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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

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Karl Kobelt, Head of the Military Department, has announced his resignation to take effect at the end of the year.

Dr. Kobelt was born on the 1st of August, 1891, in Marbach, (Ct. St. Gall) and was educated in the town of St. Gall. He studied engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained his diploma as a "Bauingenieur".

From 1919-1933, he was Chief of section of the Federal Department for "Wasserwirtschaft" in Berne. Dr. Kobelt was elected a member of the Government of the canton of St. Gall in 1933, and in 1939, he entered Parliament (National Council).

In the army he was in command of the 31st Infantry regiment, and later, on promotion to the rank of Colonel, he occupied the post of chief-of-staff of the 4th army-corps.

He was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1940, in succession to Federal-Councillor Baumann, as Head of the Military Department.

Federal-Councillor Kobelt is a member of the Liberal-Democratic Party, and was President of the Confederation in 1946 and 1952.

Minister Walter Stucki, Delegate of the Federal Council for Special Missions, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the current year. The Federal Council has accepted same, conveying to him the thanks of the Government for the services he has rendered. He will, however, still be at the disposal of the Political Department.

Minister Stucki was born in 1888 in Berne, and is a citizen of Konolfingen (Ct. Berne). He studied law at the Universities of Munich, Paris and London, and afterwards practised for several years as a lawyer in Berne.

In 1917, he entered into the service of the Federal Public Economy Department occupying the post of General Secretary. This office he left in 1919, to take up again his practice as a lawyer. Six years

later (1925), he was elected Director of the commercial section of the Federal Public Economy Department, in this capacity he led the Economic negotiation of the Confederation with foreign countries which resulted in the conclusion of numerous commercial treaties. He presided over various national and international commissions, and in 1933, was elected President of the Economic Council of the League of Nations, in the same year he received the title of Minister, and was honoured by the University of Basle with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Walter Stucki retired in 1935 from the Federal Administration, on his election as a Member of Parliament (National Council), but in the capacity of Delegate of the Federal Council with the rank of Minister, continued negotiating with foreign countries.

In the year 1938, he was nominated Swiss Minister in Paris, and when the Legation was transferred to Vichy, he was untiring in trying to obtain from the German occupying authorities more humanitarian concessions, which brought him the appreciation not only from the French Government but also from the French population. On his return to Berne in 1945, Minister Stucki was entrusted with the post of chief of the Foreign section of the Federal Political Department; a year later (1946) he gave up his post on having been nominated "Delegate of the Federal Council for Special Missions". This appointment took him to many countries as head of Economic missions.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Max Troendle, Delegate for Economic and Commercial treaties, to the post of Swiss Minister in Japan, in succession to Minister Hohl, who will be assigned other duties.

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Minister Troendle was born in Basle in 1905. He studied law at the Universities of Paris and Basle, and entered the diplomatic service in 1931, taking up a post at the Swiss Consulate in Munich. In 1932, Monsieur Troendle was transferred to Zagreb and five years later (1937) to the Swiss Legation at Warsaw, then followed appointments in Riga (1939) and Rome (1940). In 1944, he was sent on a special mission to Italy during which year he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. On his return to Berne (1945), the Federal Council appointed him Delegate for Economic and Commercial treaties. The title of Minister was given him in 1950.

\* \* \*

Minister Ganz, since 1948, representing the Confederation at Helsinki, has been transferred to Teheran, in succession to Minister Alfred Escher, who has been appointed Chief of the Swiss Delegation in Korea.

Minister Ganz was born in Chicago in 1903, and hails from Zurich; on completion of his law studies at the Universities of Berlin, New York and Basle he became State Prosecutor of the canton of Basle-Town, and in 1941, was appointed President of the cantonal tribunal. In 1945, Monsieur Ganz was appointed Swiss Minister in Warsaw, and three years later (1948) he was transferred to Helsinki in the same capacity.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts during the month of August, 1954, totalled 57 million francs or 2.7 million francs more than during the same period in 1953.

Receipts for the first eight months of the current year amount to 334.6 million francs, an increase of 32.5 million francs, over last year's figures for the same period.

\* \* \*

Minister, Dr. Hotz, President of the "Zolltarifexpertenkommission" and the "Schweiz. Clearingskommission" has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, which has accepted the same with thanks for the services he has rendered.

He is succeeded by Minister Hans Schaffner, Director of the commercial section of the Federal Economic Department.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has nominated Mr. Arturo Marcionelli to the post of Swiss Consul General at Milan, in succession to Mr. Franco Brenni, who has recently been appointed Swiss Minister in Cuba.

Arturo Marcionelli was born in Bironica (Ct. Ticino). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1935. Five years later (1940) Marcionelli was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Rome, and after three years, to the Swiss Consulate General at Milan. In 1945, he was sent to the Swiss Legation in Paris, and two years later to the Swiss Legation in Brussels, with promotion to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. Since 1951, he has been second in command to the Swiss Minister at Vienna.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Foreign Minister, Mr. Petitpierre, has warned against interference with the traditional freedom of shipping on the Rhine.

Switzerland, he said, was deeply concerned by "new interpretations" of the Mannheim Treaty of 1860, under which all nations bordering on the river

were granted complete freedom for shipping along the entire length of the Rhine from Basle to the sea.

Mr. Petitpierre told a meeting at the International Rhine Festival that "We are certain that it would not be in the interest of any river State to substitute for its obligations under the Rhine Treaties other international undertakings.

"If the equilibrium of Rhine shipping should be destroyed, either by the introduction of protectionist measures, or by a more restrictive interpretation of the Rhine freedom, rivers States, though tied by community of interests, would mutually harm each other, and would compromise perhaps for a long time the fruit of their endeavours."

The Swiss Government has been concerned for some time regarding a German move to restrict Rhine traffic between German ports to German river shipping.

\* \* \*

The two Federal Chambers (National and States Council) have assembled in Berne for their autumn session.

### Cantonal

Dr. Rudolph Schmid (Baar) has informed the administration of the Conservative-Christian Party that he will not be a candidate at the next governmental elections of the canton of Zug. He was from 1921-1940, a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Zug. He entered the cantonal Government in 1941, and



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held the post of "Landammann" in 1949. He has recently been elected President of the Cantonal Bank of Zug. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Swiss Bankers Association held their 41st General Assembly at Gstaad, under the Presidency of Dr. Charles de Loes. (Geneva) [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Board of the Dr. A. Wander, A.G., Berne, has made a donation of 250,000.—frs. to the University of Berne, for the building of a chemical laboratory. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Pembaur Prize of the Conservatoire of Berne, amounting to 5,000.—frs. has been awarded to Mr. Jürg von Vintschger, aged 20 of St. Gall. 26 pianists competed. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The salaries of the members of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town have been fixed as follows: each member will receive a remuneration of 36,800.—frs. the President will be allotted an extra amount of 2,000.—frs. p.a. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

As 1,000 men were working on a half-finished dam on the mountain Mauvoisin, 5,985 ft in the Valais Alps, a 130 ft concrete-mixing tower collapsed bringing down with it the partially-built structure of the dam. Four men were killed and three injured. Two workers are missing. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Burglars entered a villa in Evole (Ct. Neuchâtel), the owners of which were away on holiday, and decamped with 45,000.—frs. in cash. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor, Dr. Rudolf Schwarz, formerly Director of the Dental Institute of the University of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 73.

Professor Paul Knapp, a well-known oculist, and Professor at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 80.

Dr. med. Alois von Moos, eminent surgeon and orthopaedist, in Lucerne, at the age of 66.

Ernst E. Schlatter, painter and etcher, in Münsterlingen, aged 71.

Dr. Peter Heinrich Schmidt, from 1906-1940, Professor of Economic science at the Commercial University of St. Gall, and *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Berne, in St. Gall, at the age of 84.

Pierre Revilliod, formerly Director of the Natural Historical Museum, Geneva, in Geneva, aged 74.

Jaques de Pury, a member of the Swiss Legation Paris, in Paris.

Pastor Daniel Brüttsch, from 1892-1941, a minister at the Evangelical parish of Sevelen (Ct. St. Gall), in Buchs, at the age of 89.

Emilio Bonzanigo, formerly Swiss Consul at Trieste, in Lausanne, aged 70. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The undermentioned anniversaries are reported in the Swiss Press:

Dr. theol. h.c. Oskar Farner (70) of Stammheim. He was for 23 years a pastor at Stammheim, and from 1937-1950, a pastor at the "Grossmünster", Zurich. He is well-known as the biographer of the Reformer Ulrich Zwingli. In 1930, he was elected Professor of

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church history at the University of Zurich. The Universities of Basle and Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

August Oetiker (80) of Lachen (Ct. Schwyz) distinguished conductor and composer.

Professor Dr. h.c. Mirko Ros (75) of Dättwil (Ct. Aargau) formerly Professor at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Mme. Paula Schulthess-Reimann (70) of Basle. President of the "Christkatholischen Frauenbundes" and Lyceum Club, Basle. Mme Schulthess was at one time one of the most famous actresses of the Max Reinhard era at the "Deutschen Theater" in Berlin.

Albert Burmeister (80) of Payerne, Editor of the "Journal de Payerne", and for many years a teacher at the Collège in Payerne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Grock, the famous clown, will retire on October 31, it is announced. The 74-year-old entertainer, whose real name is Adrian Wettach, proposes to retire to his home in Switzerland.

\* \* \*

For the first time in 130 years, a wolf has been shot in Switzerland, near St. Moritz.

\* \* \*

The largest holdings of United States securities are registered in the names of Swiss holders with 900 million dollars. United Kingdom investors hold investments worth 750 million dollars. Many of these securities may be owned by nationals of other countries using the financial services provided by Britain and Switzerland.

Brown, Boveri & Co., Ltd., of Baden, plan to start work soon on the construction of an atomic reactor designed for industrial research purposes, it was announced. The firm's uranium will come from the Belgian Congo and it is reported that the necessary export permit has already been granted. Work on the reactor is expected to take less than two years to complete.

\* \* \*

In the historic Paulskirche at Frankfurt the peace prize of the German book-sellers was conferred on Dr. C. J. Burckhardt, the Swiss historian, diplomatist, and author. He is the fifth recipient of the award, his predecessors being Max Tau, Albert Schweitzer, Romano Guardini, and Martin Buber.

Among those who paid tribute to Dr. Burckhardt was Professor Heuss, the President of the Republic, who eulogized him as one of those who felt the inner responsibility of doing good in cruel times. Referring to the period when Dr. Burckhardt served as High Commissioner for Danzig, the real nerve centre of the Europe of those days, the President said that one who had been known as a scientist emerged as a statesman.

The President spoke of Dr. Burckhardt's birth place, Basle, and recalled that it was there that Nietzsche coined the phrase "the good European". Without wishing to label him with the Nietzsche trade mark, the President said that Dr. Burckhardt was a symbolic figure nurtured in the spiritual altar of the French and the Germans.

#### PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La grande revue touristique américaine "Holiday" consacre 12 pages illustrées de son numéro d'août à la Suisse, pays de vacances. L'image de la couverture est une splendide photographie en couleurs de l'église de Grindewald, avec le Wetterhorn à l'arrière-plan.

On sait que la fourniture des ballons pour les championnats du monde de football est due à une fabrique spécialisée suisse de Murgenthal. Cette maison a été choisie après une soumission anonyme de portée mondiale. Les répercussions de ce succès d'une industrie suisse sont réjouissantes.

Le "Bund Deutscher Radfahrer", qui est chargé d'organiser les championnats mondiaux de cyclisme, a décidé d'en confier le *chronométrage* à une fabrique d'horlogerie bien connue de St. Imier.

L'équipement complet d'une *fabrique de soude* aux Indes a été commandé à deux maisons suisses de Gerlafingen et de Zurich. Ces mêmes entreprises ont été chargées d'équiper une *station d'eau potable* en Iran. Un important réseau d'eau potable anglais est muni de pompes sorties des ateliers d'une grande entreprise de Winterthur.

Le ministère des finances du Japon a décidé de reconnaître dès le 1er août 1954 le franc suisse comme monnaie officielle pour les échanges commerciaux avec l'étranger, à côté de la livre sterling et des dollars américain et canadien.



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