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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Ludvik Svoboda has been appointed Czechoslovak Minister to Switzerland. The post has been vacant since June 1953, when the former Chargé d'Affaires, M. Josef Svare, was recalled, as the Swiss Government regarded him as no longer *personna grata*.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Josef Kurmann to the post of Swiss Consul in Hong Kong.

Consul Kurmann was born in 1911 at Hergiswil, and is a citizen of Alberswil and Willisau-Land. (Ct. Lucerne). He studied law at the Universities of Louvain and Fribourg. In 1942, he entered the service of the Federal Political Department, and four years later (1946) was sent to Warsaw, with promotion to the grade of Secretary of Legation, 2nd class; on his return to Berne in 1949, Kurmann was promoted to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation. Since 1951, he has been a member of the Swiss Delegation in Berlin.

The Swiss Delegation for Korea, numbering twenty, under the leadership of Divisional-Colonel Rihner has left the airport at Kloten on their journey to Korea via Tokio, where it will stand by to take up duties on the four-Power neutral nations armistice commission.

Amongst the Delegation is Major Fred Bieri, who is well-known in the Swiss Colony in London, having been, during the last war, a delegate of the International Red Cross in London.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in the month of May, 1953, 17.50 million passengers, or 2 million more than in May, 1952. (Receipts 26.20 million francs; (May 1952: 23.22 million francs).

Goods traffic registered 1.56 million tons carried, or 150,000 tons less than at the same period last year. (Receipts 32.04 million francs; May 1952: 33.32 million francs).

Cantonal

The new apostolic nuncio in Berne, Mgr. Gustavo Testa, has paid an official visit to the College "Mariahilf" in Schwyz.

He was offered a luncheon by the government of the canton of Schwyz during which he was welcomed by the "Landammann", Dr. R. Sidler. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Elisabeth Wildi, a patient at the "Diakoniehaus" Erlenhof (Ct. Zurich) has celebrated

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

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2.45 to 5.15 p.m. (Doors open at 2.p.m.)
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See Note on Page 6976
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RELIGIOUS SERVICES: on Sunday 2nd of August.

Joint Protestant Service in French and German at 11 a.m.
at Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Catholic Service at 11 a.m. Solemn Mass, and Sermon in
French and English at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard
Street, S.W.1.

her 103rd birthday anniversary, she is still enjoying good health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

“British Festival” — a two-word title with which everybody in Zürich has become familiarised in the last few days by posters and newsreels, press and radio, describes exactly a group of extremely interesting events held in June, designed to cement the traditional friendship and promote the mutual trade between the British and Swiss peoples, aided by the cordial support of the governments and the economic and cultural organisations of the two countries.

Among the most conspicuous items of the programme is the exhibition “Made in England,” organised by the British Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland, at which 130 British firms displayed products typical for their superlative quality and superb precision — from jet engines, machine tools and milling machines to textiles, television sets and books. No other foreign Chamber in Switzerland has ever ventured to organise an exhibition on this scale. Another exhibition, organised by the British Council, named “Formschaffen in England” (“British Industrial Design”) held in the Museum of Applied Art, Zürich, consists of an ingeniously arranged display of new British designs in fabrics, china, glass, household utensils, basket ware, fishing tackle and even sailing boats made of plastics. Both of these exhibitions have drawn thousands of keenly interested businessmen and sightseers.

Besides that, Zürich cinemas are displaying British films, Zürich theatres are staging British plays, and Zürich concert halls are offering British music. Two London buses are plying regularly for trade with notable success along Zürich’s chief thoroughfares, and the Band of the 1st Dragoon Guards have given many performances of British popular airs.

Indicative of the deep significance attached by the authorities of both countries to this Anglo-Swiss demonstration are the numerous public speeches made by the British Minister of Supply, Mr. Duncan Sandys, the British Ambassador to Switzerland, Sir Patrick Scrivener, and two Swiss Federal Councillors, Rübattel and Weber, at events attended by many prominent British and Swiss leaders of industry, commerce and banking.

At the lunch given by the British Chamber of Commerce on June 20, Mr. Duncan Sandys, opening the “Made in England” Exhibition, said:

“Yesterday is was my privilege to inaugurate the impressive British Festival here in Zürich. . . . We all greatly admire the way in which you in Switzerland have solved your economic problems. Through hard work, skill and enterpris, you have achieved a level of prosperity and contentment which is the envy of the world. . . .

“Selling goods in Switzerland is, of course, not an easy matter, for every other country is trying to do the same. Here among the Swiss mountains, traders from all over the world meet the keen air of competition.

“But British industry has never been afraid of competition. It thrives on it. We know that our economic existence depends upon holding our own on equal terms with the industries of other countries. We realise also that artificial restrictions are harmful. In the long run, they are harmful even to those

whom they are designed to benefit, because they encourage inefficiency and artificially divert the flow of trade into less economic channels.

“The fact that an article can be sold in Switzerland is in itself a testimonial. For you Swiss are very exacting customers. You insist on high quality and reject what is inferior. Worst of all, you insist on getting value for your money.

“We are therefore most gratified by the way in which the sale of British goods to Switzerland has risen in recent years. Although there was some decline in 1952, none the less British exports to Switzerland are nearly three times greater than before the war. Our export trade with other countries has, of course, been expanding also, but the increase in our exports to Switzerland has been nearly twice as great as the increase in our exports to the world as a whole.”

* * *

On the occasion of the Jubilee celebrations the government of the canton of Berne held a reception at the Town Hall in honour of the Diplomats accredited to the Confederation. Amongst the guests were several Federal Councillors, members of the cantonal government, and members of Parliament. Later on the guests attended a performance of the Festival play, “Hie Bern, Ilic Eidgenossenschaft”.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The “Académie Française” has awarded the “Prix Guizot” to M. Pierre-Henri Simon, Professor at the University of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

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Mr. Robert Kurt (rad.), President of the Court of Solothurn, has been elected "Stadtammann" of Solothurn, and Mr. Robert Strüby (rad.) was elected "Statthalter". [A.T.S.]

Marino Bodenmann (communist) is succeeding, Emil Arnold, who has recently been condemned to eight months imprisonment, to the seat in the National Council, during Arnold's "absence".

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Fritz Weiss has been appointed rector of the "Realgymnasium", Basle, in succession to Dr. Max Meier, who has retired for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

Mme Elisabeth Haller-Kuhn has celebrated her 101st birthday anniversary in Rorschacherberg. (Ct. St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

The 150th anniversary of the entry of the canton of Thurgau into the Confederation was celebrated in the cantonal capital of Frauenfeld.

Dr. W. Stähelin, President of the government of the canton of Thurgau, welcomed the numerous guests at a luncheon at the "Militärkantine", amongst them being, Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal-Councillors Kobelt and Feldmann, delegations from the two Federal Chambers, representatives of the army and of various federal institutions.

A historical procession wended its way through the gaily beflagged streets of the town, watched by a large crowd.

Dr. Etter, in a patriotic oration brought greetings of the Federal-Council and the Swiss population.

[A.T.S.]

To celebrate the Centenary of the "Ecole Polytechnique" of the University of Lausanne, the following were honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*:

Mme. Cécile Roy-Pochon, Paris François Michel Cahen, Professor at the "Ecole supérieure d'électricité", Paris, Auguste Chevalley, chief-engineer, Monthey, Eric Choisy, Central President of the Swiss engineers and architects Association, Geneva, G. Colonetti, Professor at the "Polytechnikum", Turin, Henry Favre, Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Hans Harry, "Eidg. Vermessungsdirektor", Berne, Alphonse Laverrière, architect, Lausanne, André Mairesse, Paris, Franz Tank, Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Friedrich Tölke, Professor at the "Polytechnikum", Stuttgart, and Arthur Wilhelm, President of the "Schweizerischen Gesellschaft für Chemische Industrie."

[A.T.S.]

Dr. Georges Jaccard, since 1947 a medical practitioner in Nyon, has been nominated chief of the health service of Lausanne, in succession to Dr. Fr. Messerli. [A.T.S.]

Marcel Blanc, the former Manager of the "Midget Watch Co. A.G." Neuchâtel, who, a few weeks ago disappeared, was arrested by the French police in Pontarlier.

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He has been handed over to the Swiss authorities, and will be charged with the embezzlement of a large sum of money. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. h.c. Robert Sulzer, in Winterthur at the age of 81.

The deceased was for over 50 years connected with the Gebr. Sulzer concern, of which for many years he was the managing-director, and since 1914, a member of the Board of the "Sulzeruntenehmungen, A.G." and "Gebrüder Sulzer, A.G.", Winterthur.

The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich honoured him in 1914, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Adolf Jöhr, President of the Board of the "Crédit Suisse", Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 75.

Born in 1878, he received his early education at Berne College and later studied at the University there and in Berlin and Paris. He joined the staff of the Swiss Federal Railways in 1901 and his progress was so rapid that he was appointed general secretary before he was 30 years of age. In 1915, his reputation was such that he was invited to become the general manager of the Swiss National Bank and after some three years in the post he joined as joint general manager the "Crédit Suisse", where he served for the remainder of his life, as chairman and then as president.

Max Zeltner, since 1928, head of the "Landesziehungsheim, Albisbrunn (Ct. Zurich), in Zurich, aged 58.

Maurice Lustenberger-Waller, a former Chairman of the Board of the firm "Lustenberger & Dürst, A.G." Cheese exporters, of the "Käse Union", and "Alpina, Käse, A.G., Burgdorf" in Cham, at the age of 82.

Henri Heer-Dutoit, Industrialist, in Lausanne, aged 80.

The deceased was from 1920-1943, a member of the District Court of Lausanne.

Mme. Rosa Clemente-Lepori, author, and for many years a teacher at the *Gymnasium* Lugano, in Lugano.

Professor Paul Valette, at one time Professor of Latin literature and language at the University of Lausanne, in Paris, at the age of 81.

Raoul Campiche, keeper of the archives, in Nyon, aged 74.

Otto Christian Fischbacher, senior partner of the

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"Baumwollfabrikationsfirma Ch. Fischbacher & Co.", St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 80.

August Lutz, a former administrator of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung". The deceased played for many years an important role in the "Schweiz Kaufm. Verein". He was for 16 years "Zentral-Präsident", and in recognition for his eminent services rendered to the S.K.V. he was nominated Honorary President of this Society.

Fernand Barth, Pastor of the "Eglise Libre", Montreux, in Montreux, at the age of 79.

Charles d'Eternod, author, in Geneva, aged 63.

Marcel Poncet, a well-known painter of stained glass windows, in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mme. Wilhelmina Riegg of Eichberg (Ct. St. Gall) has left an amount of 15,500.— frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

The International Theatre prize Geneva-Lausanne has been awarded to Claude Baldy of Paris, for his work "Si vous aimez ceux qui vous aiment."

There were 537 scripts sent in. The first performance of the play will be given in Lausanne in January next, and afterwards at Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. P. Eichenberger-Zaugg, of Goldbach, (Ct. Berne), and Mr. & Mrs. André Baillod-Kehrli of Le Locle. [A.T.S.]

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ANOTHER OF NESTLÉ'S GOOD THINGS

91.AA

Hugo Kobelt (Switzerland) won the 1953 Tour de Suisse cycling race covering the 1,100 miles in 50h. 22min. 11sec.

The final lap of 153 miles, from St. Moritz to Zürich was raced in torrential rain and thunderstorms, but Kobelt, who had been about five minutes ahead of his nearest rival, managed to treble his advantage.

Kobelt now goes on for the Tour de France, one of cycling's greatest races, and is strongly fancied to win.

* * *

The results of the Nuclear Research referendum in the Canton of Geneva show that the voters, by an unexpectedly large majority, have rejected a move sponsored by the Communist Party, but supported by a number of non-Communists, aiming at prohibiting the establishment at Geneva of a European nuclear research laboratory.

Of the 61,324 male citizens who had the right to vote, 24,571 went to the polls; 7,332 supported the proposed ban, while 17,239 went on record as welcoming the initiative of the European Nuclear Research Council in locating the laboratory near Geneva.

* * *

The jury of Berlin's third International Film Festival, have awarded the David O. Selznick Prize for 1953 for the Swiss film 'They Found a Home,' describing life in the Pestalozzi village in the Swiss mountains. The film is a joint production and was directed by Dr. Leopold Lindtberg. The David O. Selznick Prize is given for European films that have

done most to promote international understanding and goodwill between the peoples of the free world.

The same film was awarded the third of three prizes which are distributed at the festival according to the votes of filmgoers.

* * *

The Swiss banking group which handled the issue of the 3½ per cent. Frs.50m. World Bank loan from June 10 to 16 reports that the operation was fully successful. The loan was substantially oversubscribed and applications received will not be fully met.

* * *

The National Council for the Promotion of Science has allotted £4,000 to each of the nine Swiss universities. The money will be used to provide scholarships for young scientists.

* * *

The Pope has made a gift of 10,000 dollars (about £3,570) to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

* * *

The Swiss authorities claim to have discovered a "sixth column" network in Geneva. Mr. Paul Moroge, the managing director of "Arba Ltd." has been arrested on charges of issuing forged Swiss import licences to certain Western exporters who had thereby been enabled to obtain export licences from their respective Governments for strategic materials, which were then transhipped behind the Iron Curtain.

The prompt action taken by the Swiss authorities proves once again that Switzerland is bent on maintaining a scrupulous policy of neutrality in the field of international trade. According to a statement issued in Berne by the Federal Ministry for Public Affairs, Mr. Moroge is alleged to have obtained genuine import-liscence forms to which he attached forged stamps and signatures.

By a decree dated January 30, 1951, the Swiss Federal Government introduced import licences in order to safeguard the necessary supplies for the national economy, since the Western countries had refused to authorise the export of strategic goods, including non-ferrous metals, unless an official certificate was issued testifying that the imported materials would not be re-exported. The management board of "Arba Ltd." denied any knowledge of the alleged frauds of its managing director.

* * *

Switzerland has had a record asparagus harvest. In the Valais alone 11,132,000lb. of asparagus were collected.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will Members please note that no Meetings are to be held during July and August.

They will be advised in due course of the resumption of our activities in September next.

THE COMMITTEE.



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