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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Minister Walter de Bourg has presented his credentials as Swiss Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the President of Eire.

Monsieur Peter Martin Anker, the newly appointed Norwegian Minister, has presented his credentials to M. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Minister Anker, has occupied diplomatic posts in Paris, and Oslo and for fourteen years he was a member of the League of Nations secretariat in Geneva. Until recently he held an important post in the Foreign Office in Oslo.

The President of the Swiss Confederation has received Monsieur Hugo Rojas Mencada in special audience on the occasion of the presentation of his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Venezuela. The newly appointed Minister was formerly *Chargé d'Affaire* in Lima.

The Indian Government has appointed Monsieur N. Raghavan to the post of Minister to the Swiss Confederation, in succession to M. Desai who died in Berne last month.

The new Minister was born in Madras in 1900, and studied law in London and afterwards practised there as a lawyer. On his return to India, in 1947, he was appointed General Consul in Djakarto and in 1948, Ambassador in Prague. Two years later he was transferred to Brussels in the same capacity.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Paul Frei to the post of Swiss Consul in Düsseldorf.

The new Consul was born in 1905 in St. Gall and is a native of Herden (Ct. Thurgau). He studied political science in St. Gall and Munich. Dr. Frei entered into the service of the Confederation in 1929, and was attached to the Swiss Consulate in Dijon and later on to the Consulate General in Munich of which he was in charge from 1944-1947; until recently he held

an appointment at the Federal Political Department in Berne.

M. Paul Emil Cattin, formerly in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Düsseldorf, has been appointed Swiss Consul in Melbourne, in succession to M. Johannes Pietzker, who has retired from his post which he had held since 1932.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried, during the month of April, 1951, 15.94 million passengers or 827,000 less than in April, 1950. The receipts from passenger traffic amounted to 21.78 million francs, which is 1.13 million francs less than during the same period in 1950.

Goods traffic is returned as 1.88 million tons carried, and represents an increase of 727,000 tons over the April, 1950 figures. The receipts are given as 32.47 million francs which exceeds last year's figures by 10.16 million francs.

Cantonal

During the month of April, 1951, 715 (1950: 609) traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Zurich. Two persons have been killed and 310 injured. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Virgile Moine has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Berne and Mr. Dewet Buri as Vice-President.

The Grand Council has elected Mr. Otto Steiger as its President and Messrs. Studer and Grädel as its Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

M. Joseph Cogniat, since 1927 organist at the cathedral of St. Niklaus, and Director of the *Conservatoire* in Fribourg from 1942, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

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R.A.C.

Policemen at Basle are to take a course of "art appreciation" so that they can be more useful to tourists. The Police Department think visitors have not been receiving the correct answers from policemen about the city's treasures. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Kantonsschule" Schaffhausen has celebrated its 100th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Lord Mayor of Dublin has sent a silver medal to the Mayor of St. Gall, as a souvenir of the visit to Dublin some months ago of singers and musicians from the canton of St. Gall. The medal bears on one side the arms of Dublin, and on the reverse side a Latin inscription. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Martin Schlatter (Harderen) has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau and Dr. Max Haffter (Frauenfeld) its Vice-President.

Dr. Ernst Reiber was nominated President of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. theol. Athanasius Staub, has celebrated his 60th jubilee as a priest at the "Präventorium" Sonvico (Ct. Ticino). He was for many years rector of the international Benedictine University in Rome.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

M. L. E. Pessina, has been elected Manager of the Tourist Office Montreux, in succession to M. A. Alblas, who has retired from his post. M. Pessina was Manager of the Tourist Office Lucerne, from 1931-1946.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Gaston Clottu (St. Blaise) has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Dr. h.c. Hans Lichtenhahn, partner in the firm Helbing & Lichtenhahn (book-sellers), in Holtigen, at the age of 76.

The deceased was for a number of years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle. In the army, he held the rank of Colonel. The University of Basle bestowed on him, in 1939, the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Max Hochberg, teacher of music and a former pupil of Busoni, in Zurich, aged 53.

Dr. h.c. Eugène Mottaz, from 1886-1913, a teacher

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of history and geography at the "Knabensekundarschule" Yverdon, and until 1924 Professor at the commercial school, Lausanne, at the age of 89. The deceased was a co-founder of the Society for history and archaeology of the canton of Vaud.

Albert Auderset, lawyer, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg, aged 75.

Paul Schmid, from 1924-1947, Pastor at the St. Peter's Church Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 69.

Karl Heinrich David, composer, music critic and a former teacher of music at the "Konservatorium" Basle. The deceased was since 1928, Editor of the "Schweizerischen Musikzeitung".

Hans Meyer, "Obmann" of the "Zürcher Stadtschützen" and one of the chief promoters of the "Knabenschiessen" in Zurich, aged 60.

Professor Gottfried Frei, for many years rector of the cantonal commercial school Zurich, in Zurich, aged 70.

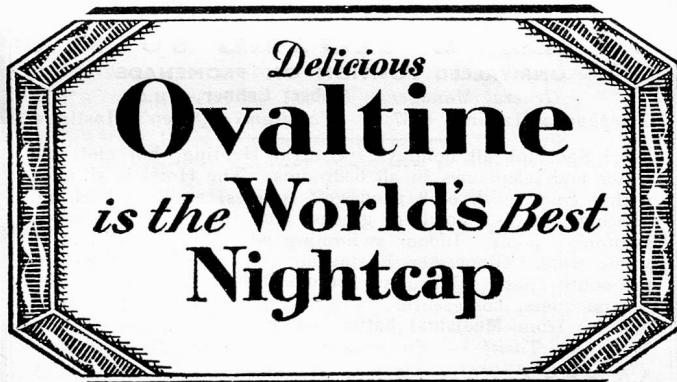
Paul Keller, Director of the "Bernischen Kraftwerke, A.G.", in Berne, aged 73.

Herrmann Schaffner (Zurich), architect, owing to an accident when climbing the "Kleine Mythen". He was 44 years of age.

Colonel Carlo Séquin, formerly head of the section for "Schiessversuche" Thun, in Thun, at the age of 75.

Léonard Rouvenaz, Director of the "Greyerzer Volksbank" Bulle, in Bulle, aged 60.

Eric Du Pasquier, Banker, and for many years a



member of the Board of the firms Nestlé in Vevey and Paillard, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 68.

Alfred Fankhauser, secretary of the management of the "Emmental-Burgdorf-Thun" railway, in Basle, aged 61.

Dr. Conrad von Mandach, formerly a Professor at the University of Berne and Conservator of the Art Museum of Berne, in Berne, aged 81.

Clemens Ulrich, a former member of Parliament (National Council) and of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz from 1913-1929, in Küssnacht, at the age of 77.

Edi Dalang, proprietor of the "Teigwarenfabrik" Basle, in Basle, aged 60. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

The undermentioned have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland :

Mr. & Mrs. J. Tschudi of Schwanden; Mr. & Mrs. Ignaz Epper, of St. Gall; Mr. & Mrs. K. Hafner-Hafner, of Winterthur; Mr. & Mrs. S. Kiefer-Demmler, of Riehen. [A.T.S.]

* * * * *

Pursuing its defence measures, the Swiss Federal Government has adopted a decree which has to be sanctioned by Parliament, concerning the building of air-raid shelters in new blocks of houses in communes of more than 2,000 inhabitants. The Confederation is to contribute 10 per cent. and the communes 20 per cent. for these shelters, which will involve the Confederation in an expenditure of £4,250,000.

* * * * *

It is reported from Switzerland that in the course of debating the new Agricultural Economy Act the

proposal was made that a general insurance against natural catastrophes should be introduced. The Federal Council agreed to look into the matter. The scheme would be carried out on a Cantonal basis but with some Federal subvention.

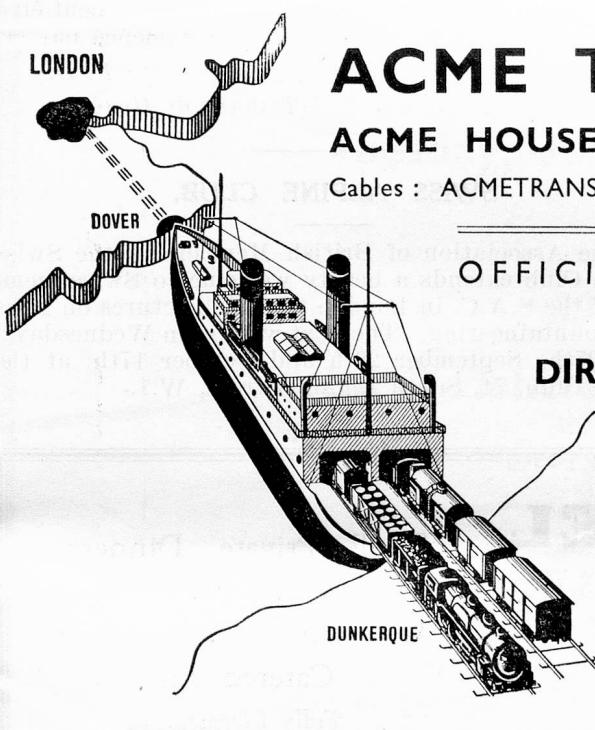
Lugano's next trade fair will be held from September 29th to October 14th, 1951. Products on show will represent all aspects of industry, commerce, craftsmanship and agriculture.

* * *

Meeting at Berne, the administrative council of the Swiss Federal Railways approved the 1950 report and accounts, which are now being submitted to the Swiss Federal Council. During the year, the S.F.R. carried 193.9 million passengers, bringing in a revenue of 263.8 million francs, against 278.3 million in 1949 — a drop of 5.2 per cent. On the goods side, the S.F.R. carried 18 million tons. The income from goods services jumped to 325.9 million francs, an increase of 7.1 per cent., compared with the revenue of the previous year.

The council approved the necessary funds for the installation of electric heating in 42 carriages, to conform with international standards, as well as for the building of a new dam at Vieux-Emosson to allow the power stations of Barberine and Vernayaz (in the Canton of Valais) to increase output of electrical energy during the winter.

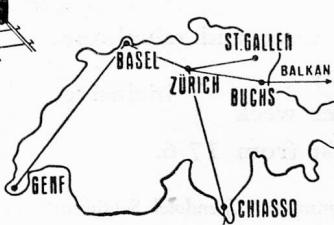
Thanks were expressed to Mr. Ernest Béguin, who is retiring from the presidency of the administrative council for health reasons, and National Councillor Gysler, of Zurich, was elected to take his place.



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