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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 two Federal Chambers have elected National-Councillor, Dr. A. Favre, to the post of Federal judge in succession to the late Dr. Couchepin.

Dr. Favre was born at Sierre in 1897. He studied law at the Universities of Paris, Berlin and Fribourg, and afterwards practiced as a lawyer and notary at Sierre. In 1930, he was appointed Professor of law at the University of Fribourg. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1943.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 17.71 million passengers during the month of August 1952, or 1.71 million more than in August, 1951. The receipts amounted to 29.51 million francs. (August, 1951: 25.39 million francs).

Goods traffic declined by 199,000 tons and is returned as 1.57 million tons carried. Receipts: 32.08 million francs. (August, 1951: 31.70 million francs).

The Swiss Government has now ordered the formation of a committee to work out a first draft of the proposed new Custom tariff.

The question of a higher scale of Customs duties has been under consideration for some time.

Cantonal

Franz Gerber, Garden nurseryman, of Thalwil, aged 29 and his wife, aged 25, were killed when ascending the "Kleinen Mieten." [A.T.S.]

Lucerne's 620 year-old wooden "Chapel" bridge has been re-opened and reinforced with steel girders since its fourth arch began to sag. The roof was painted in the 18th century with 154 scenes taken from the lives of Saints Leodegar and Mauritius, patrons of Lucerne, and from the history of the old city.

[A.T.S.]

A Swiss banking group has granted a credit of 18 million francs to "Swissair" for the purchase of

three new large American long distance air liners, type DC-6B, delivery of which will be made at the end of next year. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car carrying four passengers collided between Winterthur and Zurich with another car. Three passengers travelling in the car from Winterthur were killed. The names of the victims are: Rudolf Alswede (Zurich) aged 47, Mme. Bertha Benz (Zurich) aged 53, and Mme. Elise Blödorn (Zurich) aged 71. The fourth passenger, a daughter of Mme. Benz, received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernest Marples, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing, has been recently in Zurich looking into the housing question.

Some 2,000 houses built on a Swiss prefabricated method are to be put up in Britain this year. Instead of beginning with the outside walls, some of these buildings are started from the inside and enclosed later with brick, stones and plaster.

M. René Jacquod, aged 46, has been elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) in succession to National Councillor A. Favre, who has been appointed a Federal judge.

M. Jacquod is a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Charles Schäublin, Industrialist, has been elected an honorary citizen of Malleray. Mr. Schäublin had, some time ago, given an amount of 500,000.—frs. towards the costs of building a new secondary school. [A.T.S.]

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R.A.C.

On the 27th of September, one hundred years ago, Amédée, Célestin Rousillon was born, who was known under the pseudonym of "Oin-Oin", because, owing to a hair-lip, he spoke through his nose. Rousillon was born at Geneva in 1852, and settled in 1874, at La Chaux-de-Fonds. He was by profession an engraver, and possessed a delightful mother-wit. Many witty stories were ascribed to him. He died in 1923, at a hostel for old people in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

Professor, Louis Chardonnens, rector of the University of Fribourg, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University Laval in Quebec. (Canada). [A.T.S.]

The French ambassador, Monsieur Jean Chauvel, has paid an official visit to the town of Solothurn. He was received by "Landammann" Dr. Max Obrecht and the bishop of Basle and Lugano, Dr. von Streng. The ambassador, in his address referred to the historical connection between Solothurn and France.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Walter Brühlmann, President of the government of the canton of Schaffhausen, has tendered his resignation as a member of the cantonal government to which he has belonged for the last twelve years.

[A.T.S.]

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Bankers Association took place on Saturday, September 27th at Basle under the presidency of Dr. Ch. de Loës. The Meeting was addressed by Federal Councillor, Dr. Max Weber, who spoke on "Das Verhältniss von Staat zur Wirtschaft", and Dr. Rob. Käppeli, member of the Board of "Ciba, A.G.", Basle on "Die schweizerische chemische Industrie im Weltgeschäft der Chemie." [A.T.S.]

Director E. Rösel (Buchs) has made a donation, amounting to 30,000.—frs. to the "Krankenpflege Verein" Buchs for the building of a home for nurses.

[A.T.S.]

The Board of the firm "Gebr. Knie, Schweizer Nationalzirkus, A.G." has made a donation of 10,000.—frs. The recipients are: Commune of Rapperswil: 5,000.—frs.; Pestalozzi Village, Trogen 1,000.—frs.; District Hospital Rütli: 2,000.—frs.; commune of Gerlikon: 1,000.—frs., and Pro-Juventute: 1,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

During the month of August, 1952, 169 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Aargau. Five persons were killed and 142 injured. [A.T.S.]

The "Landerziehungsheim" Glarisegg (Ct. Thurgau) has celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

Professor Manlico Foglia, a teacher at the cantonal *Gymnasium* Bellinzona, and President of the commune of Paradiso (Lugano) has been appointed Director of the cantonal teachers seminary in Locarno, in succession to Professor Calgaris who has been appointed

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[A.T.S.]

A serious motor car accident occurred between Lausanne and Yverdon, when a care driven by Dr. Chapuis (Lausanne), collided with a tree. Dr. Chapuis and his seven years old daughter were killed, his wife and two daughters, aged 12 and 15, as well as another passenger were seriously injured and had to be taken to hospital. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Alpine Club held its Annual Meeting at La Tour-de-Peiliz, under the Presidency of Mr. Jenni (Glarus). M. Seguel, a lawyer and President of the Neuchâtel section of the Swiss Alpine Club has been elected Central President. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Emil Brunner, Professor of Theology at the University of Zurich has accepted the appointment of Professor of Theology at the theological faculty of the University of Tokio. The appointment will be for 2-3 years. [A.T.S.]

Army

The Federal Council has appointed Colonel A. Jakob to the command of the 7th division, in succession to the late Colonel H. Berli.

The new commander of the 7th division was born in 1901 at Uttwil. On the conclusion of his studies at the University he entered the Federal Instructors

Corps and successively held the following commands: 1931, Mountain Mitr. comp. 1V/77; 1935: transfer to General Staff; 1938: commander of the infantry Bat. 81, 1943: Chief of Staff of the 7th division; 1946: commander of the infantry regiment 25; 1949: Assistant Chief of Staff on the General Staff, with promotion to divisional colonel.

* * *

General Staff colonel P. Etienne Primault has been appointed Chief of Arms (Waffenchef) of the Swiss Air Force, in succession to divisional colonel F. Rihner, who has relinquished his post. Colonel Primault has, at the same time, been promoted to the rank of divisional colonel. He was born in 1904 and is a citizen of Renan (Ct. Berne) and has held the following appointments: 1932: commander of "Flieger Komp. 3"; 1937: transfer to the General Staff; 1940: promotion to the rank of Major; 1944: Chief of Staff of Air Force units with promotion to Lieut.-Colonel; 1951: command of the "Flieger Regiment 1 with the rank of Colonel. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Giuseppe Zoppi, formerly Professor of Italian literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. From 1919-1924, the deceased was a teacher at the *Gymnasium* Lugano, and from 1925-1928 he held the post of Director at the teachers' seminary Locarno. In 1931, he was appointed to a Professorship at the ETH Zurich. Professor Zoppi was the author of a large number of works, amongst them "Il

libro dell'alpe"; "Quando avevo le ali" and "Legende del Ticino." He died at the age of 56.

Adalbert Bacher, for the last eight years Mayor of the town of Sitten, (Ct. Valais) and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, in Sitten, at the age of 60.

Louis Savoy, a well-known lawyer and notary, in Romont, aged 65.

Albert Monard, formerly Director of the Natural Historical Museum, La Chaux-de-Fonds, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 66.

Fritz Utz, since 1928, Editor of the "Schweizerischen Politischen Korrespondenz" in Berne, aged 60.

Elvezio Pessina, for 25 years Mayor of the town of Chiasso, of which town he was an honorary citizen. The deceased was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. He died at Chiasso at the age of 80.

Dr. Leo Merz, in Berne, at the age of 84. He practised as a lawyer in Thun and later on in Berne. From 1913-1915, he held the post of President of the Commercial Tribunal of the canton of Berne. In 1915, he entered the government of the canton of Berne of which he was a member until 1934. He sat in Parliament (States Council) in 1918 and 1919. Dr. Merz was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Berne.

Adolf Guggisberg, Manager of the "Kantonalbank" Berne, in Berne, aged 66.

Dr. Erich Bolza, a leading personality of the "Basler Bürger & Gewerbeartei", and since 1934, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town. During the last war, he occupied the post of

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Chief of Staff of the 4th division with the rank of Colonel. He died in Basle at the age of 55.

Johannes Willi, for twenty years a member of the government of the canton of Appenzell, A-Rh., in Gais, aged 70.

Bernhard Ineichen, for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Schwyz, at the age of 80.

Arthur Lovioz, Manager of the "Schweiz. Bankverein" Basle, in Basle, aged 61.

Arnold Blum, Manager of the EIKA (Einkaufsstelle des Schutzverbandes der papierverarbeitenden Industrien der Schweiz), in Berne, at the age of 54.

Joseph Büsser, sculptor and painter, in St. Gall, at the age of 56.

Karl Wolf, Hotelier, and from 1939-1943 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Weggis, aged 55. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Alfred Fleisch (60) since 1932, Professor of Physiology at the University of Lausanne.

Dr. Eduard von der Heydt (70) well-known art collector and proprietor of the Hotel Monte Veritas, Ascona.

Mr. Otto Spreng (75) well-known painter and from 1901-1934 a teacher at the "Kunstgewerbeschule" Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. J. Weber-Bütler of Thalwil; Mr. and Mrs. F. Wirth-Voser of Aarau; Mr. and Mrs. C. Barbey-Ador, of Orbe, Madame Barbey is the elder daughter of the late Federal-Councillor, Gustave Ador; Mr. and Mrs. H. Huber-Bütler of Horgen; Mr. and Mrs. Grossjean-Liengme of Leubringen, near Bienne have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A number of Lynmouth children who suffered in the flood disaster are to be given a chance of a "dream" holiday in Switzerland.

Several pilots of "Swissair" have offered to take two children into their homes. They will be treated as part of the family for a holiday in the snow and sun. The Lynmouth authorities have thanked the Swiss airline and asked that the offer should be left

open until the town has settled down, and become properly organised again.

* * *

Switzerland can make available 300-400 million francs for long-term foreign investments each year, according to the Director-General of the Union Bank of Switzerland.

* * *

The world soccer championship for 1954 will be held in Switzerland from June, 16th to July 4th. Sixteen countries are expected to participate.

* * *

Hungary, the 1952 Football Olympic champions, beat Switzerland by four goals to two in an international match at the Wankdorf stadium in Berne.

* * *

The little village of Niederwald, in the canton of Valais, which lies at a height of 4,140 feet on the right bank of the River Rhône, has paid a moving tribute to the memory of one of its most famous "children" — César Ritz, famed throughout the world as the "King of hoteliers, and hotelier of Kings". Many hoteliers, went there to celebrate the birth of César Ritz 100 years ago. Among the guests were Mr. Hermann Seiler of Gletsch, former President of the Swiss Hoteliers Society, Mr. Franz Seiler, the present president, and Mr. S. Bittel, Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Federal Councillor Escher, another native of the canton of Valais, and now Swiss Minister of Posts and Railways, spoke of the life of the little Valaisan shepherd who, thanks to his courage, intelligence and perseverance, became a world celebrity.

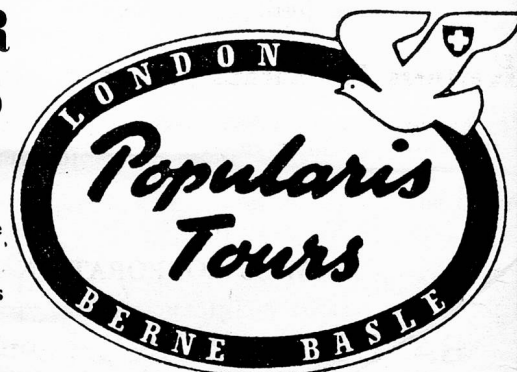
In front of the chalet where he was born there now stands a fountain erected "in memory of César Ritz, founder of the Ritz hotels, which are celebrated throughout the whole world".

* * *

The Swiss Ski Federation has announced that the next national ski championships will be held as follows: downhill and slalom — Andermatt (Canton Uri); crosscountry and jumping — St. Moritz (Grisons); 50 km crosscountry — Chasseron-Les Rasses (Vaudois Jura); Swiss team championships — G.C. Stoos (Schwyz). Mr. G. A. Michel, of Interlaken, head of the Tourist Office for the Bernese Oberland, has been elected new president of the Federation. He takes the place of Mr. André Baumgartner, lawyer of Lausanne.

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There were raised eyebrows in the Montreux Post Office when a card arrived from Helsinki addressed to: "Monsieur Bonivard, prisoner in the Castle of Chillon." Reason for the surprise: Bonivard died 400 years ago, and was the hero of Lord Byron's famous poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon".

* * *

A new theatrical award worth 12,000 Swiss francs (about £1,000) is being offered by the Swiss towns of Lausanne and Geneva. It will be presented for the first time at the beginning of 1953 to the author of an original play (lyric excepted) chosen by a jury of several prominent personalities from France and Switzerland headed by Mr. Roger Ferdinand, president of the Société des Auteurs et des Compositeurs Dramatiques in Paris.

French-speaking playwrights, without any distinction of nationality, can compete. But they must not send works that have ever been played, filmed, broadcast, televised, nor works translated or adapted from another language.

The plays must last for at least 120 minutes. The winning play will be presented by both the Lausanne Municipal Theatre and the Comédie Théâtre of Geneva, with well-known actors taking part. Rules can be obtained from the General Secretary of the "Grand Prix théâtral de Genève et Lausanne", Mr. Paul-Henri Jaccard, Avenue Benjamin-Constant 7, Lausanne.

* * *

A new book designed to make motoring easier has made its appearance in Switzerland. Edited by the Swiss Automobile Club, it has 178 pages and is full of useful information and advice. Special attention has been paid to international tourism. As well as advice about equipment needed for long journeys, there are details of customs formalities in different countries, and a list of the places in Europe where cars can be carried by ferry or plane. Helpful tips about driving technique — such as motoring in mountain country during winter — are also given.

One chapter is devoted to motoring in Switzerland. The Swiss Automobile Club is the only organisation of its kind in Switzerland, and the last part of the book outlines the services which the Club offers its members.

* * *

Important changes have been made in the Continental Train services beginning Sunday October 5th, 1952.

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There will be a fair selection of Swiss goods, including calendars, articles of wear, linen etc., as well as dainties (chocolates, pastries etc.).

It will be an opportunity to meet in a congenial atmosphere and to do your first Christmas shopping.

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Timings:

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Calais	„	18.40
Bâle	arr.	6.00

The CALAIS-COIRE EXPRESS will provide an additional connection on busy days and run daily from Dec. 19 — Jan. 4 (except Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1), also on Fridays and Saturdays from Jan. 9 — Feb. 28.

Timings:

London Victoria dep.	12.30 (via Folkestone)
Calais	18.25 („, Laon)
Bâle	arr. 5.00
Coire	„ 8.59
Interlaken Ost	„ 9.51 (via Bâle)

Furthermore a special service will leave Victoria at 16.00 (via Folkestone-Calais-Laon) for Bâle (arr. 8.10), Coire (arr. 12.06) and Interlaken Ost (arr. 12.35) on Dec. 22, 23, 27 and 28.

Winter Resorts in the Valais will continue to be served by the DIRECT ORIENT EXPRESS (daily).

Timings:

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Calais	„	18.17 (via Paris)	...
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The departure of the DAY CONTINENTAL (daily, except Christmas Day) from London Liverpool Street Station will be advanced to 9.30 and the NIGHT CONTINENTAL (daily except Christmas Day) will leave at 19.30 via Harwich and Hook.

OTHER SERVICES:

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 London Waterloo dep. 21.00 via Southampton-Havre, Mon., Wed. and Fri., except Dec. 24th.