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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 Council has appointed Monsieur René Naville, at present Chargé d'Affaires at Djakarta (Indonesia), to the post of Swiss Minister in Chile.

Monsieur Naville was born in 1905 in Cologne (Geneva). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Basle, London and Berlin, entering the diplomatic service in 1931. Two years later he was sent to Paris as Attaché and later on was promoted to the rank of Secretary of Legation. From 1941-45, he was in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Paris. In 1945, M. Naville was made a Counsellor of Legation and sent to Venezuela as Chargé d'Affaires where he remained until his return to Berne in 1949. In 1952, he went to Djakarta.

Monsieur Eric Kessler, the new Swiss Minister, presented his letter of credence to the President O'Kelly at Arus an Uachtarain. (Eire).

On his journey to and from Arus an Uachtarain the Swiss Minister's car was accompanied by an escort of honour, consisting of a cavalry motor cycle detachment. After he had presented his credentials, M. Kessler inspected a guard of honour drawn up outside Arus an Uachtarain.

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Aiken, was present at the ceremony, and the Swiss Minister was accompanied by Mr. Adolphe Gygax, Vice-Consul.

Monsieur Viktor Repic has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Yugoslavia, to Monsieur R. Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, in Berne.

The newly accredited Minister has occupied various important governmental posts, and represented his country for four year in Vienna.

Minister Dr. Jean Hotz, Director of the commercial section of the Swiss Federal Department of

Economics has retired at the age of 65. Minister Hotz has taken part over a number of years in international trade talks.

* * *

During the month of December, 1953, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.26 million passengers, or 2.14 million less than in December, 1952. Receipts: 23.30 million francs. (Dec. 1952: 26.38 million francs).

Goods traffic increased in December, 1953, by 155,000 tons and is returned as 1.64 million tons. Receipts: 31.01 million francs. (Dec. 1952: 25.92 million francs).

Cantonal

The accounts for the year 1953, of the canton of Uri, close with a *credit* balance of 38,615.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Aktiengesellschaft Steinbruch Gruber" in Alpnach-Dorf (Ct. Obwalden) has given on the occasion of their 50th Jubilee 12,500.— frs. to the community of Alpnach. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Government of the canton of Lucerne has contributed Frs. 5,000.— to the avalanches victims. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Sir Lionel Lamb, the new British Ambassador has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich. On that occasion he was the guest of the Swiss-British Society. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The elections for a seat in the Government of the canton of Zurich, which became vacant on account

CITY SWISS CLUB

SOIRÉE FAMILIALE

at which Ladies will be welcome, is to be held on **Tuesday, 9th March, 1954** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.** at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.**

The Dinner will be followed by a talk entitled

"REFLECTIONS ON THE CINEMA"
illustrated on the screen by **Mr. Francis GYSIN, M.A.**

The Committee.

of Dr. Streuli having been elected a Federal Councillor, took place on the 7th of this month.

There were three candidates in the field. Emil Reich, Director of the "Strafanstalt, Regensdorf", (democrat), received 73,447 votes, Dr. Edmund Richner, Editor, (liberal), received 35,841 votes, and Dr. Walter Seiler, (christian socialist), received 20,417 votes. Director Emil Reich, (the overall majority being 65,639), was therefore elected a member of the cantonal government.

Emil Reich was born in November 1900 in Hemberg (Toggenburg) the son of a mountain peasant. He received his education at the "Evangelischen Lehrseminar" Zurich, and after having been for 5 years occupied in his father's business, he moved to Greifensee where he was elected clerk to the rural council. In 1913, he was elected "Jugendsekretär und Amtsvormund" of the district Uster. In 1948, Emil Reich was nominated Director of the cantonal "Strafanstalt" Regensdorf. In the army he holds the rank of Colonel. [A.T.S.]

The Senate of the University of Zurich has elected Professor Dr. Zaccaria Giacometti, as rector during 1954-56. [A.T.S.]

On the 31st of December, 1953, the population of the town of Winterthur numbered 69,339. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Georges Möckli, since 1938 a member of the Government of the canton of Berne, has declared that he will not be a candidate at the next governmental elections. He is a member of the Socialist Party. [A.T.S.]

The population of the Federal capital at the end of last year numbered 153,836. (Dec. 1950 : 146,499). [A.T.S.]

A collection which was made in all Swiss r. catholic churches during 1953, for the University of Fribourg, amounted to 510,866.— frs. [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Schaffhausen has sent 3,000.— frs. to the Swiss Red Cross for the avalanche victims in Switzerland and Austria. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1953, 1,619 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Aargau. 84 persons were killed, and 1,312 received injuries. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Red Cross has received 20,000.— frs. from the Government of the canton of Aargau, for the avalanche victims in Switzerland and Austria. [A.T.S.]

M. Raymond Gafner (Lausanne) has been elected Director of the cantonal hospital, Lausanne, in succession to Dr. E. Cottier, who has resigned from his post. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Rudolf Frey, Industrialist of Trübbach (Ct. St. Gall) has given a house and large garden to the Evangelical church community of Azmoos-Trübbach for the housing of their Kindergarten. (Value : 35,400.— frs.) [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Red Cross has acknowledged the receipt of 5,000.— frs. from the Government of the canton of Valais, for the Swiss and Austrian avalanche victims. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the "Tribune de Genève", a special jubilee number was issued, containing a large number of illustrations. [A.T.S.]

Army

The Federal Council has promoted Colonel H. Rieser to the post of Chief of the section of military aviation and air defence.

Colonel Rieser was born in 1901 in Berne, and is a citizen of Berne and Wuppenau (Thurgau). He attended schools in Berne and St. Gall and studied languages in Rome, Cambridge, London, Paris and Berlin. He then studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he passed his examination as an architect. After several years in this branch, he was until the beginning of the last war for five years General Secretary of the Swiss Aero Club. During the war : Commander of various units and joined the Federal Military Department in 1942. Towards the end of the war : Commander of the Group of special squadrons for Air Defence. In 1947, he was appointed Military and Air Attaché in London, a post which he held for 5 years.

The Swiss Government intends to buy 100 more British Venon jet fighters at a cost of 115 million francs.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland :

Mme. Berthe Esther Pfenninger, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 62. The deceased wrote under the name Magali Helo a number of works amongst them plays for children, at one time she was a teacher at the *Gymnasium* in La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Josef Meyer-Bannwart, from 1933-1953 administrator of the cantonal Labour Office Lucerne, and formerly a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 70.

Bernhard Rast-Koch, since 1919, Sub. Manager, and from 1933-1944, Managing-Director of the "Luzerner Kantonalbank" in Lucerne, at the age of 79.

J. P. Flück, a well-known Bernese painter, in Schwanden, nr. Brienz, aged 53.

RECITAL MARIE-MADELAINE TSCHACHTLI - VIOLIN

Accompanied by HANS WILLI HAEUSSLEIN - Piano

at WIGMORE HALL, 27th March 1954 at 7.30p.m.

3rd SONATA for Violin Solo	Ysaye
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SONATA E Min.	Bach
BAGATELLE	Scarlatescu
NIGUN	Bloch
CAPRICE A Min.	Wieniawski-Kreisler
CHANSON DU MARIN	Milhaud
2nd SONATA	Raffaele d'Alessandro

Tickets @ 9/-, 6/- & 3/- from Box Office, Wigmore Hall or Ibbs, Tillet Ltd., 124 Wigmore Street, London, W.1.

Pierre Court, "Staatsschreiber" of the canton of Neuchâtel since 1942, and a former Journalist and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 51.

Louis Merlin, a former translator at the Federal Economic Department, and Editor-in-Chief of the "Journal du Jura", Bienne, in Estavayer-le-Lac, aged 74.

André Marchand, since 1942 examining judge of the "Montagnes neuchâtelaises" in La Chaux de Fonds, at the age of 57.

Louis Ansermier, veteran Swiss Balloonist, who won the Gordon Bennett Aeronautic Cup in 1921, in Geneva, aged 83.

Dr. phil. Rageth Domenig-Vonzun in Zurich, at the age of 66. The deceased was a citizen of Tamins (Ct. Grisons); from 1916-1919, he was a teacher at the secondary school St. Moritz, and afterwards held the post of Editor of the "Engadiner Post", St. Moritz. From 1930-1943 he was a member of the editorial staff of the "Freien Rätiers", Chur, after which he settled down in Zurich as a free lance Journalist.

Karl Muheim, President of the Board of the "Urner Kantonalbank" in Altdorf, aged 67. The deceased was from 1919-1923 President of the commune of Altdorf, from 1920-1940 a member of the "Landrat", over which he presided in 1928/29. From 1926-1927, he was a member of the States Council, and from 1931-1947 he sat in the National Council as a Liberal. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced in the Swiss Press:

Andreas Laely (90) of Davos, at one time a teacher in Davos and in the canton of Appenzell A.Rh.; he was appointed in 1894 Editor of the "Davoser Zeitung". In 1903, he was elected "Landammann" of Davos. After having been a member of the Grand Council, he entered in 1909 into the Government of the canton of Grisons. From 1913-1935, he sat in the States Council over which he presided in 1932/33, and from 1920-1936 he was Editor of the "Freien Rätier", Chur.

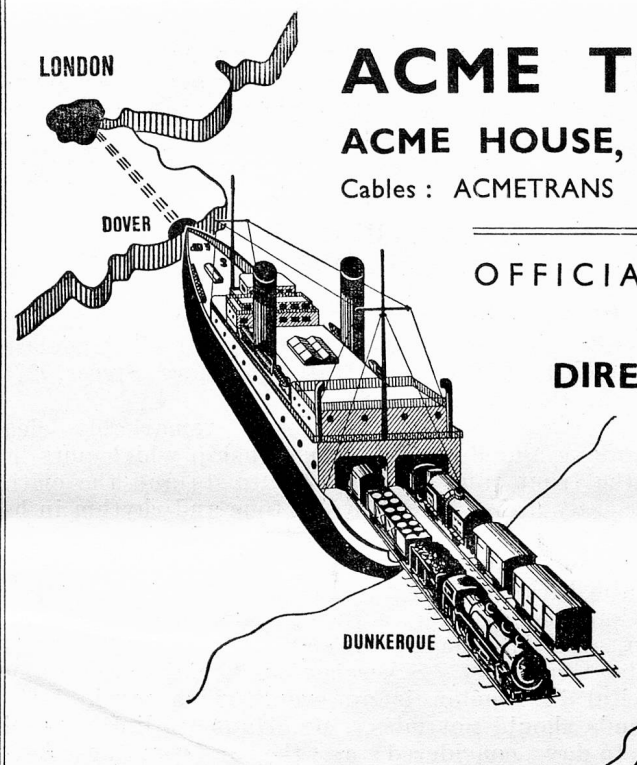
Mme. Susanna Anna Streuli-Schmidt (90) of Wädenswil, mother of the recently elected Federal Councillor, Dr. Hans Streuli. She is the co-founder, and for many years President of the "Frauenverein Wädenswil" and head of the "Weiblichen Fortbildungsschule Wädenswil".

Dr. Heinrich Wanner (70) of Basle, formerly rector of the "Freien Evangelischen Schule" in Basle, and a prominent historian.

Agnes von Segesser-Brunegg (70) of Lucerne, well-known authoress. [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. L. Turrian-Délessert of Vevey, and Mr. & Mrs. G. Wible of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the Year 1953: Schweiz. Bankverein, Basle: 8 per cent, (1952: 8%); Leu & Co. A.G., Zurich: 6 per cent, (1952: 6%); Neue Guyerzeller Bank, A.G., Zurich: 5 per cent; Bündner Privatbank, Chur: 4 per cent, Schweiz.



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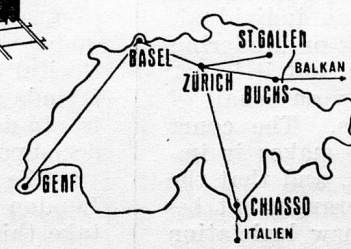
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Volksbank, Bern: 5 per cent, (1952: 5%); Leihkasse Neumünster, Zurich: 5 per cent, (1952: 5%); Hypothekarkasse des Kantons Fribourg: 6 per cent, (1952: 5%); Schweiz. Hypothekenbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent, (1952: 5%); Schweiz. Bodenkreditanstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent, (1952: 6%). [A.T.S.]

During 1953, 2,224 Swiss emigrated overseas. (1952: 3,626). [A.T.S.]

The first Swiss Customs launch to be equipped with radar is now patrolling Lake Geneva searching for smugglers between the French and Swiss shores.

The Swiss Confederation issued 161,219 work permits to foreigners last year, an increase of 12,471 over 1952. Building took most foreign workers, with 41,600 followed by the hotel industry with 31,000 and agriculture with 28,300.

Hugo Koblet, champion Swiss racing cyclist has been elected honorary president of Glasgow Stella Racing Club, membership of which is limited to 20.

A surprising demand was recently refused by a Berne suburban municipality. The Chinese Legation had sought permission to erect a new building for a 50-room Communist diplomatic school.

It is now stated that the school was not intended for educating and training Communist diplomats but was to be a centre where these staffs and their dependents could be lodged. In fact, the Chinese Legation has 43 members, the Polish 29, the Czechoslovak 43, and the Russian 60, and the so-called school was intended to have been a hostel where staffs and their dependents could have lived a collective life under the care and control of special agents.

Max Angst and Jules Hug, the Swiss bobsleighers, won the St. Moritz Boblet Grand Prix. They had an aggregate time of 5min 42.4sec for four runs.

The Federal Supreme Court has made known its judgment in the case of the Zürich journalist and art critic Karl Seelig, to whom the management of a local cinema — dissatisfied with one of his articles — refused admittance, even after he had paid for a seat. In his appeal he had asserted that he had a right to be admitted with his Press card, or with a free or purchased ticket, and that the cinema was under an obligation to give or sell him a ticket.

The Supreme Court rejected these claims. The Press card, it said, does not mention the right of free admittance, but merely shows that the bearer is a professional journalist who may benefit from the usual facilities, which can be suspended or cancelled. The judgment added that the liberty of the Press, as established by the constitution, only concerns the legal relations between the State and an individual. The State must refrain from preventing or hindering the Press from carrying out its mission, but it is not under an obligation to intervene actively on behalf of a journalist to safeguard his interests. The court therefore held that existing legislation makes it impossible to admit the journalist's claim, and that the only solution would be an amicable arrangement between the two parties, failing which new legislation should be introduced.

SWISSAIR EARNINGS FOR 1953 SHOW AN INCREASE OF 25%.

Swissair's earnings in 1953 soared to 86 million Swiss Francs, representing an increase of 25% over 1952. Substantial additional costs for technical materials, petrol and additions to personnel have, however, to be taken into consideration, together with expenditure for training of personnel — mainly crews — which amounted to 3.7 million Swiss Francs; more than half a million over and above that of the previous year.

Streamlining of the system of working and a better utilisation in general made it possible to reduce the costs in the offered ton-mile, although on the other hand earnings have been reduced due to the introduction of cheap Tourist Class fares.

Characteristic of Civil Aviation generally — considerably improved results which are reflected in our statistics against those of the previous year are undoubtedly due to the substantial increase in traffic by the introduction of the Tourist Class fares over the European network.

Whilst the offered ton-mile has been increased by as much as 45% and point to point passengers by 45%, mail by 40% and freight by 29%, this increase has been effected without any appreciable addition to the Swissair fleet.

STATISTICS.

Europe, Near East, North Atlantic & Special Flights.

	1953	1952
Flown Miles	8,179,016	6,454,669
Offered Ton Miles	37,789,833	26,205,964
Point to Point Passengers	425,309	292,341
Freight lbs.	10,977,594	8,534,156
Mail lbs.	5,404,653	3,861,304
Average Utilisation	69.4%	70.0%
Regularity	97.9%	98.7%
Utilised Passenger Miles	206,189,579	139,076,937
Utilised Freight Ton-Miles	3,164,974	2,350,953
Utilised Mail Ton-Miles ...	1,532,129	1,101,324

VIOLIN RECITAL.

MARIE-MADELAINE TSCHACHTLI.

We draw our readers' attention to the Recital of the talented young Swiss Violinist, Marie Madelaine Tschachtli at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, 27th March, 1954 at 7.30 p.m.

Miss Tschachtli possesses a remarkably clean technique and first-class musicianship which puts her in the front rank of Lady Violinists and the critics especially praise the beauty of tone and rhythm in her playing. She studied in Switzerland with André de Ribaupierre and for two years in Paris where she obtained the only First Prize at the Conservatoire National de Musique, a rare and outstanding distinction. She has played with great success at Concerts under Ansermet, Scherchen and Balmer and her Recital in London is an event which music loving friends should not miss. Mr. Hans Willi Hausslein is to-day considered as the outstanding Swiss accompanist.

We wish Miss Tschachtli success in her debut in London and hope that many of our compatriots will take this opportunity of hearing this sincere artist in a most interesting programme.