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Basle V 5718).**NEWS AT RANDOM****Federal**

The President of the Swiss Confederation has sent the following telegram to H.M. Queen Elizabeth :

“ Profondément émus par la nouvelle si subite du douloureux évènement qui atteint la Famille Royale et la nation britannique dans ses plus chères affections, le Conseil Fédéral et le peuple suisse s’associent avec respect au deuil du grand pays ami. Alors que celui-ci perd un souverain vénéré et qui supporta si vaillamment de dures épreuves, je prie Votre Majesté d’agrérer les vives condoléances du Gouvernement, des Autorités fédérales et du peuple suisse ainsi que l’expression personnelle de ma plus déferente sympathie.

sig. *Charles Kobelt.*”

\* \* \*

Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, accompanied by Minister Zehnder, and Counsellor of Legation Maurice, called on the British Minister in Berne to express, on behalf of the Federal Council and the Swiss people, his condolence on the death of King George VI.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Pierre Micheli, Counsellor of Legation, has been appointed Chief of the Department for International Organisations at the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne with the title of Minister, in succession to Monsieur Zutter, who has been nominated Minister in Spain.

Minister Micheli was born in 1905 at Geneva. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Oxford and Berlin. From 1930-1933 he occupied the post of Secretary to the Danzig Commission, and afterwards entered the Diplomatic Service (1933). He successively held posts at the Swiss Legations in Paris, the Hague and Rio de Janeiro. In 1941, Monsieur Micheli was sent

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to Batavia in the capacity of Consul, and a year later went to Tokio with the rank of first Secretary of Legation; four years later (1945) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and diplomatic representative to Japan. He returned to Berne in 1946, where he occupied an important post at the Swiss Foreign Office.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed M. Fritz Hegg, Counsellor of Legation, Chief of the section for administrative affairs at the Federal Political Department in Berne, in succession to Monsieur Rossat, who has been sent to Turkey at Swiss Minister.

Monsieur Hegg was born in 1903 in Berne, and studied political science. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1936, and was successively sent to Montreal and Toronto. From 1936-1941 he was in charge of the Consulate General in Oslo. In 1941, Monsieur Hegg returned to Berne, and two years later, went to the Swiss Legation in Stockholm, first as Secretary of Legation and then as Counsellor.

In 1946, he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Helsinki. He returned to Berne in 1948, where he occupied an important post at the Foreign Office.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts during December 1951, amounted to 45.2 million francs or 4.1 million francs less than in the same month in 1950.

Total customs receipts in 1951 are given as 607.6 million francs against 587.3 million francs, an increase of 20.3 million francs over the figures of the previous year.

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**Cantonal**

Dr. Walter Gut, Professor of Theology, has been elected rector of the University of Zurich for the period 1952/54. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

In December, 1951, 660 traffic accidents were registered in the canton of Zurich, ten persons were killed and 257 injured. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Manager of the Co-operative Society in Hätingen (Ct. Glarus), has been arrested for embezzling 72,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Oskar Stampfli, a member of the government of the canton of Solothurn since 1933, will vacate his office on July 1st, 1952. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

According to the statistics published by the police authorities of Solothurn, there have occurred 716 traffic accidents in the canton of Solothurn in the year 1951. 699 persons were injured and 21 were killed. The increase in traffic accidents over the year 1950 is 0.28 per cent. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Kantonsschule" of Aargau has celebrated its 150th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The members of the government of the canton of Thurgau offered a luncheon in honour of Colonel Frey, who has relinquished his command of the 7th division.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A serious motoring accident, costing the lives of three persons, occurred near Vevey. A lorry driver, stopped his lorry to have a rest, but forgot to switch on the lights. A car, with four passengers ran into the lorry, and three of them were killed outright, whilst the fourth received serious injuries. The names of the victims are: Jean Moillen (49), President of the Tourist Association of Les Diablerets, his cousin André Moillen, proprietor of a Hotel in Les Diablerets and Jean Ansermoz, a farmer of the same town. The name of the injured passenger is Ferdinand Borloz, of Sépey. The driver of the lorry, Louis Bourger (30), of Martigny-Bourg, has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Paul Chapuis, Professor of Theology at the University of Lausanne, has tendered his resignation on reaching the age of 70. He is replaced by Pastor Henri Germon, of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Leo Hallenbarter, Editor of the "Walliser Landeschronic" and the "Briger Anzeiger" and later on of the "Walliser Nachrichten", and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, in Brig at the age of 59.

Raphael Troillet, Governor of the district Entremont, in Sitten, aged 80.

Adolf Wendnagel, from 1913-1944, Director of the Basle Zoological Gardens, in Basle, at the age of 76.

Gottfried Becker, for 43 years Director of the Opera at the Basle Municipal Theatre, in Basle, aged 73.

Emil Frey-Rüegg, for nearly half a century Editor of the "Schweizer Wochenzzeitung" in Uster, at the age of 80.

Dr. Viktor von Ernst, since 1909, Professor of Theology and Canon of St. Leodegar, in Lucerne.

Adam Freuler, formerly General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Treuhandgesellschaft" in Basle, and for 10 years President of the Board of the "Radio-Genossenschaft" Basle, in Netstal, aged 69.

Fritz Dähler, for many years head of the "Evangelischen Erziehungsanstalt Langhalde" in Abtwil and a member of the "Kantonsrat" St. Gallen, in Abtwil, at the age of 84.

Viktor Aeschbacher, Vice-President of the Socialist Party of the town of Zurich and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 53.

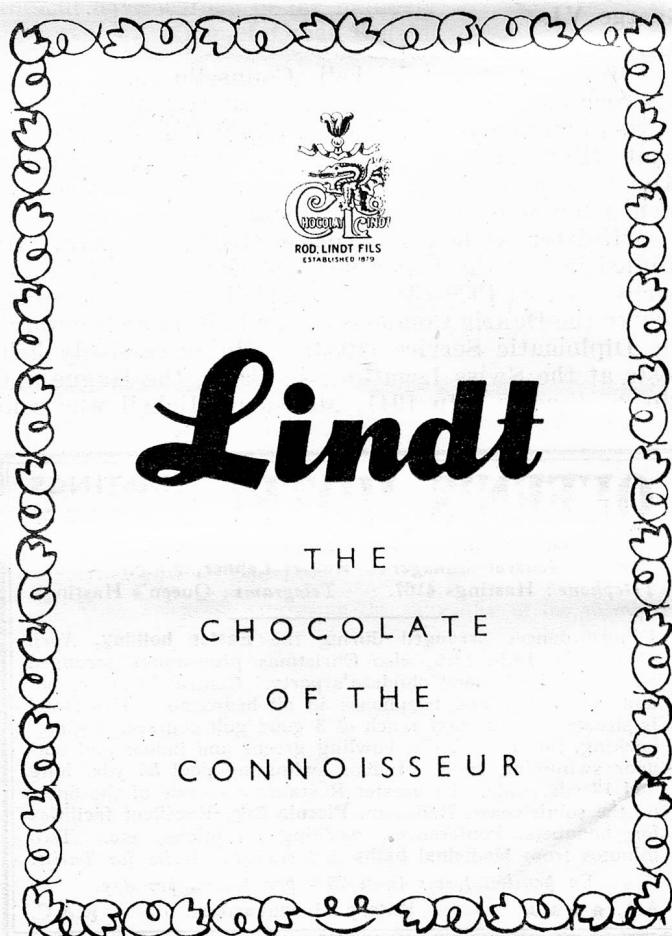
Konrad Keller-Künzler, from 1910-1919, "Gemeindehauptmann" of Walzenhausen, and from 1911-1919 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Appenzell A.Rh., in Walzenhausen, at the age of 75. The deceased was for 24 years a member of the government of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh.

Dr. med. Adolf Jann, a medical practitioner and for many years "Schulpräsident" of the commune of Altdorf, in Altdorf, aged 82.

Peter Seiler, Manager of the VSK., in Basle at the age of 47.

Marianne Gagnebin, author of a number of novels, amongst them "La part du destin" and schoolbooks. She also translated a great number of literary works; in Neuchâtel, aged 71.

Professor Otto Waser, until 1940, Professor of archaeology at the University of Zurich, and previous to the first world war, Editor of the art and literature



magazine "Die Schweiz", in Zurich, at the age of 82.

Pierre Dufour, from 1920-1946, a teacher of Physics at the Cantonal *Gymnasium* Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 71.

Carlo Boller, well-known composer and conductor, in Lausanne, at the age of 56.

Dr. Max Winkler, a well-known specialist of Dermatology, who practised for over 45 years in Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 77.

Hans Löw, senior partner of the firm "Löw Schuhfabriken und Gerberei, A.G." Amriswil, in Amriswil, at the age of 61.

Karl Scherrer, for 24 Years Editor of the "Rorschacher Zeitung" and author of various plays (Festspiele) in Rorschach, aged 56.

Dr. vet. Bruno Hübscher, for 25 years a well-known veterinary surgeon, practising in the Seetal, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Hochdorf, at the age of 69. [A.T.S.]

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1951:

Schweizerische Volksbank, Berne: 5 per cent (1950: 4½%); A. G. Leu, A.G., Zurich: 6 per cent (1950: 5%); Gewerbebank, Zurich: 5 per cent (1950: 5%); Schweizerische Spar & Kreditbank, St. Gall: 4½ per cent (1950 4½%); Solothurner Handelsbank: 6 per cent (1950: 5%); Bank in Burgdorf: 6 per cent (1950: 6%); Genossenschaftliche Zentral Bank, Basel: 4 per cent (1950: 4%); Leihkasse Neumünster, Zurich: 5 per cent (1950: 5%); Ersparnisanstalt Toggenburg, A.G., St. Gall: 5½ per cent (1950: 5%); Bündner Privatbank Chur: 4 per cent (1950: 4%); Schwei-

zerische Bodenkredit Anstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent (1950: 4½%); Gewerbekasse in Berne: 7 per cent (1950: 7%); Hypothekarkasse des Kantons Fribourg: 5 per cent (1950: 5%); Gewerbekasse, Baden: 5 per cent; Solothurnische Leihkasse, Solothurn: 6 per cent (1950: 5%); Credit Foncier Suisse, Zurich: 6 per cent (1950: 5½%); Handwerkerbank, Basel: 5 per cent (1950: 5%).

[A.T.S.]

The population of the following towns at the end of December, 1951, numbered: Fribourg: 28,988; Winterthur: 68,171; St. Gall: 69,252; Lausanne: 108,997.

On the 31st of December, 1951, the population of the canton of Neuchâtel was returned as 130,166.

[A.T.S.]

A tax on drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, was approved by the Swiss National Council, the lower House. The tax is to help pay for rearmament.

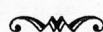
\* \* \*

The price of beer in Switzerland, at present about 7½d. per half-pint, has been increased from Feb. 1st by one penny a glass or bottle, irrespective of size. The increase is meant to help public-houses cover their rise in overhead expenses since the price was last raised in 1941.

\* \* \*

A four-engined DC-6 B, of the Swissair line, flew non-stop from New York to Geneva in 10 hours 24 minutes, a new record.

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