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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 Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie arrived on November 25th — coming from Denmark — at Basle for his three days State visit to the Swiss Confederation.

On descending from the special train, the Emperor and his suite were greeted by M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, Dr. Zschokke, President of the Basle Government, and a number of high rank officers. After having inspected a guard of honour, the Emperor and his suite departed for Hindelbank, where the distinguished personalities were to stay at the castle of Jegenstorf as guests of the Swiss Government.

When the special train arrived at the Hindelbank station, the Emperor was greeted by Monsieur Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, who was accompanied by Federal-Councillor Escher, Federal Chancellor Oser, Colonel of Division von Muralt, and Mr. Gnägi, President of the Government of the canton of Berne.

Later in the afternoon, the Emperor made his entry into the capital, which was gaily beflagged. The carriages drawn by four horses, were occupied by the Emperor, the President of the Confederation, the Emperor's suite, and the Swiss Aide de camps who were heartily cheered by large crowds during the drive to the Palais Fédéral.

The official reception was held in one of the salons in the "Wandelhalle", where all the members of the Swiss Government were in attendance. The President in his address of welcome voiced the pleasure with which the entire Swiss population had been looking forward to his visit. The Emperor suitably replied.

In the evening a Banquet took place at the Bellevue Palace Hotel offered by the President of the Confederation to the Emperor and his suite, at which all the Federal-Councillors and high officials were present.

The next day various buildings, amongst them

the Town Hall and military establishments were seen. The official visit concluded by the Emperor visiting the towns of Zurich and Geneva.

* * *

Federal-Councillor, Dr. J. Escher, Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department, has died in Berne shortly after presenting the budget of his department to the National Council.

Dr. Joseph Escher, was born on the 17th of September, 1885, in Simplon-Dorf, (Ct. Valais). He studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Berne and Berlin after which he established himself as a lawyer and notary in Brig. From 1912-1920, Escher was a member of the Municipal Council of Brig, and from 1920-1928 he occupied the post of President of the Urban Council of Glis-Brig. He sat from 1915-1932 in the Grand Council of the canton of Valais as representative of the Catholic-Conservative party.

In 1931, he entered the cantonal Government, and three years later (1934) Dr. Escher was elected President of the Government of the canton of Valais. In 1925, he was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) in which he sat from 1925-1932, and again from 1936-1950. In 1948/49, he presided over the National Council. Escher was from 1946-1950, President of the Conservative Popular Party of Switzerland, and is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Fribourg. He entered the Federal Government in 1950.

* * *

Owing to the death of Federal-Councillor Escher, who was Vice-President, M. Max Petitpierre, Head of the Federal Political Department, will be President for 1955 of the Swiss Confederation. Federal-Councillor Feldmann will be Vice-President.

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Colonel Hans Rieser, at present Chief of section for "Flugwesen und Fliegerabwehr" at the Federal Military Department, has been nominated Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation in Washington. (Colonel Rieser was from 1947-1952, Air and Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London.)

* * *

The Federal Council has bestowed the titles of Consul-General on Dr. Georges Criblez, since 1926, Swiss Consul in Strassbourg, and Dr. Sebastian Regli, since 1946 Swiss Consul in Munich.

Dr. Criblez was born in 1891 in Berne, and is a citizen of Péry (Ct. Berne). He studied commercial science obtaining his doctorate. Dr. Criblez held positions at the Consulates in Athens (1922), Casablanca (1934) and Strassbourg.

Dr. Sebastian Regli was born in 1893, at Andermatt. After studying law and philosophy at Swiss and German Universities, and obtaining his doctorate, he became Editor of the "Rheintalischen Volkszeitung" in St. Gall. In 1929, he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department. He held positions at the Consulates in Leipzig, Danzig and Mannheim.

* * *

Mr. Hans Riggenschach has been nominated Honorary Consul General in Frankfurt a. M. He was born in 1893 in Zurich, and is a citizen of Zurich and Basle Town. In 1914, he went to Greece in the service of the "Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company" of which he became manager in 1918. Six years later (1924) he was transferred to the Nestlé Agency in Barcelona as Manager, and later on as General Manager to the Nestlé Agency in Berlin. (Deutsche A. G. für Nestlé Erzeugnisse). From 1929-1945, Riggenschach was Vice-President of this concern, and at the same time President of the Board of the "Sarotti, A. G.", Berlin. Since 1945 he has been President of the Board of the "Deutschen A. G. für Nestlé Erzeugnisse" in Frankfurt a. M., he is also Vice-President of the Board of the Maggi, G.m.b.H., Frankfurt, a. M.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Hans Kiefer to the post of Honorary Swiss Consul in Curitiba (Brazil), in succession to Mr. Jakob Thommen.

The newly appointed Consul was born in 1897 in Basle, where he studied chemistry. Since 1933, he has been residing in Brazil, and holds the position of Manager of the firm Kiefer & Co. in Rio de Janeiro, he is also President of the Board of the "Industria Ceramica Parana, S.A.", in Curitiba.

* * *

The Swiss Government has decided to open a Consulate in Salisbury (South Africa), and has appointed Mr. Albert Wyler as Consul.

Consul Wyler was born in 1908, and is a citizen of Längenbühl (Ct. Berne). He entered into the service of the Political Department in 1946, and has occupied various posts in the Swiss Consulates at Dakar and Nantes.

* * *

Federal Judge, Dr. Jakob Strebel has announced his resignation.

Dr. Strebel was born in 1887, and is a citizen of Muri (Ct. Aargau), he was elected a Member of the

Federal Supreme Court in 1921. From 1929-1949, Dr. Strebel was also a lecturer at the University of Lausanne, of which he is a *doctor honoris causa*. Previous to his election as a Federal Judge he sat for two years in Parliament (National Council).

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.09 million passengers in October, 1954, or 1.25 million more than during the same period in 1953.

Goods transported reached the figure of 2.06 million tons, or 117,000 tons more than in October of last year.

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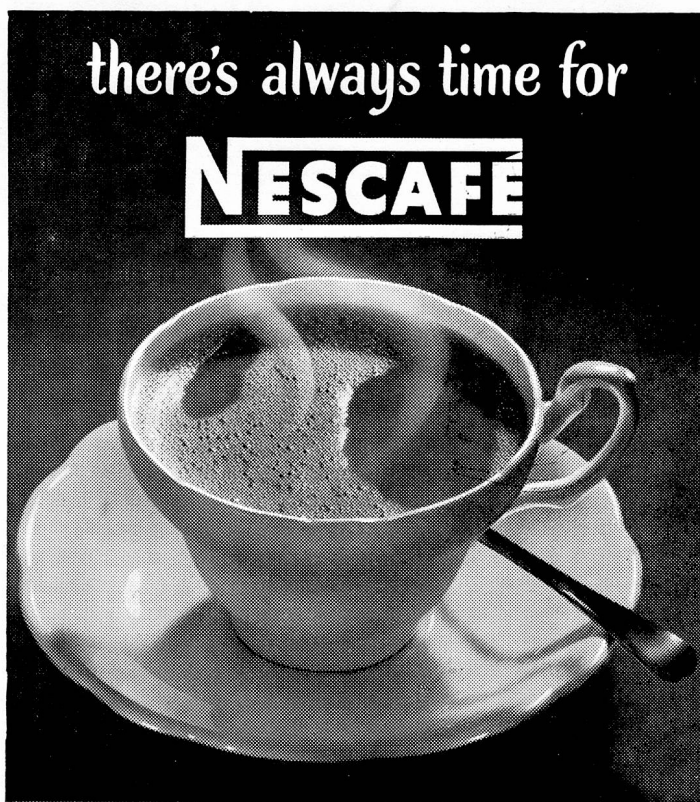
The Swiss Government, in a cautiously worded Note, has declined the Russian invitation to take part in an International Conference. It has done so on the ground that as the contemplated conference would deal with questions arising out of the war — the status of Germany and Austria — Switzerland could not, because of her strict neutrality, take part or take sides.

Cantonal

The art prize of the town of Zurich, amounting to 5,000.—frs. has been awarded to Miss Helen Dahm, artist, of Kreuzlingen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Watches to the value of 35,000.—frs. have been stolen from a watch manufacturing firm at the Avenue Leopold-Ribot in La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]



ANOTHER OF NESTLÉ'S GOOD THINGS

At the end of October, 1954, the population of the town of Berne numbered 155,117. [A.T.S.]

The Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg has elected M. Paul Torche as President of the Cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

The University of Buenos-Aires has bestowed the title of *doctor honoris causa* on Dr. Paul Müller, of Basle, discoverer of DDT. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry two years ago. [A.T.S.]

Dr. W. Boven, Professor of Psychology at the University of Lausanne, has been installed as rector for 1945/56. [A.T.S.]

Lieutenant-colonel Guy de Weck has been appointed commander of the "Waffenplatz" Sitten. [A.T.S.]

The following have been elected as members of the Government of the canton of Geneva: F. Perréard (radical), no change; J. Dutoit (radical), new; A. Borel (radical), new; E. Dupont, (independent), new; A. de Senarclens (nat. democrat), no change; Ch. Duboule (radical), no change; J. Treina, (socialist), no change. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Josef Anton Häfliger, formerly Head of the Pharmaceutical Institute of the University of Basle, in Lucerne, at the age of 81.

Dr. h. c. Fritz Meister, for 45 years a teacher at Dübendorf and Horgen, and author of many scientific works, in Horgen, aged 95.

Marcel Rosset, Journalist and Editor, in Geneva, at the age of 50.

André Breguet, President of the Board of the Watch-case Manufacturing firm of Breguet, S.A., in Bienne, aged 70.

Colonel Edmond Sunier, a former member of the Instructors Corps, and since 1940, President of the commune of Colombier, in Colombier, at the age of 76.

Adolf Näf, from 1922-1947, "Gemeindeammann" of Uzwil, and for 21 years a member of the Grand Council of St. Gall, in Oberwil, aged 76.

Albert Lullin, for many years a partner in the Banking House, Ferrier, Lullin & Cie, Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 93.

Joh. Baptist Rusch, Editor and Author, in Bad Ragaz, aged 68.

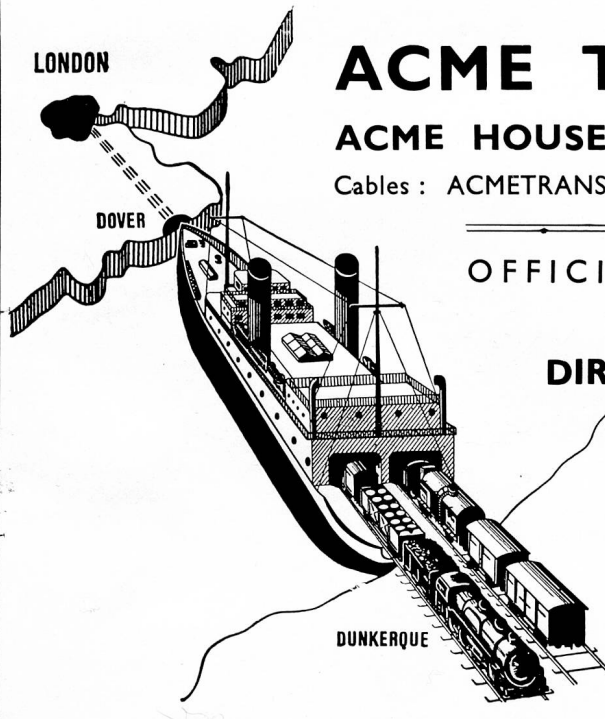
Christian Trachsel, for 40 years Manager of the "Obwaldner Gewerbebank", Sarnen, in Sarnen at the age of 72.

Albert Schnüriger-Suter, Hotelier, and President of the commune of Sattel, he was for 23 years President of the Board of the "Automobil, A.G.", Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 60.

Dr. med., Friedrich Braun-Hofer, Director of the "Schweiz. Anstalt für Epileptische", Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 62.

Josef Laubacher, well-known photographer, in Lucerne, aged 45.

Dr. Alfred Ribeaud, Historian and Author, in Porrentruy. [A.T.S.]



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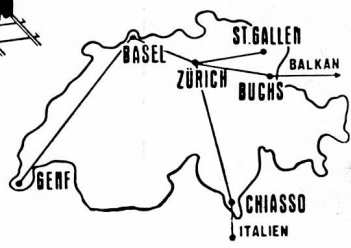
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The following Legacies are mentioned in the Swiss Press :

The late Mme. Hanna Schmid-Vögelin of Thalwil (Ct. Zurich) has left 400,000.—frs. to a Trust bearing her name, the interest to be used for needy citizens of Thalwil over 60 years of age.

The late Paul Jud, Goldsmith, of Wil, has left various legacies to church and charitable institutions amounting to 30,000.—frs.

Johann Ulrich Freund-Hörler, who died in Gais (Appenzell a. Rh.) has donated 55,000.—frs. to charitable institutions.

Mme. Elise Hürlimann-Hürlimann of Walchwil (Ct. Zug) left 40,000.—frs. to church and charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are published in Switzerland :

Lieutenant-colonel Louis Brechbühl (85) of Berne, a former Instructor of Fortress units.

Alexander Zschokke (60) of Basle well-known sculptor and "Plastiker", and from 1930-1937, Professor at the "Düsseldorfer Akademie". [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couples have celebrated their diamond-wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland :

Mr. & Mrs. J. Wulliens-Martinet of L'Île (Ct. Vaud), Mr. & Mrs. K. Matter-Buser of Häfelfingen (B.L.), Mr. & Mrs. F. Kessler-Züger of Siebnen (Ct. Schwyz), Mr. & Mrs. K. Betschart-Schuler of Schwyz, and Mr. & Mrs. A. Thomann-Keusch of Zurich.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The Marcel Benoist Prize for scientific research, amounting to 20,000.—frs. has been awarded to Professor D. A. Fleisch of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Nine fast naval launches, escorted by Royal Navy motor boats, arrived recently in Bâle on a courtesy visit. The crews were greeted by salvoes fired in the port, then they visited the harbour installations and were welcomed by the cantonal government at the Blue House.

Representatives of the British Embassy in Berne and of the Consulate General at Bâle, as well as Swiss authorities and heads of the Rhine shipping, were present.

* * *

The traditional Motor Coach Rally will be orga-

nised for the 7th time from the 25 of May to the 28th of May, 1955. On the occasion of the Coach Rally a "Festival folklorique" will be held.

* * *

Mr. Roland Muller, an amateur film producer from Sierre, who won a first prize at the Cannes Festival in 1953 with his film "Terre Valaisanne" (The Land of the Valais), has just achieved further success with a documentary called "The Man of the Mountains", which was awarded a first prize this year. The text was by Mr. Alois Theytaz, and the music by Jean Daetwyler.

* * *

Work is at present being carried out on the Simplon road, at Cully, half-way between Lausanne and Vevey, under the initiative of the government of the canton of Vaud. The new road will follow the railway track and pass over the line. The old road passes under the track and goes through the small town of Cully, a bottleneck that is the nightmare of motorists and pedestrians. In many places, on the main highway, the road is being widened and obstacles by-passed — between Geneva and Lausanne and between Sion and Brigue in particular.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways have made a decision which will no doubt be appreciated by visitors to Switzerland. New orders placed for third class carriages to be utilised in fast trains will provide for upholstered seats and backs.

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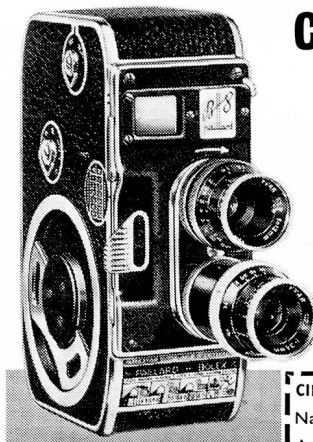


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