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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

When the passing away of Queen Mary became known in Berne, Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, at once sent a telegram of condolence, on behalf of the Federal Council and the Swiss people to H.M. the Queen.

The Swiss Foreign Minister, M. Max Petitpierre, addressed a letter of sympathy, on behalf of the Swiss Government to Mr. Anthony Eden, H.M. Foreign Secretary, he also wrote a personal letter to the British Chargé d'Affaires in Berne.

The Swiss Minister in London, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, signed the books at Buckingham Palace, Marlborough House and St. James's Palace, and also wrote a personal letter of condolence to H.M. the Queen, the Queen Mother, and members of the Royal Family.

The Swiss Flags over the Parliament Building in Berne were flown at half mast. Switzerland has been represented at the Funeral by the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté.

* * *

The Italian government has decided to raise their Legation in Berne to an Embassy.

Monsieur Egidio Reale, formerly Italian Minister accredited to the Confederation, has been nominated ambassador, and in this capacity he has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

Monsieur Renato Villaverde Ariza, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Cuba, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Ph. Etter and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

* * *

The newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, Monsieur Fernando Garcia

Oldini, of the Republic of Chile, has presented his credentials to the President of the Confederation and to the Swiss Foreign Minister.

* * *

The National Council, or second chamber, of the Swiss Parliament passed, by 72 votes against 71, a Bill providing for the reorganisation of Federal finances proposed by the Government. This is considered as a Government defeat, and it is expected that the Bill will be withdrawn as a one vote majority clearly indicates that it will be rejected by the electorate.

The reorganisation of the Federal finances, with the object of supplying Federal authorities with the necessary means to carry out their tasks, has been under discussion for nearly two years, and a first Bill was rejected last year by the electorate.

Cantonal

Marie Kaufmann-Studer of Schüpfheim (Lucerne) aged 39 killed her Father, Franz Studer, and her husband, Alfred Kaufmann with an axe. When confessing to the terrible deed she gave as a reason the hopeless financial position of the family; she is the mother of seven children between the ages of two to fifteen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. E. Vogt, Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Landesmuseum" and Professor of Ancient History at the University of Zurich, has been made an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. C. A. Loosli, author, living in Bümpliz has presented his large collection of documents dealing

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R.A.C.

with the life and work of the Swiss painter Ferdinand Hodler, to the Arts Museum Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Adolf Grütter (Landesring Party) has entered the National Council in succession to Dr. G. Morf, who has vacated his seat. Dr. Grütter (born 1907), is Editor of the "Tat", a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne and the Municipal Council of Berne. [A.T.S.]

Louis Gavillet, a murderer who was to have appeared for his trial at the Criminal Court in Fribourg, has committed suicide in his cell by hanging himself.

In August of last year, he broke out of the prison of Bellchasse, where he was serving a sentence, and went to his native village of Bionnens, in order to see the President of the commune, who he considered to be responsible for his prison sentence.

Under the impression that he was facing the man he was seeking he point blank fired a shot and killed, not the intended President, but the fiancé of the latter's daughter. Previous to the shooting he had set fire to the house of the President of the commune. Gavillet, then took refuge in the surrounding woods, where after a 10 days hunt by the police, he was arrested at Yverdon. [A.T.S.]

Dr. G. E. van Walsum, Mayor of Rotterdam has paid an official visit to the governments of the canton of Basle Town and Basle Country. He was received at the town halls in Basle and Liestal, and afterwards visited the Rhine Ports. On the occasion of his visit, he expressed to the population of the two cantons his profound thanks for the help which was given to his country on the occasion of the Flood disaster. [A.T.S.]

In the newly elected Grand Council of the canton of Aargau the following parties are represented: Socialists: 65, (formerly 62); Cath. Cons: 47, (formerly: 44); Liberals: 42, (formerly: 40); Peasant Party: 30, (formerly: 32); Landesring, (Duttwiler): 8, (formerly: 7); Evang. Pop. Party: 4, (formerly 3); Young Peasant Party: 2, (formerly: 2) Christian Socialists: 2 (formerly 2). [A.T.S.]

The final result of the elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud shows the following strength of the various parties: 106 radicals, 40 Socialists, 35 Liberals, 12 Communists, 9 Agrarians, 5 Independants, 4 Christian Socialists. Total number of the Grand Council: 211 members. [A.T.S.]

The 150th anniversary of the canton of St. Gall's entry into the Confederation will be celebrated throughout the canton on August 29th, 1953. [A.T.S.]

Two men were killed by an avalanche which descended in Schadauli near Lenk. The names of the victims are: J. Lempen-Kummer of Bosen (married) and Armin Klopfenstein, aged 35, of Bleiken. [A.T.S.]

A serious motor-accident occurred on the "route Suisse" between Geneva and Bellevue when a motor-car collided with two pedal cyclists and three motor-

cyclists. The driver of the car, Georges Bevand (aged 46) Jeweller of Geneva, and his passenger, Mme. Lauper of Geneva, were killed outright. The three motor-cyclists, Pierre Besson (aged 21), Michel Savary (aged 21) and Emil Savary, (father of Michel Savary) all of Geneva, were killed too. One of the pedal cyclists, Roland Bärtschi received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Emil Christoph Barell, for many years General Manager and President of the Board of the F. Hoffmann-La Roche, A.G., Basle, in Basle at the age of 80. The deceased was honoured by the Universities of Basle and Zurich, as well as by the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Armand Pittet, rector of the "Collège St. Michel", Fribourg, since 1940, and President of the "Société romande des études latines" and "Société des gymnases de la Suisse romande", in Fribourg, aged 53.

Walter Lüthi, Manager of the Rolex Watch Company Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 57.

Marc Birkigt, founder of the Hispano-Suiza concern. He died at Versoix, aged 75. The deceased emigrated at an early age to Spain, where at the age of 26, he founded the Hispano-Suiza at Barcelona. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Going home?

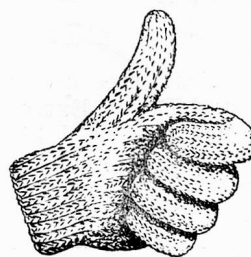
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Space kindly offered by Mr. Charles Bertschi of "Berkeley Arms Hotel."

Paul Moine, head of the municipal primary schools Porrentruy, at Porrentruy, at the age of 67.

Colonel Max Hauswirth, a member of the Instructors Corps, and at one time commander of the Infantry Regiment 14, in Berne, aged 71.

Dr. Georges Rossel, physician-in-chief of the Children's sanatorium, Leysin, and founder of the Neuchâtel sanatorium which was under his leadership from 1921-1952, in Lausanne, at the age of 65.

Abbé Joseph Gremaud, from 1916-1950 Professor at the St. Michel College, Fribourg, and General Secretary of the International catholic Union "Pax Roma", in Bulle, aged 67.

Dr. Max E. Bodmer-Schindler, partner in the Banking concern Rahn & Bodmer, Zurich, and President of the Board of the "Schweiz. Wagons-und Aufzügefabrik, A.G. Schlieren", the "Reishauser Werkzeuge A.G., Zurich" and the "Seidenweberei Wila, A.G." Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 65.

[A.T.S.]

Switzerland's 10,000 postmen received an official bulletin on How to Make Friends with Dogs.

First rule: Never show fear or distrust — call a dog by its name and talk in a friendly way.

Where "difficulties are encountered" a bone or sausage ends will "work wonders."

But where kindness fails this is the way . . . "Stand with body slightly crouched forward, using the postbag as a shield and look straight at the dog. If it snarls or threatens to bite, a sharp exclamation of 'Scram!' is most likely to send the dog recoiling."

Here are some balances of the accounts for 1952 of the following cantons:

Appenzell I. Rh. *Credit* Balance 45,966.— frs.
Vaud *Debit* Balance 479,730.— frs. Fribourg *Debit*
Balance 1,110,558.— frs. Solothurn *Credit* Balance
1,256,093.— frs. Geneva *Credit* Balance 2,489,209.—
frs.

* * *

The following couple has celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moser — Muller of Bienne.

* * *

Hermann Geiger, Switzerland's "pilot of the glaciers", is rapidly making a name for himself as one of Europe's most intrepid aviators. This winter he has flown his little Piper aircraft, fitted with skis, to spots hitherto thought inaccessible.

Mr. Geiger, chief pilot at Switzerland's Sion airport, landed a passenger on the 11,480ft. high St. Théodule pass, at the foot of the Matterhorn. Next he touched down near the upper station of the Médran chairlift, which carries skiers from the Valais resort of Verbier to the Ruinettes ski-slopes. At the end of January he caused a sensation by skilfully guiding his plane down on to the topmost slope of the 6,700ft high Rochers de Naye, above Montreux. Last month, accompanied by a Radio Geneva commentator, he took off from Sion and ten minutes later landed near to the terminus station of the Bella-Lui aerial cable railway, to the cheers of more than a thousand spectators. The many landings he has made on glaciers and snow-slopes are considered by pilot Geiger as training exercises for possible rescue operations.

Next month Boris Kniassef, the world-famous dancer and teacher, is to open an international school of dancing in Lausanne. Kniassef, who is moving to Switzerland from Paris, has made international stars out of such dancers as Algaroff, Skoutaroff, Roland Petit, Yvette Chauviré, Solange Schwarz, Renée Jeanmaire and Jean Babilée.

Announcing his move, the man who has been called "the teacher of the stars" said he found the climate of Lausanne was "most favourable" for his project. One of the big attractions at the "Fêtes de Lausanne" in June will be the corps de ballet of the Marquis of Cuevas and the Paris Opéra companies.

* * *

The first of Switzerland's four national fairs — the Swiss Industries Fair — opens this month. It is being held in Basle from April 11th to 21st. The "Comptoir Suisse", which is western Switzerland's trade fair, will be in Lausanne from September 12th to 27th. From October 3rd to 18th, the Lugano Swiss Fair will be attracting visitors to southern Switzerland, and last of them all will be the ten-day Swiss Agricultural and Dairy Fair (OLMA) which opens in St. Gallen on October 8th.

Single tickets from the Swiss frontier (including airports) are valid for the return journey, if they are stamped at the fair.

Incidentally, the triangular-shaped sign which is placed on the summits of Swiss mountains for topographical purposes has been chosen as the new symbol for the Bâle Fair. This is the centre-piece of new posters designed by Donald Brun.

* * *

Meeting at Berne under the presidency of Professor Joseph Kaelin of Fribourg, the 45-strong committee of the Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research heard that 600,000 Swiss francs (£49,000) had been spent in subsidies to private individuals, in addition to the 50,000 francs (£4,084) which have already been handed over to Switzerland's nine universities.

* * *

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the entry of the Canton of Vaud into the Swiss Confederation, the Cantonal Fine Arts Museum in Lausanne has planned an exhibition of 250 works dating from the end of the 18th century onwards. An important place will be reserved for the works of the ever-popular Félix Vallotton. Among contemporary artists whose work will be displayed is René Auberjonois — soon to be the subject of a special exhibition at the Bâle Fine Arts Museum.

* * *

Well over a year before it is due to take place, preparations have been started for a giant tourism and catering exhibition which is to be held in Berne, the Swiss capital, from May 14th to June 21st, 1954. Organisations from other countries have already expressed their keen interest in this exhibition, which will cover an area of 148,000 cubic metres. Support is already being given by the Swiss Federal Railways, the Swiss Postal Administration, the private railway companies, the Swiss Hoteliers' Association, the Swiss Café and Restaurant Proprietors' Association, the Swiss Dining Car Company and the Station Buffets,

the Swiss National Tourist Office and other organisations. The purpose of the exhibition is to show the ethical and economical importance of the tourist and hotel industry and in particular culinary art, and how this industry contributes to better international understanding. Apart from travel and the culinary arts, the exhibition will incorporate a show of kitchen, bakery and butchers' machinery, as well as table silver, porcelain, glassware and auxiliary equipment. Various section will deal with Inquiry Services, Travel Agents, Railways, Postal Coaches, Air Transport, Road Transport, etc., as well as hotels and inns.

The highlight of the exhibition should be the culinary section in which 7 to 8 countries are expected to participate. Planned are: 1. a giant model kitchen where a large number of cooks can be seen at work; 2. the prepared specialities will be served in a large international restaurant; 3. a dietary kitchen with restaurant attached; 4. a section devoted to the future of the culinary profession and trade schools; 5. a lecture hall and room for demonstrations; 6. a literary and historical section; 7. magnificently decorated display tables; 8. a great number of famous books, as well as rare menus and pictures of celebrated late chefs; 9. a model bar, in which international cocktail-making competitions will be held; 10. the wine section will be represented by some picturesque taverns. It is also hoped to show a quick-service restaurant equipped with the most up-to-date devices. One of the latest dining and saloon cars, now under construction, of the Swiss Federal Railways, should be a special attraction.

* * *

The war-time Soviet spying ace, Rudolf Roessler, alias Selzinger, who under the name of "Lucy" supplied the Soviet High Command, as well as the Swiss Director of Military Intelligence, with a fortnight's warning about the impending German attack on Russia, and later with an up-to-date daily order of battle of the German forces in the East, was arrested in Lucerne.

Also arrested with him after the Swiss security authorities had unearthed an entirely new Communist spy ring was a Swiss Left-Wing journalist, Dr. Xavier Schnieper.



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