules Maillard, from 1911-1933, Factory Inspector of the 1st inspection district, and for 12 years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Lausanne, at the age of 88.

Xaver Schmid, from 1923-1938, Mayor of the town of Zug, in Zug, aged 66.

H. Vollmy, for more than 25 years associated with the management of the Basle Fire Insurance Company, in Basle.

Paul Gallay, for 27 years Pastor at Pravoman (Ct. Fribourg), in Pravoman, at the age of 54.

Colonel Adrien Grobet, until 1946, Director of the "Metallurgischen Werke" Vallorbe, in Vallorbe, aged 84. The deceased held the army rank of Colonel of Brigade.

Professor, Dr. Heinrich Schmid, for twenty years Professor of Art History at the University of Basle,

[A.T.S.]

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and a former "Konservator" of the "Oeffentlichen Kunstsammlung" in Basle, at the age of 83.

[A.T.S.]

The undermentioned birthday anniversaries are announced from Switzerland:

Professor Dr. Walter Hess (70), from 1913-1951, Professor at the University of Zurich, and since 1917, Director of the Physiological Institute. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Berne and Geneva; in 1949, he was awarded the Nobel prize for physiology and medicine.

Dr. Edwin Strub (70), for 35 years a member of the Editorial Staff of the "National Zeitung" Basle, and a member of the Grand Council of the Canton of Basle Town.

Ernst Wolfensberger (60) "Kreispostdirektor", Zurich.

Colonel of Division Hans Pfyffer von Altishofen (85), from 1917-1918 Commander of the Gotthard Fortifications. In 1918, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel of Division. In 1922, Colonel Pfyffer was appointed Swiss Minister to Poland, which post he held for two years. He sat on the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne for several years and was from 1912-1945 President of the Cantonal Bank of Lucerne.

Professor, Dr. E. Laur (80), from 1898-1939, at the head of the "Schweizerischen Bauernverband", he was for many years a teacher at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and the author of a great number of works on agricultural problems.

Edouard-Marcet Sandoz (70), (Basle), a well-known sculptor.

Bernhard Seidmann (60), Founder and conductor of the "Zürcher Motettenchors".

Jakob Nohl (70), well-known painter, living in Schaffhausen.

[A.T.S.]

Here are further balances of the accounts for 1950, of the following cantons:—

Appenzell a.Rh.	<i>Credit</i>	Balance 126,266.—frs.
Appenzell I.Rh.	<i>Debit</i>	Balance 11,413.—frs.
Geneva	<i>Credit</i>	Balance 4,232,093.—frs.
Vaud	<i>Credit</i>	Balance 1,554,000.—frs.

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60), in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. W. Weder-Schreiber, of Diepoldsau (Ct. St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. L. Enderle-Treier, of Rheinfelden; Mr. and Mrs. Ansermet-Dénéréaz, of Vevey. [A.T.S.]

A village of picturesque mountain chalets, erected in the open air, is one of the most attractive features of this year's Swiss Industries Fair, which is being held at Basle from April 7th to April 17th. In the watchmaking section there are more than 150 exhibits which, along jewellery exhibits, are on display in the first hall. The textile industry is putting on a special demonstration under the title "Creation". Another display called "Form and Colour" has been arranged by the Swiss Association of Art and Industry, and a large section is being devoted to latest ideas in household equipment. Visitors from Great Britain attend-

ing the Fair can obtain air tickets at reduced prices to Basle or Zurich, while the Swiss Federal Railways offer return tickets at the cost of the single journey from any Swiss station to Basle. The tickets are stamped in machines specially provided for this purpose in the Fair premises in order to be valid for the homeward journey.

Competitors from Britain, France, Italy, Germany and other European countries will be taking part in the third International Motor Coach Rally on May 19th and 20th which has been organised by the Montreux Tourist Office and the Vaudoise section of the Swiss Automobile Club. In previous years British companies have gained leading places in many of the tests.

The Cantonal School of the Grisons at Coire is organising a holiday course, which will be of equal interest to beginners as to advanced students of the German language. It will be held from July 17th to August 25th, 1951. Inscription fee: 70 Swiss francs (about £6). Included in the programme are not only lessons on elementary and advanced grammar, composition, translation and reading, but also walks and excursions. Information can be obtained from: "Rectorat de l'Ecole cantonale des Grisons, Coire, Switzerland".

Some of Switzerland's leading musicians will be visiting Sion, picturesque capital of the Canton of Valais, on May 19th and 20th for their national festival. On Saturday evening, May 19th, there will

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be a concert at the Sion Theatre given by Swiss soloists, the mixed choir of Sion Cathedral and the "Chanson Valaisanne", performing works by O'Jaeggi, Arm. Schibler, J. Apothéloz, Pet. Mieg, Alb. Moeschinger, Rol. Looser, Fern. Peyrot. The following day there will be Pontifical High Mass at the beautiful church of Notre Dame de Valère, which dates back to the 12th century, celebrated by His Excellency Mgr. Bieler.

Nine nationalities are represented among the 34 judges of the 7th International Musical Festival at Geneva, which is being held from September 24th to October 7th at the Conservatoire of Geneva. The jury of judges, which will be under the presidency of Mr. Henri Gagnbin, will also include representatives of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation. Festival officials have received more than 600 requests for information and many entries have already been sent from a number of countries. Interest in the event is very great, and its success is assured. Last day for entries is July 14th, 1951. The prospectus, together with all other information, can be obtained free of charge from the Festival Secretary, Conservatoire de musique, Geneva, Switzerland.

The Swiss Home Office and the Federal Commission for Fine Arts have decided not to organise the national fine arts exhibition which should have been held this year. Instead its place will be taken by a world-wide exhibition which is being organised by the Swiss Fine Arts Society.

Due to rising world-market prices, Swiss paper manufacturers have increased the price of paper for newspapers by 15.1 to 15.9 per cent. and that for periodicals by 18 to 20 per cent.

This measure will sooner or later entail an increase in the price of Swiss newspapers and periodicals.

The Swiss Government has guaranteed 72 per cent. of the 25 million Swiss francs loan granted by three Swiss banks to the Jewish National Fund for the purchase of machinery to enable Israel to double her cement output.

The machinery will be used for extension of the Nesher cement plant in Haifa and for the equipping of new plant to be built at Ramleh at a cost of 3,100,000 Swiss francs.

The loan is repayable in four and a-half years. No interest has been charged.

XXX

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Le "Journal des Suisses d'Amérique" donne quelques renseignements anecdotiques sur Jacques Weber, de Mollis, qui émigra en Amérique il y a 37 ans où il est actuellement le principal actionnaire et le président de la Bloomsbury Mills (plus de 1.000 métiers à tisser la soie et 75.000 fuseaux). En 1914, Weber, alors âgé de 21 ans, arrivait à Hoboken avec 25 dollars en poche. Après 6 ans d'activité comme employé dans des commerces suisses de soieries, il entra en 1920 à la Bloomsburg Silk Mills pour y parvenir au poste de vice président en 1932. En 1944, il s'assura la propriété de l'entreprise dont il entreprit la modernisation de la partie textile, ce qui lui coûta plus de 5 millions de dollars. Weber a fondé une

bourse pour les étudiants de la branche textile; des bourses sont aussi attribuées chaque année à l'école des arts textiles de Zurich. Jacques Weber, aujourd'hui l'un des Suisses les plus en vue aux Etats-Unis, est vice président de la "National Federation of Textiles" et directeur du "Textile Distributors Institute."

* * *

Le Dr. Ernest Büchi, de l'Université de Zurich, a été nommé chef de division du département d'anthropologie du gouvernement central de l'Inde. L'architecte zurichois Werner M. Moser dirige la construction du technicum de Dehli et celle de la nouvelle ville de Kanchrapara. Edouard Gruner, de Bâle, et quatre autres ingénieurs suisses, travaillent comme conseillers techniques pour la construction de la digue de Konar, près de Calcutta. Le Prof. C. Regamey de Lausanne a donné des conférences dans plusieurs villes des Indes, dans le cadre du congrès pan-indien de philosophie. M. C. Wartmann, ancien chef de l'Office fédéral du personnel a été appelé par le gouvernement d'Israël au poste de conseiller pour la réorganisation des services administratifs de l'Etat.

* * *

Le "Général Guisan" est entré récemment dans le port de Melbourne. Ainsi les couleurs suisses flottent pour la première fois dans les eaux des mers du sud.

* * *

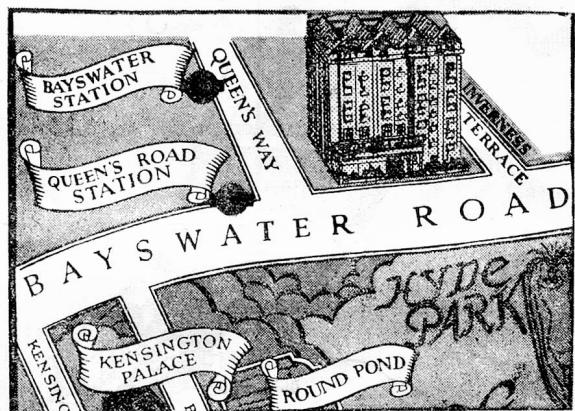
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