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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

On the occasion of the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, Monsieur Philipp Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation has sent the following telegram to H.M.

"A Sa Majesté la Reine Elizabeth II, Londres. Au moment où le Royaume-Uni et le Commonwealth s'apprentent à célébrer le Couronnement de Votre Majesté je suis heureux de lui adresser les vives félicitations du Conseil fédéral et du peuple suisse. Je prie également Votre Majesté de recevoir les vœux chaleureux que nous formons pour son bonheur et l'heureux accomplissement de son Règne.

*Philipp Etter,  
Président de la Confédération suisse.*

The Swiss Government has demanded the recall of M. Josef Svarc, Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires in Berne.

On the occasion of the Czechoslovak national day, he gave a party at which the Federal Council was represented by the Chancellor. Amongst the invited guests was Mr. E. Arnold, a communist member of Parliament (National Council), who recently was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and loss of civic rights for two years by the Federal Supreme Court for having attacked the Government in foreign newspapers and acted in such a manner as to endanger the national security.

The Federal Council considering it particularly objectionable that a diplomatist should invite a Swiss citizen sentenced for an offence against the country, and cause him to meet the Government's representative, has asked for the recall of the diplomatic representative, who is no longer regarded as *persona grata*.

The new Papal Nuntius, Mgr. Gustavo Testa has presented his letters of credence to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

He was born in 1886, and was Archbishop of Amasya, and afterwards Apostolic Legate in Jerusalem.

Monsieur Karl Wildmann, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Austria, who is shortly vacating his post, has given a fare-well reception at the Austrian Legation in Berne. Amongst the guests were Federal-Councillors Petitpierre and Feldmann, the Chancellor of the Confederation, the President of the Bernese Government, representatives of the army, and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of India, Monsieur Yezdezard Dinshaw Gundevia, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Ph. Etter, and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

After having occupied various posts in the Indian Civil Service, he had been since 1950 attached to the Indian Embassy at Moscow.

Federal-Judge, Dr. Paul Logoz, has tendered his resignation as a member of the Federal Supreme Court to take effect in September of this year.

Dr. Logoz was born in Vevey in 1888, and is a citizen of Goumoens and Geneva. He was from 1921-1924 a member of the Appeal Court, Geneva, and from 1935-1947 a member of the Federal Military Appeal Court. He was a Member of Parliament (National Council) from 1925-1942. He entered the Federal Supreme Court in 1942 in succession to Federal Judge Robert Fazy.

Mr. D. Hammarkjöld, General Secretary of UNO, has paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Council. The President of the Swiss Confederation offered a luncheon to the distinguished visitor.

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During the month of April, 1953, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 19.33 million passengers which are 1.29 million more than in April 1952. Receipts 27.07 million francs. (April, 1952.: 25.28 million francs).

Goods traffic shows a decline of 37,000 tons, over last year's figures, 1.49 million tons having been carried.

Mr. Paul Kradolfer, General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council for reasons of health.

The Italian Ambassador, Monsieur Egido Reale, paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Fribourg. At the Banquet which was offered to the Ambassador, the latter handed over a number of Italian books of art for the cantonal library.

### Cantonal

Leading representatives of the hotel industry and tourist trade from 30 countries attended the opening of the General Congress of the International Hotel Association in Lucerne.

Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation addressed the congress and conveyed the greetings of the Federal Council to its members.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Duncan Sandys, the British Minister of Supply, will open a 10 day British "Coronation" festival at Zurich on June 19th. [A.T.S.]

Dr. J. Düblin (BGP) has been elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, and Dr. E. Jselin (Lib.) was nominated "Statthalter".

Dr. C. Peter (Cath.) has been nominated President of the cantonal Government, and Dr. P. Zschokke (Lib.) its Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Wenk, (Soc.), who for the last 28 years was a member of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town, has vacated his post. He is succeeded by Professor H. P. Tschudi. [A.T.S.]

The recently deceased Dr. Charles Müller, medical practitioner in Rorschach, has left an amount of 50,000.— frs. each to the communes of Goldach, Thonez and Morges for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Willi Stähelin (K.K.) Frauenfeld has been nominated President of the Government of the canton of Thurgau, and Dr. A. Roth (Soc.) Frauenfeld its Vice-President. Dr. J. Plattner (K.K.) Weinfelden has been appointed President of the Superior Court of the canton of Thurgau, and Dr. E. Böckli, President of the Tribunal Kreuzlingen, was elected a member of the Superior Court. [A.T.S.]

The 150th anniversary of the canton of Ticino reaching its autonomy was celebrated in Bellinzona. Amongst the large number of guests who attended the celebrations were: Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillors Rubattel and Feldmann, the Presidents of the Federal Parliament, Schmucki and Hohenstein, representatives of all the cantons, the Federal Supreme Court, the army, the church and the Italian Ambassador in Berne. Dr. Etter spoke at the official banquet. [A.T.S.]

The 16 million francs issue at 3 per cent of the canton of Geneva has been over subscribed. [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Heinrich Kleinert, rector of the Municipal Girls School, Berne, in Berne at the age of 59.

Léo Mingif, a former President of the District Court Leuk, and Vice-President of the "Walliser Kantonalbank" in Leuk, aged 73.

Professor Francois Ruchon, Editor of the paper "Genevois", and author, in Geneva at the age of 56.


Ernst Buess-Joliot, President of the commune of Prattelen, and a member of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-County, in Prattelen, aged 61.

Adolf Gwerder-Suter, for many years President of the commune Muotathal, postmaster in Muotathal, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz and the cantonal Tribunal, in Muotathal, at the age of 58.

Hector Bron, veterinary surgeon, in Lutry, aged 55. The deceased was the founder of the "Fédération vaudoise des jeunesse compagnards" and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud over which he presided in 1950/51.

Dr. Walter Utzinger, a former rector of the Girls School Schaffhausen, and afterwards head of the Schaffhausen Municipal Library, in Schaffhausen at the age of 77.

Dr. Max Hammer, head of the "Personal Dienstes der Generaldirektion PTT," in Berne, aged 40.



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Mgr. Dr. Carl Bossart, from 1912-1950 a priest at St. Paul's Church, Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 77.

Karl Itschner, landscape painter and for many years drawing master at the Küssnacht Seminary (Zurich), in Solothurn, aged 85.

Joseph Bühler-Scherer. President of the Board of the firm of Scherer & Bühler, A.G. Meggen, and from 1941-1947, a member of the Municipal Council of Lucerne. The deceased was from 1934-1948, President of the Swiss "Weinhandels-Importeure", he died in Zurich at the age of 69.

Dr. med. Alberto Pelli, for 50 years a medical practitioner in Lugano, and at one time Director of the clinic of Monucco. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following anniversaries are announced in the Swiss Press:

Dr. Maurice Muret (90) Lausanne, from 1903-1926, Professor of gynaecology at the University of Lausanne, and author of a number of works on medical science.

Dr. Emil Ermatinger (80) Zurich. In 1909 he occupied the post of Professor of German literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and from 1822-1943, he was Professor of German literature at the University of Zurich.

Dr. h.c. Benedikt Hartmann (80) Schiers, from 1918-1926 Director of the "Evangelischen Lehranstalt" Schiers, and afterwards a teacher at the "Bündner Kantonsschule" Chur. The University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. E. Sonderegger-Jucker of Herisau; Mr. & Mrs. G. Kunz-Gehring of Arbon, Mr. & Mrs. H. Schellenberg-Hörler of Wädenswil; Mr. & Mrs. J. Duvanel-Schmidt of Le Locle.

Mr. & Mrs. F. Schiess-Fischbacher of Winkeln (Ct. St. Gall) and Mr. & Mrs. Häsenberger-Bräker of Krummenau (Toggenburg) have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva is to spend £1,600,000 on houses and farm implements for Holland's flood victims.

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The Federal "Schwing & Aelplerfest" will take place in Winterthur on August 8-9th. [A.T.S.]

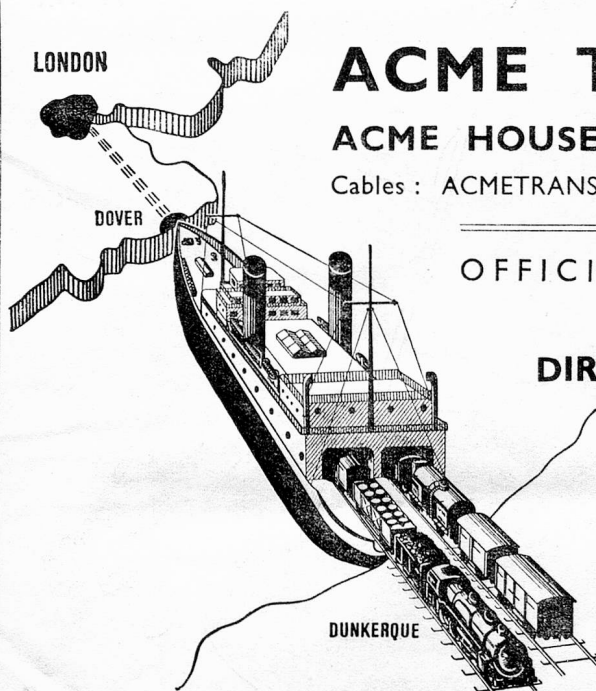
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As in previous years, visitors to Switzerland will again be offered an exciting selection of conducted excursions from principal tourist centres.

Lucerne, for instance, is the starting point of the unforgettable trip by the sleek "Red Arrow" rail-car through the grand scenery of the St. Gotthard approaches, down to Lugano in Southern Switzerland. Other popular excursions are: the Rhine Falls, Rosenluis and Rhône Glacier.

Four-Passes Tours are arranged from Lugano and Locarno, whereas the Blue Lake near Kandersteg and Interlaken will be regularly visited from Geneva, Lausanne, Montreux and Vevey.

Interlaken has prepared a busy programme for its famous "Blue Arrow" rail-car. Every Tuesday and



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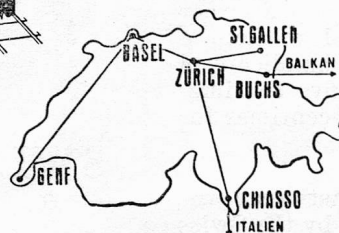
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Thursday (until Sept. 24th) Stresa and its beautiful islands in Northern Italy will attract happy holiday makers from the Bernese Oberland for one more memorable experience. On Wednesday the round trip Berne-Montreux-Valais-Loetschberg will be no less popular. There is no doubt that Zermatt and Gornergrat (Tuesday), which have been added to this tempting list for the first time this year, will prove a successful venture.

A twice-weekly Four Pass Alpine Tour (Ofenberg, Umbrail, Stelvio and Bernina) and Three Country Trip (Switzerland, Italy and Austria), as well as the excursion to the Weissfluhjoch (by rail, alpine motor coach, funicular and chair hoist) is organised by the Rhaetian Railways and the Swiss Alpine Postal Coach Service for visitors to the Engadine resorts such as Sils-Maria, St. Moritz, Pontresina, Zuz, etc.

Davos and Klosters are rounding off the grand programme with a Five Passes Alpine Tour (Fluela, Ofenberg, Umbrail, Stelvio and Bernina) and the Albula-Bernina-Julier Tour.

Prepaid vouchers and full particulars can be obtained from principal Travel Agents or the Swiss National Tourist Office. The respective amount, however, is in most cases chargeable against the basic allowance.

\* \* \*

The Swiss holiday resort of Lausanne expects to be host to between 70,000 and 75,000 visitors between July 8th and 25th next year when the Federal Shooting Festival will be held near the town. The organisers of this, one of Switzerland's greatest patriotic and sporting events, after considering a number of sites for the 1954 festival, finally chose Ecublens, between Lausanne and Morges on the northern shore of Lake Geneva. The competitions will take place in a vast natural amphitheatre. Ecublens is easily accessible for visitors travelling by both rail and road.

\* \* \*

This year, as in the past, Switzerland's national festival on August 1st will be commemorated by the issue of a series of five new postage stamps. They will be obtainable in all Swiss post offices between June 1st and August 31st, or from the Philatelic Service of the Swiss Postal Administration in Berne from June 1st to Sept. 15th.

The five-centime stamp is devoted to the 600th anniversary of the entry of Berne into the Swiss Confederation. Those of 10, 20, 30 and 40 centimes are an addition to the series, introduced last year, on Swiss lakes and rivers. The Schoellenen Bridge over the River Reuss, in the St. Gotthard massif, goes on the 10-centime stamp. The 20-centime stamp shows the Lake of Sihl in the Canton of Schwyz. On the 30-centime is a Valaisan bisse, an ancient (though still in general use) irrigation trough. The Lake of Geneva is pictured on the 40-centime stamps. Additions to the face value of the stamps are to go this year towards Swiss people living abroad and to help a scheme for assisting professionally handicapped citizens. These supplements amount to five centimes in the case of the Bernese stamp and ten centimes for each of the others.

\* \* \*

Between January and December last year the total of passengers carried in coaches run by the Swiss Postal Administration, in all parts of the country,

rose to 21,614,988 — 1,350,000 more than in 1951, when the total was 20,264,920.

\* \* \*

More than a million telephones were in use in Switzerland last year, or roughly one telephone for every fourth inhabitant. The number of calls made during the year reached 737M (704M in 1951). Of these, 57 per cent were local calls, 41.7 per cent calls to other parts of the country, and 1.3 per cent international calls.

Almost the whole of Switzerland's extensive telephone network is now automatic. Places converted to the completely automatic system last year were Wil, Schwyz and St. Moritz (which, with its average of 98 phones for every 100 inhabitants, holds the world record for telephonic density).

\* \* \*

The Swiss Foundation for Alpine Exploration at Zürich has announced that in conjunction with the North American Arctic Institute it will send four Swiss scientists to Baffin Land to continue the researches started by the American-Swiss expedition in 1950. The leader of the expedition is Colonel Baird, of the Arctic Institute, and the members will be British, American, and Canadian scientists accompanied by four Swiss: M. Hans Roetlisberger, Dr. Fritz Schwarzenbach, M. Jürg Marmet, and M. Jean Weber, an engineer.

Another expedition to the Himalayas is also being sponsored by the Zürich Foundation. It will consist



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of two Swiss entomologists — Mr. Fernand Schmidt, assistant at the Lausanne Museum of Zoology, and Professor Jacques Buetiger, of Ballaigues — who are to spend 18 months in the Himalayas studying insects.

Arsenal beat the Grasshopper Club of Zurich 2-1 in Zurich. Half-time score was 1-1. Holton scored Arsenal's goals.

The Swiss air guard which was created last year and whose staff — doctors, nurses, and first aid volunteers — were trained as parachutists by the R.A.F. at Abingdon last summer, had their first full-dress rehearsal in the high Alps. Three members of the air guard were dropped by two aircraft on Kanderfirn at about 300 yards from the Mutthorn hut at 9,710ft.

The parachuting was completed without any difficulty and it was ascertained that at that height parachuting speed was similar to that at low levels. The purpose of the air guard is to help in rescuing injured or marooned climbers. Parachuting has to be from aeroplanes because helicopters, which would be most useful, cannot climb safely to such altitudes.

The preliminary programme of the Lucerne Music Festival which is one of the highlights of the musical year in Europe, has now been published. It shows that the festival, which is taking place from August 8 to 30, will include eight symphony concerts. The list of conductors includes world-famous names like Wilhelm Furtwängler, Victor de Sabata, Igor Markevitch, Herbert von Karajan, Rafael Kubelik and Guido Cantelli. The soloists will be Géza Anda (piano), Nathan Milstein (violin), Wilhelm Backhaus (piano) and Edwin Fischer (piano). Lucerne's own Festival Orchestra will play in the first six concerts, while the orchestra of La Scala (Milan) has been engaged for the seventh and eighth concerts.

This year's Festival programme is of exceptional interest. There will also be chamber music concerts and serenades, and special courses for players of different instruments will be given at the Lucerne Conservatoire. In addition, the organisers are planning five performances of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro".

According to a report submitted to the Swiss Government, net receipts from the gaming rooms of 16 casinos open in Switzerland last year totalled 2,800,00 Swiss francs. That is 400,000 francs more than in 1951.

Until September 30th the Palace of Nations in Geneva, the European offices of the United Nations, will be open to the public. Visiting hours will be 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. On Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays the doors will be closed at 4.30 p.m. Admission is 75 centimes (1s.3d), or 30 centimes (6d) for children and members of the forces. Visitors can buy UN publications and stamps, and a variety of free booklets and posters dealing with the world-wide activities of UN are also available. There are also official guides to carry out conducted tours. Non-Governmental organisations, schools, universities and similar bodies can organise group visits, and for their benefit talks can be arranged by UN officials, as well as special film shows.



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