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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 Federal President Philip Etter sent the following telegram to the King of Greece:—

“The news of the Earthquake, which affected some parts of Greece has caused deep distress in our country. On behalf of the Federal Council I extend to Your Majesty our sympathy for the grief and suffering which has overtaken the Greek people.

[A.T.S.]

The Swiss Red Cross informs us that the Federal Council has handed to them the sum of Fr. 25,000.—to enable the continuation of aid for the victims of the earthquake in Greece. Thanks to this donation the Swiss Red Cross will be able to send bed-sheets and soap in much larger quantities to the Greek Red Cross.

As already announced, monetary donations can be transmitted to the Post office cheque account III 4200 (Swiss Red Cross, Berne “Aid to Greece”) and will be thankfully received. These donations will enable further assistance to the afflicted and will also make reconstruction possible. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council nominated Eduard de Haller an extraordinary Envoy and Minister plenipotentiary of the Confederation in Moscow. de Haller is the successor of Minister Gorgé.

Minister de Haller was born in Cologny (Geneva) in 1897 and is a citizen of Berne. He concluded his academic studies in Zurich and Geneva as licenciate of jurisprudence. From 1921-23, he was Secretary to the President of the Port and shipping Council of Danzig. Afterwards up to 1926, General Secretary of the mixed Commission of the exchange of inhabitants between Greece and Turkey at Athens, Istanbul and Ancara. After this, Minister de Haller was active in the former League of Nations until 1940, in which year he entered the International Committee of the Red Cross. Later he was nominated a delegate of the Federal Council for international relief works,

which is attached to the political Department. In 1948 he was extraordinary Envoy and Minister plenipotentiary of Switzerland in Norway and in which capacity he was also accredited to Iceland.

* * *

The extraordinary Envoy and Minister plenipotentiary of Austria, Nicolas Schleinitz-Prokesch, was received in audience at the Federal Palais at noon on August 20th by Federal President Philipp Etter and Federal Councillor Josef Escher, Director of Post and Railway Department, in order to present his credentials.

As a professional diplomat, Minister Schleinitz-Prokesch was active in Italy, Czecho-slovakia and in Spain. Lately he directed an important Department at the Austrian Foreign Office.

* * *

The Federal Council elected Mr. Ludwig Schnurrenberger from Zurich as the new director of the postal district of Aarau. The newly elected director, born in 1900 was until now Inspector I class at the directorate general of the P.T.T.

* * *

According to reports by the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva the national Red Cross Societies of seventeen countries have in the course of a week sent to the victims of the earthquake in the Ionian Islands, donations to the value of over half a million dollars. Thanks to the help of military pilots and of civil air organizations, the greater part of these donations have already reached Greece. The response of the League's appeal on August 13th for blankets, tents, Antibiotica and dressing materials enabled them to satisfy these necessities to a large extent. The various

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member societies of the League are at present occupied in preparing a consignment of bleached and raw cotton for the manufacture of bed-sheets, pillow cases etc. Sugar, condensed milk, hurricane-lamps, camp-beds, crockery, soap, sedatives and biscuits are also included in the consignment.

Cantonal

On August 22nd, the canton of St. Gall celebrated its 150th anniversary of its existence as a canton. To be correct, however, this is the second part of the festivities, as the Grand Council of the canton had already had its festival meeting, on 15th April last.

Bonfires on the heights and the tolling of bells throughout the canton introduced the festivities on Friday evening. Federal President Etter and Federal Councillors Kobelt and Weber represented the Federal Council. On Saturday, a procession of some 700 guests of honour proceeded to the Klosterhof, where Landamman P. Mueller and Federal President Etter addressed the assembled population, after which the St. Gall Festival play was performed, written by Georg Thuerer, the musical part emanated from the St. Gall composer Paul Huber. It was produced by the director of the St. Gall municipal theatre Dr. K. G. Kaehler.

This was followed by a Luncheon given to the guests of honour under the chairmanship of the President of the St. Gall Grand Council, Dr. Maedy. On behalf of the Federal States, the President of the Government of the Grisons, Theuss replied to this toast and on behalf of the Swiss abroad, Dr. V. Nef, the Minister in Canada spoke.

In the afternoon a procession of some 4000 participants from all over the canton took place, which in its first section represented the motto "The multifariousness of the localities and valleys and their combination" and in the second part the "foundation of the canton and the consequent development thereof". The evening ended with public festivities entitled "St. Galle emol anderscht".

On August 8th and 9th trials were made on the airfield of Bleichenbach near Langenthal by a Swiss private aircraft, on the instigation of German citizens from Munich and Bonn, to influence the voting by loudspeakers and trail-banners, in favour of the Christian Democratic Union party and Dr. Adenauer. No permission for such trials was ever given, although such assertion is made by the Swiss pilot concerned. Therefore any such flight would be prohibited by the Police commander of the canton of Berne.

The whole affair has been handed over to the federal authorities for further clarification and particularly to prevent similar incidents. According to the federal ordinance for aircrafts, propaganda flights for party political purposes are not allowed. Every effort will therefore be made to prevent Swiss aircraft being used abroad for propaganda purposes at elections. The offenders will be prosecuted under the penal law.

The "Union des Patriotes Jurassiens" are publishing a Newspaper called "Le Jurassien". The paper is published in St. Immier and is edited by the U.P.J. It is against the "Rassemblement Jurassien" and its weekly paper "Le Jura libre" and in its leading article calls upon all Jurassiens of

goodwill to co-operate in the necessary approach between Berne and the Jura. The "Jurassien" appears monthly.

In 1944 a flying fortress of the U.S.A. caught fire over the Greifensee (Zurich) and crashed. Several of the air crew saved themselves by parachute. Eye-witnesses stated then, that the pilot navigated the burning aircraft in such a manner, so as not to fall upon the village of Fallanden.

At the salvaging of the aircraft now being carried out, the diver found the body of the pilot still strapped in his seat. This proves the original report as correct. After several days work under water, the body was freed and the corpse raised. In the presence of a representative of the American Embassy and the Army, as well as some Swiss Authorities, the body was taken from its watery grave and with solemn ceremony was placed into a coffin and then covered with the stars and stripes. It will be taken to the U.S.A. for burial.

Representatives of the employers and employees from the territorial district of No. 19 (Zurich) met on 20th August for a conference giving information regarding the question for a cadre formation for military women's auxiliary service (F.H.D.) In an opening speech, Miss M. L. von Muralt, service chief of the district, mentioned that in order to have a serviceable organisation, at least a cadre of 7,000 well trained women service personnel is required. After the experience in the active service during the second world war it would be clear that even our army would not be able to be without such an auxiliary force. She appealed to women of from 20 to 36 years of age, even married ones, for whom a great field of various possibilities for promotion would be open, according to training, ability and performance. Besides an original training period of from two to three weeks, a repetition course of from ten days to a fortnight would be required, for the rest, the same rights and duties as for the soldiers regarding salary adjustments etc., would exist. The purchasing of the accoutrement would no longer be the responsibility of the serving person. Dr. Schuemer supported the speaker and stressed the fact that this meeting was to be regarded as to initiate the propaganda for this auxiliary service, and that later in the autumn a public meeting would be arranged. A lively discussion took place and it was clear that the idea of an F.H.D. would be in the interests of the defence of the country. But also scruples were heard and difficulties expressed,

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that to build up such an organisation of the desired strength, would not only depend upon the attitude of the employer, but equally upon the stand which women in general would take up towards this problem.

* * *

After the work on the great dam for the power works Oberhasli at Oberaar were completed earlier than was expected, festivities were arranged for the workers, foremen and engineers, to celebrate the occasion. Over 500 persons were greeted by the principal engineer Baechtold, who gave in retrospect a history of the construction. The festivities, at which several addresses were made by secular as well as ecclesiastical persons were further enhanced by musical recitals and jodels. After a fireworks display, the assembled people adjourned to the great canteen Oberaar, where the directors of the power works Oberhasli and the contractors offered them a dinner.

The great dam, Oberaar, which lies at 2,300 m above sea level, forms the future Oberaar lake, which will contain 58 million cubic meters of water. The main volume of water will come from the Oberaar glacier, but during the summer months, water will also be pumped from the considerably lower lying Raeterichsboden lake.

* * *

The canton of Aargovie is celebrating its 150th anniversary on September 5th and 6th. The commencement of the festival will be on Saturday by a solemn performance in front of the Cantonal Government offices in Aarau, at which congratulatory messages from the eleven districts to the Cantonal Government will be read. These messages will be

brought to Aarau from the chief localities of each district by relays and will be received by the chief magistrate. At dusk a beautiful torchlight procession will pass through the streets. A grand fireworks display on the Aare will close the eve of the celebration.

* * *

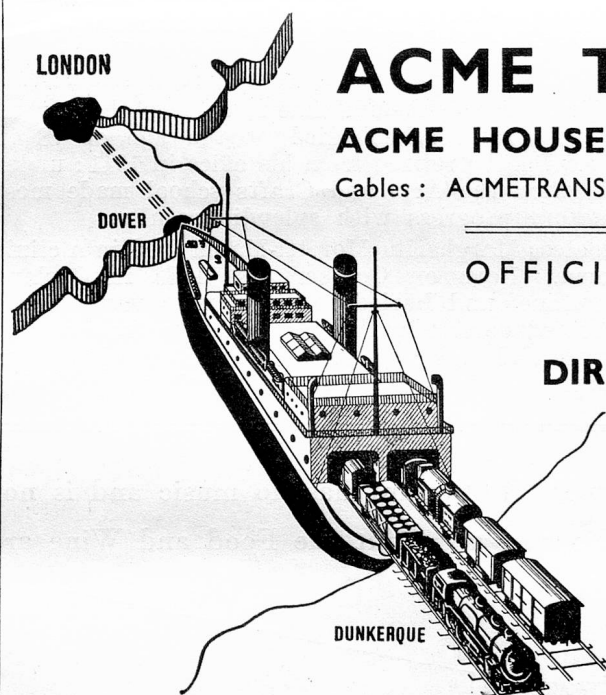
On August 27th at 7.47 a local earthquake was registered at the Swiss observation stations. The centre was 50 km. south east from the station in Zurich at a depth of about 10 km. in the district of the Greifensee.

At the same time a rather strong earth tremor was felt in Glarus. It felt as if the houses were being lifted into the air. Ennenda and Netstal reported that buildings were considerably shaken. Also at Wesen and Utznach earth tremors were felt.

The director of the Intergovernmental Committee for European emigration questions, Gibson, made an urgent appeal to the immigration authorities of Canada and Australia, in which he asked them to receive a number of the 100,000 Greeks, rendered homeless through the earthquakes in the Ionian Islands.

In this appeal, Gibson assures the governments appealed to, that the Intergovernmental Committee would assist them and that it would also be prepared to be responsible for the cost of transport for these people.

At the same time, the Vice President of the Committee, Jacobson, who at the moment is in Washington, was asked to discuss with the States department the possibility of applying as quickly as



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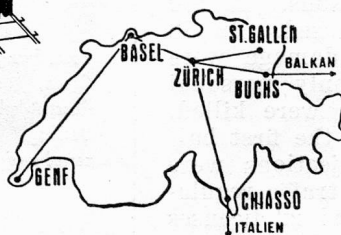
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* * *

For some weeks past the public opinion of Lugano has been busily discussing the erection of a new building on the Piazza Funicolare. The municipal authorities of Lugano decided on the pulling down of a building on the Piazza Funicolare and intended to replace it by a modern structure. After the old building had been pulled down, it was found that the thus caused opening gave a splendid view of the San Lorenzo cathedral, which is one of the most beautiful objects of interest in Lugano. A committee was immediately formed with the object to preserve that view for the town and to stop the building of the new structure. A petition in this sense was presented to the municipal authorities signed by more than a thousand people. The committee interested in the erection of the new structure, themselves submitted a petition signed by two thousand people, to have the building erected. The municipal authorities are now on the horn of a dilemma. The Ticinese papers are keenly interested in this matter and are proposing that the decision be submitted to the people.

* * *

Following the example of France, a dramatic society was recently formed in Lausanne, which has for its object to give actors, musicians and producers an opportunity to show what they are able to do. About twenty younger as well as elderly representatives of stage and radio, have decided to produce this summer a number of plays in the gardens of the Abbaye de l'Arc in Lausanne, when amongst others, plays in French which have never been produced, will also be given. At present foreseen are the following productions, Goldoni's "Diener zweier Herren", Molière's "George Dandin" and "Der Wasserkrug" by Pirandello. Among the collaborators are Véronique Deschamps, Ivette Perrin, André Mauriand, Martine Villa, Neige Dolski and Paul Pasquier.

* * *

The glider pilot Eduard Lauber from Zurich met with a fatal accident at Samaden. Lauber was Vice-president of the Swiss Aero Club. According to the official inquiry, the accident was caused through the breaking up of the glider in the air.

* * *

Jakob Steiner, a 59 year old farmer from Lowerz was run over by a motor-cyclist and was fatally injured. He died two days later without having regained consciousness.

* * *

The body of the 76 year old Jules Ducommun from St. Aubin-Sauges, was found in the Gorge of the Areuse by an excursionist. It has not yet been established how the old man fell into the river.

* * *

In the first half of 1953, 283 road traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Grisons. In 170 cases merely material damage was caused. In 83 cases personal injuries and material damage were registered, whereas in thirty cases only personal injuries were announced. Six persons were killed. The motorized traffic police checked in the first half year 6,348 vehicles, to which 541 objections were raised. On account of offences against traffic regulations 470 motorists were prosecuted and 22 licenses were cancelled.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland.

Lucien Cramer, the historian, died at the age of 86 at his home in Tour-Pressy, Geneva. Originally active as a diplomat, he made a name for himself by his work at the central prisoners of war organization of the Red Cross. He entered the service of the International Red Cross Committee in 1921 and carried out numerous missions abroad. During the First World war, Cramer visited prisoners of war camps in Germany. His travels led him also to Latin America. He was a member of the international Commission of Experts on gas-warfare. He was appointed by the Federal Council as an expert on the question of military and economic neutrality of the Savoye. He was a member of the delegation which dealt with the question in connection with the draft of the Free-zones. Cramer was a collaborator with Federal Councillor Gustave Ador in his endeavours in connection with the draft of the Versailles treaty. Lucien Cramer was the author of numerous historical works about Geneva, and was a member of the administrative Council of the newspaper "La Suisse" of which he was President until 1929.

Jules Emery, the doyen of the chambre of attorneys of the canton of Fribourg died in Fribourg. He was born on July 5th 1862. After his office as a magistrate of the district of the Broye, he opened an office as attorney in Fribourg. He was active right up to his death. He was undoubtedly the oldest attorney in Switzerland.

Professor Paul Robert, died at Schoenried (Berne) at the age of 47. The deceased was elected as dermatology lecturer at the University of Berne in 1941. His nomination as professor ordinarius followed in 1945. Professor Robert was the director of the dermatological clinic at the Inselspital in Berne, and enjoyed an international reputation as a scientist.

Alfred Pasche, the one time director of the Geneva Arts and Crafts school died at the age of 78 in Geneva. Pasche retired from his office in 1941; under his direction the Arts and Crafts school made most satisfactory progress with splendid results.

Poetess Margherita Moretti-Maina died in a clinic in Como. Born on October 31st 1883 in Caslano (Malcantone) and buried in the family vault there, she devoted herself in the first place to the study of literature and music and was a respected collaborator of numerous newspapers and periodicals of the Ticino

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and Italy. In 1934, the deceased published her first volume of poems "I Canti dello scricciolo" which was followed in 1937 by a second volume "Ottobrale". In 1938 "Silenti Notti", a collection of lyric poems appeared and in 1939 a novel "Carabia" was published. Her last two works "Da cuore a cuore" and "Risonanze" contain some poems. A number of the poems have been set to music and are considered as folk-songs.

Last May the poetess was presented with a special distinction by the international Congress of poetry.

On a mountain tour in the Niederhorn regions (above Beatenberg), the past Town Councillor Fritz Raaffaub from Berne, died of a heart attack in his seventieth year. The deceased was at one time president of the court of justice and attorney general. He was a member of the Communal Council of the town of Berne from 1920 — 1947; first as director of education, afterwards as director of finances. He was also for many years the representative of the liberal members of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne.

Alfred Walter Glogg died in his 57th year at St. Moritz, where he was on holiday. He was at one time Managing director of the Swiss Radio Corporation. After his studies at the Universities of Zurich and Geneva, the deceased acted as a secondary school teacher. From 1920-1936 he was an editor at the Neue Zuercher Zeitung, where he directed the local as well as the traffic and technical part of that paper. In 1936 Glogg was elected as Managing

director of the Swiss Radio Corporation, which office he held until the end of March 1950. Since then he was again active in journalism. From 1927-1929 he was president of the Press association of Zurich and for several years a member of the central committee of the Society of the Swiss press.

At the age of 77 years, Professor Otto Groeger died at Gmunden (Upper Austria) where he retired after ending his academic activities. He retired in 1951 after thirty years as lecturer at the University of Zurich as Germanist. During his last ten years he was director of the archive of Phonograms of the University and was an active collaborator on the Dictionary of the German Language (Idiotikon). At first he acted voluntarily, then as office chief and since the death of Professor Bachmann as chief editor. He has given invaluable service in the unfolding of the treasures of our dialects.

* * *

The undermentioned legacies and donations are reported from Switzerland:

Mr. Max Grumbacher, an industrialist who recently died in Lucerne, has left to the Gemeinnuetzige Gesellschaft in Lucerne the sum of Fr. 100,000.— The Legacy was made in recognition and thankfulness for having obtained asylum in Switzerland, particularly in Lucerne for himself and his deceased wife, nee Duesing. A foundation is to be created with this gift.

Mrs. Bertha Faller-Lorenz, the widow of the late dentist, who died in 1939, has by testamentary disposition left Fr. 75,000 for charitable and public societies, also Fr. 40,000 for a Dr. Alfred Faller foundation, which is particularly to be used to assist young people to take up a profession. At the same time she has given her art collection, numerous pictures and sculptures to the Art Society of Lucerne.

From the legacy of the late Victor Herose, manufacturer in Kreuzlinge who died in 1933, the central Library in Zurich has received Fr. 280,000.—. The largest part of this legacy is in the nature of a "Victor Herose Fund" to be used to provide for special purchases.

From the residue of the estate of the late Carl Naef, who died in 1929 the central Library in Zurich received another Fr. 2,000.—.

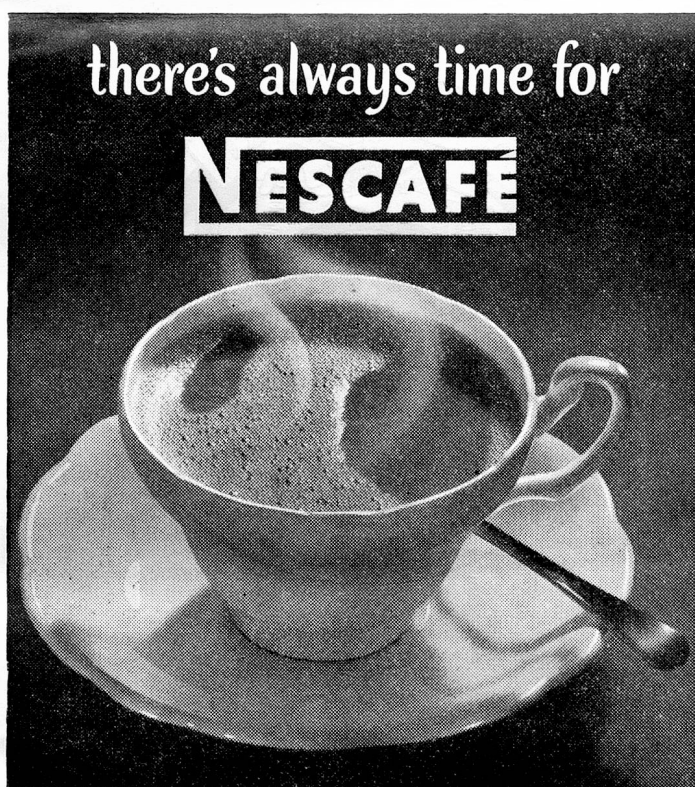
The widow of the late communal Councillor A. Buser, Mrs. Buser-Sauer in Liestal, has, besides legacies to various societies and philanthropic organizations, left Fr. 87,000 to the Ladies Society (Frauenverein) in Liestal. A foundation is to be created the interests of which are to be used to assist necessitous widows of citizens of Liestal.

* * *

The undermentioned Diamond Wedding anniversaries (65) are announced from Switzerland.

On Friday, August 7th Mr. and Mrs. Herman and Martha Hochuli-Weigand in Riehen, celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. The celebrator, who founded the dyeing department of the textile house of Gugelmann & Co., in Roggwil is 87 and his life partner is 78 years of age.

On August 21st Mr. and Mrs. Johannes and Anna Buechlin-Schweizer from Basle and Henniken (Blld) celebrated their diamond wedding. The husband was born on 17th August 1871 and his wife on 25th March 1873. Johannes Buechli was a road employee at the Basle Building Department.



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