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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 annual conference of Swiss Ministers accredited to foreign countries, took place in Berne under the presidency of Federal Councillor M. Petitpierre, head of the Federal Political Department.

Twenty-two Ministers, who are at present spending their holiday in Switzerland, attended the conference.

Monsieur José Lefèvre, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Panama, has presented his credentials to Dr. C. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Foreign Minister.

Monsieur N. Gopalswami Ayyanger, Minister of War of the Republic of India, has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation in Berne.

A German commercial mission headed by Ministerialrat, Müller-Graf, has arrived in Berne to start negotiations with Mr. Schaffner, "Delegierter für Handelsverträge".

Customs receipts in August 1952, amounted to 48.9 million francs which is 1.6 million francs more than in August 1951.

During the first eight months of the current year customs receipts totalled 401.7 million francs, or 11 million francs less than during the same period in 1951.

Cantonal

The "Auslandschweizertagung" was opened on Friday, August 29th, at the "Kunst-und Kongresshaus" in Lucerne, and afterwards was transferred to the "Bürgenstock" where meetings of the various groups and a plenary session was held.

On Sunday, August 31st, the participants met at the historical grounds of the "Rutli" where they were addressed by Dr. C. Kobelt, President of the Swiss

Confederation. (We hope to publish a report about the work done at the Conference). [A.T.S.]

Dr. h.c. Heinrich Walther has celebrated his 90th birthday at Kriens.

The "Jubilar" was from 1894-1938 a member of the Government of the canton of Lucerne, and from 1908-1943 he sat in the National Council over which he presided in 1928/29. He was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Tübingen, Freiburg i.U., and the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Mr. J. Wismer, for the last twelve years a member of the government of the canton of Lucerne, will vacate his post at the end of this year. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Diethelm Zellweger, President of the Board of the "Konsumverein" Zurich, has reached the age of 70. He was for some time a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" of Zurich. In the army, he held the rank of Colonel, and at one time was in command of the south front of the Gotthard fortress. [A.T.S.]

The French Government has nominated Professor Ch. Clerc, a former Professor of French Literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, to be an officer of the Légion d'Honneur. [A.T.S.]

The "Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Vererbungsforschung" has nominated Dr. Alfred Ernst, Professor of the University of Zurich an Honorary Member.

Mr. W. F. Burger, land-scape painter and etcher, has celebrated his 70th birthday in Rüschlikon. Born

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in Zurich, he studied at Karlsruhe and London. He worked for several years in America and on his return to Switzerland specialised in mountain landscapes. Some of his works were exhibited with success at International exhibitions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Hermann Zurbuchen, licensee of the restaurant "Zähringer" in Burgdorf, has succumbed to the injuries which he received in the railway accident at Interlaken. The number of the killed now numbers five. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Abbé Joseph Gremaud, a former Professor of Philosophy at the College Saint Michel in Fribourg, has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Montreal. [A.T.S.]

* * *

C. Buchmann, a German, who was in 1945 condemned to imprisonment for life for espionage, serving his sentence at the Lenzburg prison, has escaped. He was arrested at Sirmach (Ct. Thurgau) after having been at liberty for three days. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The death has occurred of Federal Judge Dr. Louis Couchepin. He was born in 1896 in Martigny (Ct. Valais). After finishing his schooling in Sitten and Sarnen, he studied law at various Universities. From 1925-1937, he practised as a lawyer in Martigny-Bourg.

In 1937, M. Couchepin was elected by the two Federal Chambers, a member of the Supreme Court of the Confederation in succession to his father, M. Arthur Couchepin. He held the rank of a General Staff Colonel in the army. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. François Gillard, has been appointed Professor of law, at the University of Lausanne, in succession to Professor J. Feaury. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. André Muret (Lausanne) has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to Dr. M. Jeanneret, who has vacated his seat. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious motor-accident happened in Geneva, when a sports car driven by L. C. Briquet, a 26 years old employee of Geneva, tried to overtake a car at excessive speed, and collided with a motor-cycle and side car, the occupants of which were both killed. The victims were Mr. Willy Grimm, a chef in Yverdon and his wife. The driver of the sports-car was slightly injured. He was arrested and charged with homicide caused by negligence. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A fire which broke out at the Hotel "Mon Repos" in Geneva has caused damage amounting to several thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

Army

The death is reported of Division Colonel Hans Berli. Colonel Berli was born in 1899 in Zurich where he received his schooling at the "Literargymnasium" and afterwards studied law.

He practised for some time as an advocate, but in 1928, he entered the Federal Instructors Corps with the rank of captain. Four years later, he was transferred to the General Staff. In 1935, Colonel Berli was

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promoted to the rank of Major and appointed to the command of the 62nd Fusilier battalion. In 1933 and 1934, he was sent to Germany where he was detailed to the "Reichswehr". On his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1940, he was put in command of the 25th infantry regiment. He reached the rank of Colonel in 1943, and two years later was appointed Chief of Staff of the 4th Army Corps. On the 1st of January 1946, Colonel Berli was appointed "Waffenchef" of the infantry, and promoted to Division Colonel with command of the 7th division.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A Swiss military mission, headed by Brigade-Colonel R. V. Wattenwyl has arrived in Washington. One of their tasks is to arrange the purchase of tanks.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Great Britain is sending two British Centurion tanks to the Swiss army for three months trial. The Swiss military department wants to buy several hundred tanks for the army and the two Centurions are to be tested for their suitability in Swiss conditions.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Otto Dürr architect, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" and "Bezirksrat" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 58.

Dr. Emil Stauber, formerly secondary school teacher, in Zurich, aged 83.

Abbé Kaspar Kichler, priest in Obergestelen, at the age of 40. He was drowned whilst bathing in a lake on the Furka Pass.

James Glasson, from 1935-1943, a member of the National Council, and for 20 years President of the commune of Bulle. The deceased sat for many years in the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg over which he presided in 1933, he was also President of the Board of the Bulle-Romont Railway.

Dr. J. Henggeler, lawyer, in Zurich at the age of 67. The deceased studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig, Munich and Berlin after which he established himself as a lawyer in Zurich, where he soon gained a great reputation. He was the author of many works dealing with law, and held the post of lecturer on "Aktienrecht" at the University of Zurich. During the last war he was President of the "Schweizerischen Textilsyndikates" and was on the Board of the following concerns: Esso, Standard; "Papierfabrik, Balstal;" "E. Scheller & Cie, A.G. Zurich"; "R. Furrer Söhne, A.G. Zurich;" "Schweiz. Sprengstoff Fabrik, A.G., Dottikon," "Bareis, Wieland & Co. A.G. Zurich"; "Neutra Treuhand A.G. Zurich" and "Electrolux, A.G. Zurich".

Jules Cochand, from 1911-1914, Professor of the Engineering School of the University of Lausanne, and afterwards chief engineer and Director of the firm Gebr. Sulzer in Winterthur, in Astano, aged 73.

Dr. h.c. Hans Billeter, in Zurich, at the age of 90. The deceased was a member of the District Court Zurich from 1886-1934, of which he became its President in 1913. He was a member of the "Kantonsrat"

Zurich. In 1929, the University of Zurich bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Franz Odermatt, for 32 years "Landschreiber" of the canton Nidwalden and author, in Stans, aged 86.

Colonel Hans Notz, Head of the firm Notz & Co., Bienne, in Bienne at the age of 53. From 1943-47 he was Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation in Washington, and afterwards was in command of the 16th Infantry Regiment and since 1949 Chief-of-Staff of the 1st Army Corps.

Dr. W. Schwabacher, and advocate in Basle, aged 65.

Joseph Winiger, since 1943, "Amtsrichter" and at one time a member of the "Grösseren Ortsbürgererrat" in Lucerne, at the age of 62. [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

Dr. Ernst Mörgeli has resigned his post as secretary of the "Auslandschweizerwerks", he is succeeded by Dr. H. Christ.

* * *

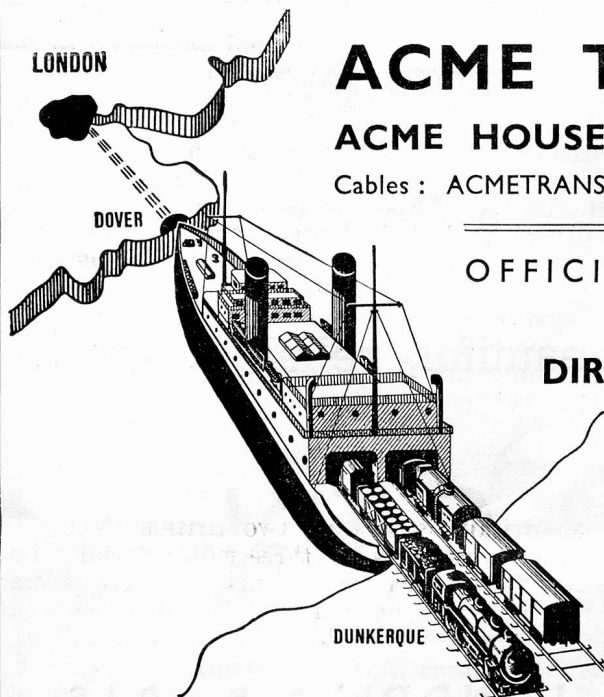
The next year's 1st of August collection will benefit the Swiss abroad.

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The 5th World Scout Rover Meet will be held next year at Kandersteg.

* * *

Delegates representing 43 States have taken part in the inter-Governmental copyright convention conference under the auspices of Unesco (United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization) they have signed a first universal convention at Geneva, the object of which is designed to give authors the same minimum copyright safeguards abroad as



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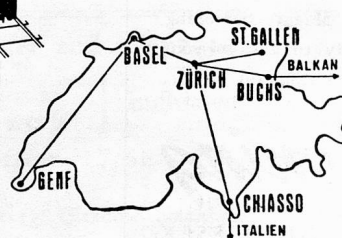
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Jeanette Altwegg, the Anglo-Swiss ice skating champion, who had won in twelve months, the British, European and Olympic ice-skating figure championship, has started a £2. 10. 0. a week job with the International Pestalozzi Children's village at Trogen. She refused to turn professional at a phenomenally high salary in order to take up child welfare work.

The new motor cargo vessel "Romandie" built by the Burntisland Shipbuilding Company, Ltd. for "Suisse Atlantique Société de Navigation Maritime, S.A." of Lausanne and launched in May this year, in the presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur, Henry de Torrenté, has completed speed and power trials in the Forth. Of 430 ft. long, 59 ft. broad, and 39 ft. deep, with a carrying capacity of 10,825 tons and a gross tonnage of 5807, the "Romandie" has five cargo holds with 10 derricks — 8 suitable for 5 ton lifts and 2 for 10 ton lifts, and her accommodation is specially designed for trading to the tropics. The propelling machinery, consists of a Swiss built (Sulzer) diesel engine developing 3940 b.h.p.

The leader of the votes-for-women movement in Switzerland, Dr. J. Eder, who is a doctor of science and a mother, has been in London, attending a meeting on the International Council of women. As President of the Council she travels extensively to urge women's rights.



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