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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Sir Patrick Scrivener was received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne, where he submitted to M. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, his letters of credence as Ambassador of Britain.

Monsieur Victor Doré, formerly Canadian Minister, accredited to the Confederation, has presented his credentials as Ambassador to M. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Monsieur Luang Vichit Vadakan, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Kingdom of Thailand, has presented his credentials to Dr. Phillip Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation.

A career diplomat and historian, Monsieur Vadakan was until recently Thailand Ambassador in New Delhi.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Mr. Max Schwab "Direktionspräsident der Schweizerischen Verrechnungsstelle", Zurich thanking him for the services he has rendered. Mr. Robert Kohli has been appointed as his successor, who is at present Swiss Minister in Belgrade.

M. Kohli was born in 1896, and hails from Rüschegg (Ct. Berne). He entered into the service of the Confederation (Foreign Office) in 1918, and in 1941 was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. Monsieur Kohli was for several years a permanent member of the Swiss Delegation for foreign trade negotiations. In 1945, he was appointed Swiss Minister at the Hague, and since 1949, has held the post of Swiss Minister in Belgrade.

During March 1953, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.88 million passengers, which is 1.27 million less than during the same period in 1952. (Receipts 23.64 million francs; 1952: 24.46 million francs).

Goods traffic also shows a set-back, 1.60 million tons having been carried, which is 28,000 tons less than in March, 1952. (Receipts: 30.50 million francs, March; 1952: 31.25 million francs).

Customs Duties during the month of April, 1953, amounted to 58.8 million francs, which are 5.5 million francs more than in April, 1952.

During the first four months of the current year altogether 143.5 million francs have been collected, or 7.5 million francs more than during the same period in 1952.

Cantonal

The "Schweizerische Kaufmännische Verein" held its Annual General Meeting, which coincided with the 80th anniversary of its foundation, in Zurich. About 2,000 members attended, amongst them various Delegations from abroad. Federal-Councillor R. Rubattel was one of the official speakers. [A.T.S.]

The "Arms and Armour Society" of Great Britain has nominated Dr. Hugo Schneider, Conservator of the "Schweiz. Landesmuseum" Zurich, an Honorary Member. [A.T.S.]

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OMEGA

THE WORLD HAS LEARNED
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The "Glarner Landsgemeinde" took place in Glarus, and was attended by about 6,000 voters. Amongst the visitors were the members of the Government of the canton of Ticino *in corpore*, the President of the States Council, J. Schmucki, and the Mayor of the town of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt.

"Landammann" Dr. H. Heer, and all the seven members of the cantonal government were confirmed in their office. Dr. Heer was elected a member of the States Council (Ständerat) in succession to Melchior Hefti. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Wolfgang Pauli of Zurich has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society, distinguished for contributions to theoretical physics, in particular the formation of the exclusion principles. [A.T.S.]

As a result of the recently held elections, the following parties are represented in the "Kantonsrat", Solothurn: Liberals: 68 seats; Cath. Cons.: 35 seats; Socialists: 39 seats. The "Kantonsrat" numbers 142 members. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Paul Haefelin, since 1933 "Stadtammann" of the town of Solothurn is shortly retiring from his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

The Commercial University of St. Gall has honoured the following with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Dr. jur. Hermann Becker, formerly President of the Commercial Tribunal of St. Gall; Joh. Jak. Gabathuler, at one time a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall; Friedrich Hug, President of the "Kaufmännischen Directoriums" St. Gall, and National-Councillor, Dr. jur. Holenstein, lawyer, of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Jean Christinat, an inmate of the Old Peoples home at Chailly (Ct. Vaud) has reached the age of 100, the traditional easy chair was presented to him. [A.T.S.]

Karl Anthamatten (Conservative) has been nominated President of the government of the canton of Valais, and Marcel Gard (Liberal) its Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

Mgr. Adam, r.c. Bishop of Sitten has been nominated an honorary citizen of the town of Sitten, (Ct. Valais). [A.T.S.]

M. André Sandoz, (La Chaux-de-Fonds) has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Neuchâtel. He belongs to the Socialist party. [A.T.S.]

Army

Two recruits, fusileer Aenishaensli (Gelterkinden, Ct. Basle-County), and fusileer Stucki (Brünisried, Ct. Fribourg) attending the Infantry school of recruits were killed during shooting practice at the "Schiessplatz" Seltisberg near Liestal, when a rocket tube exploded. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Army is to form four groups of 2,700 men to man light tanks, and 33 infantry anti-tank companies are also to be formed.

The undermentioned deaths are reported from Switzerland :

Roger de Boccard, Justice of the Peace of the District of Marly (Ct. Fribourg). The deceased was for the last 25 years President of the commune of Pierrafortscha, and from 1926-1946, a member of the Grand Council. He died in Fribourg at the age of 75.

Edmund Wenninger, since 1922 Editor and from 1930, Editor-in-Chief of the "Tagesanzeiger" Zurich, in Zurich, aged 66.

Joseph Vogel, President of the Board of the "Blechwarenfabrik, J. Vogel, A.G.", Aesch and member of the Board of the "Basellandschaftlichen Hypothekenbank", in Aesch, at the age of 71.

Hans Buser, President of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-County, in Liestal, aged 43.

Xavier Neuhaus, President of the Saane Tribunal in Fribourg, at the age of 65.

Friedrich von Fischer, a former President of the "Burgerrat" of the town of Berne, and for several years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, in Berne, aged 88.

Dr. Carlo Diener, surgeon-in-chief of the cantonal hospital, Lugano, in Zurich.

Franz, Martin Hochstrasser, President of the "Einkaufsgenossenschaft USEGO" Olten, in Lucerne, at the age of 73.

Canon Alexis Abbet of the Abbey of Saint Maurice, for many years a teacher at the College of St. Maurice, in St. Maurice, aged 86. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following cantons have declared the balances of their accounts for 1952 :

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Fribourg | Debit balance | 1,110,500.—frs. |
| Basle-County ... | Credit balance | 2,900,000.—frs. |
| Basle-Town ... | Credit balance | 2,700,000.—frs. |

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press :

Edgar Vital (70) of Fetan (Ct. Grisons) a noted portrait and landscape painter.

Dr. Hermann Weilenmann (60) of Zurich, Director of the "Volkshochschule" of the canton of Zurich, and author of various works amongst them : "Die vielsprachige Schweiz—eine Lösung des Nationalitäten Problems", "Summer school of European Studies". In 1951, the University of Zurich bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned Legacies and Donations are published in Switzerland :

The late Michael Tossizza, a Greek, who had lived for many years in Lausanne has left the town of Lausanne a legacy amounting to 1,616,382.—frs for charitable purposes.

Mme. Rosa Lecoultrre, who died in 1952, at Lausanne has left an amount of 63,400.—frs. to a number of charitable institutions.

An anonymous donor has remitted to the government of the canton of Glarus the sum of 25,000.—frs. to be used at their discretion. This amount has been added to the Funds for incurable people.



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The recently deceased Mme. E. Anderegg-Gröbli has left to the "Evangelische Kirchgemeinde" Oberuzwil real estate to the value of 50,000.—frs.

The late Director Arthur Aebi of Niederurnen (Ct. Glarus) has left a legacy of 40,000.—frs. to the "Kirchgemeinde", Niederurnen.

The "Motor Columbus, A.G." in Baden has donated an amount 20,000.—frs. towards the Fund for a cantonal school in Baden. [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. K. Tempelmann of Berghaus Kulm, Uetliberg; Mr. & Mrs. H. Hübscher of Schaffhausen; Diamond wedding anniversary (60): Mr. & Mrs. K. Schmid-Sutter of Langnau a.A.; Mr. & Mrs. K. Gygler of Zug, Mr. & Mrs. J. U. Büchler-Berweger of Herisau. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Paul Ruegger, president of the international committee of the Red Cross has issued a message on the occasion of the observance throughout the world of the International Red Cross Day, which coincides with the 125th anniversary of the birth of its founder, Henri Dunant.

In a period when legal standards are lowered and the forces of destruction have doubled, Dr. Ruegger said the Red Cross can and should provide the additional spiritual element which can alone safeguard personal values and rights of the individual.

Three persons have been killed in the Alps recently. A party of members of the Swiss Alpine Club was rock climbing on Salbyschin, in Canton Uri, when a climber named Allemann, of Zürich, lost his balance. His companions held him until the rope broke and Mr. Allemann was killed after a vertical fall of 900ft. The body of Herr A. Ricker, of Düsseldorf, who had fallen during a solitary rock climbing expedition, was found on Pilatus near Lucerne, at the foot of a 600ft. rock wall. In Val d'Hérens, Canton Valais, an Italian worker was killed by an avalanche of stones.

The court at Basle sentenced to eight month's imprisonment M. Emil Arnold, a Swiss Communist M.P., who was found guilty of endangering the security of the Swiss Confederation by making false allegations in a speech delivered at the congress of Eastern European journalists in Budapest in May, 1951. He was also deprived of his civil rights for two years.

In its judgement the court recalled that Arnold had declared in Budapest that Switzerland was the centre of United States espionage in Europe, and that in particular the International Press Institute in Zurich and the headquarters of the Moral Rearmament Movement in Caux were used as the training ground for American spies. Arnold had also charged Switzerland with rearming excessively under American influence, and maintained that four thousand million Swiss francs (about £328 millions) were being spent on rearmament, an amount which is double the official figure.

The Mayor of Edmonton, London N.9, has invited a party of 50 Swiss youths (age between 14 and 20) to be the guests of the borough for a fortnight as from 30th May on the occasion of the coronation.

The "Corale Pro Ticino Zurigo" will participate in the "International Musical Eisteddfod" in Llangollen from July 7th to 12th.

Government-sponsored experimental television broadcasts in Switzerland are to be made during July and August and the first regular programmes are to start next winter. Mr. E. Weber, General Manager of the Swiss Post Office, has announced that Swiss industry has already undertaken the manufacture of good-quality TV. sets.

* * *

As in previous years, the popular Conducted Excursions from Swiss Stations will again be run during the coming season. The famous "Red — or Blue Arrow" railcars will be used for some tours, whereas the Alpine Passes are, of course, reserved for the modern yellow-painted coaches of the Swiss Postal Administration.

Vouchers for these excursions, the prices of which are extremely reasonable, and full particulars can be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office

* * *

So far, the organisers of the ninth International Music Festival in Geneva have received more than 600 requests for information from countries in all parts of the world, and many entries have already been received, although the closing date is not until July 15. The Festival itself will be held at the Geneva Conservatoire from September 21 to October 4.

* * *

It is announced that two of Switzerland's traditional annual events, the Narcissus Festival at Montreux and the open-air performances of Schiller's "William Tell" at Interlaken will not be held this year, but will be resumed in 1954. The Montreux

Tourist Office has already stated that the next Narcissus Festival will be held in June, 1954.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.
"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La maison Longines, se fondant sur les deux années d'expériences faites avec le nouveau chronomètre-caméra, qui a révolutionné la *mesure du temps*, vient de mettre au point un nouvel appareil qui présente une série de simplification et d'améliorations.

* * *

Le développement de la *technique médicale* a atteint en Suisse un point culminant. Les 21 maisons

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Le *train sur route*, une nouvelle construction Saurer facilite le remplacement des chemins de fer secondaires par des lignes d'autobus. Le nouveau véhicule représente un wagon complet pour 80 personnes avec leurs bagages. Une remorque sert au transport des marchandises.

* * *

La fabrique de wagons Schindler vient de commencer, à Barra do Parai, Etat de Rio-de-Janeiro, la construction d'une fonderie avec ateliers pour la fabrication de voitures de chemins de fer.

* * *

On vient de créer pour l'armée suisse une nouvelle boulangerie de campagne mobile, fonctionnant indifféremment au mazout, au bois ou au charbon. Elle peut livrer en 24 heures 4,200 rations de 500 grammes de pain.

En 1951 et 1952, on a présenté aux Etats-Unis et au Canada 169 œuvres de compositeurs suisses. Les compositeurs les plus joués ont été Arthur Honegger, Frank Martin, Conrad Beck et Willy Burkhard.

* * *

Le pianiste suisse Paul Baumgartner a donné en Yougoslavie une série de récitals qui ont connu partout le plus vif succès.

* * *

Avec ses 60 instructeurs permanents, l'école de ski de Davos est devenue l'une des plus grandes du monde. En 20 ans d'existence, elle a déjà donné 600,000 leçons.



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