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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Minister Hans Schaffner, delegate for Economic Agreements, to the post of chief of the commercial section at the Federal Economic Department, in succession to Minister, Dr. Jean Hotz, who has retired from his office.

Minister Schaffner, who was born in 1908 at Gränichen, (Ct. Aargau) studied law at the University of Berne, and established himself as a barrister in the canton of Berne. In 1938, he entered into the service of the Confederation (Federal Office for Industry, Arts and Crafts and Labour). In September, 1939, Minister Schaffner was appointed Deputy Chief of the war economy section, of which he was promoted head in 1940. Six years later (1946) he was chosen by the Federal Council as delegate for Economic Agreements, in which capacity he visited on several occasions the United States of America, Great Britain, the Benelux and Scandinavian countries, Germany, etc.

In January, 1953, Mr. Schaffner was promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary.

The Federal Council has decided to be represented by a Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Cuba, instead, as hitherto, by a Chargé d'Affaires.

Monsieur Franco Brenni has been appointed Minister. He was born at Bellinzona in 1897, and is a citizen of Salorino (Ct. Ticino). He studied law at the University of Fribourg.

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Minister Brenni entered into the service of the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1926, and was sent to the Swiss Consulate in Milan. In 1928, he returned to Berne where he occupied a post in the Consular Service, and seven years later (1935) he was appointed Swiss Consul at Naples. In 1941, he was nominated Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* in Athens and the following year he acted as Swiss Consul General in Milan.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 1st August, 1954

3 to 5.30 p.m. (Doors open at 2.30 p.m.)

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**After the celebration a Dance will be held from 6.45 - 11 p.m.
in the VAUXHALL BEER GARDENS nearby**

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: on Sunday 1st August, 1954

Joint Protestant Service In French and German at 11 a.m. at Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Catholic Service at 11 a.m. Solemn Mass and Sermon in German and English, at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

Monsieur Charles A. Dubois, Chief of the Information and Press service of the Federal Political Department in Berne, has vacated his post and has been transferred to Canada, with the rank of Counsellor of Legation. He will be chief collaborator to Minister Victor Nef.

The new Swiss Minister to Portugal, Monsieur Henri Fischer, presented his letters of credence to President Craveiro Lopes.

Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, President of the United Nations Assembly has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Swiss Foreign Minister.

Mme. Pandit, who is the sister of the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, was entertained to dinner at the von Wattenwyl house.

Monsieur José Luis Archer, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Portugal, has presented his credentials to Monsieur R. Rubattel, President of the Confederation and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister.

The Swiss Government has intimated that a visit to Geneva by the loyalty board of the United States Congress to inquire into the political past of United States citizens serving in the European office of the United Nations and other international organizations would not be in keeping with Swiss sovereignty.

The board is carrying out similar inquiries in Rome and Paris, also the headquarters of international organizations. It is believed that the board intended to call before it about 30 United States citizens. These will now be asked to appear before it at Lyons. Hr. Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has said that the inquiry might be helpful in enabling an official against whom insinuation had been made to clarify his attitude.

The Swiss authorities have taken a different view from that of Mr. Hammarskjöld. When they learned on the basis of Press reports from Washington of the intention of the board to visit Geneva they informed Miss Frances Willis, the Ambassador in Berne, that to hold such an inquiry on Swiss territory would be an infringement of sovereign rights.

The board usually holds its sitting in the United States, but officials serving with international organizations abroad complained that they could not leave their posts to travel home to appear before it. For this reason the board, which has no power to compel a person to attend, decided to hold its sittings in Europe. No formal request was made for it to conduct its inquiries in Switzerland, so that there is no question, technically, of a refusal by the Government to allow it to come here. At the same time, the implications of the Swiss attitude are plain.

Cantonal

Again traffic accidents in Switzerland are on the increase. During the last six months 762 accidents have occurred in the canton of Lucerne. (618 in the first six months of 1953). Eighteen people were killed (12) and 461 injured of whom 201 seriously.

In the month of June, 1954, fifty-nine traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Thurgau. Twelve persons were seriously injured and 45 received slight injuries.

In June, 1954, 629 (534) traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. 502 (424) persons were injured of whom 11 (6) succumbed to their injuries.

[A.T.S.]

The traditional "Sempacher Schlachtfeier" took place at Sempach and was attended by large crowds.

A long procession wended its way to the Winkelried monument, where Army-corps commander Franz Nager gave a patriotic address, this was followed by a religious service.

[A.T.S.]

A commemoration stone to the memory of Richard Wagner was unveiled in the Rietbergpark, Zurich, the former residence of the Wesendonck family, where the composer lived from 1857-58, and where he created some of his most famous works.

The stone was given by the town of Zurich, and is the work of the sculptor Franz Fischer..

Richard Wagner had spent two of his most important life periods in Switzerland. From 1849-58 he lived mostly at Zurich, and from 1865-1872 in Tribschen, near Lucerne.

[A.T.S.]

The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich is celebrating in autumn 1955, the 100th anniversary of its foundation. The official "Festakt" will take place on the 22nd October, 1955, at the "Kongresshaus", Zurich.

[A.T.S.]

The Zurich Zoo, one of Europe's finest, now has 2,357 animals, including two Abyssinian lions, pre-

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sented by the Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. Nearly 433,000 people visited the Zoo last year.

[A.T.S.]

Mme Jakobea Walpert-Kupper of Zurich has celebrated her 101st birthday anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Johann Wyss, a member of the Government of the canton of Zug, is shortly retiring owing to bad health.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Fischli (architect in Meilen) has been appointed Director of the "Kunstgewerbeschule und Kunstgewerbemuseum" of the town of Zurich, in succession to Mr. Joh. Itten.

[A.T.S.]

A British couple, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rice from Cosby (Leicestershire) were killed when their Piper plane crashed into a mountain near Moutier. They were competing in the "Rallye aérien international de la montre suisse" at Moutier.

[A.T.S.]

The commune of Langnau (Ct. Berne) has honoured Mme. Elisabeth Müller, of Hünibach nr.

Thun, by nominating her as honorary citizen for her literary work.

[A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1953, of the canton of Berne, close with a credit balance of 508,742 — frs.

[A.T.S.]

Professor Wilhelm Oswald, of the Faculty of Law, has been elected rector for 1954/56 of the University of Fribourg.

[A.T.S.]

M. Daniel Bald-Bery, son of the well-known Geneva painter, Auguste Baud-Bery has donated to the Government of the canton of Fribourg a collection, comprising 25 pictures painted by his father. The collection will be housed in the castle of Gruyère.

[A.T.S.]

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the firm Alfred J. Amsler & Co., Schaffhausen, the management has made a donation amounting to 300,000.—frs. to the old age fund of the personnel which was introduced in 1941.

[A.T.S.]

The late Josef Anton Hengartner of Waldkirch, (Ct. St. Gall) has left an amount of 70,000.—frs. to the r. catholic parish of Waldkirch.

The theft of gold coins of great historical value from the Vindonissa museum in Brugg, (reported in our issue of June, 25th) has been cleared up. The museum authorities have anonymously received a parcel containing the coins. The sender signed herself as being the sister of the thirteen year old thief.

[A.T.S.]

A sports plane carrying three passengers, crashed into a wood in the Val des Dix (Ct. Valais). The pilot, Jean Comoli of Geneva (23) and Tello Diebold of Sierre were killed, and two of the passengers were injured.

[A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Antonio Regolatti, representative of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse, Lugano, in Lugano, at the age of 56.

Arthur Bouverat, Manufacturer of watch parts, in Aumont, (Broye district), aged 84.

Hans Pletscher-Schlupe, Manager of the "Emmenthaler-Blattes", in Langnau, at the age of 58.

Emile Obrist, Wine Merchant, in Vevey, aged 85. The deceased was for many years President of the Swiss Wine Merchants Association, and from 1912-1925 sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Abbé Antonin Crausaz in Villeneuve, at the age of 80, he was from 1905-1950, Professor of literature at the Collège Saint-Michel, Fribourg.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. G. Ryhiner, for 40 years librarian at the Basle University, in Basle, at the age of 87..

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The undermentioned anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press:

Professor, Dr. Paul Gygax (80) of Zurich. He was for many years Commercial Editor of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung". In 1916, Dr. Gygax became a lecturer of political science, and later on Professor at the University Zurich. For a number of years he was a member of the "Kantonsrat", Zurich.

Dr. H. C. Volkmar Andrea (75) residing in Zurich, where for the last 40 years he has played a conspicuous role in the musical life of Zurich. Born in Berne, he studied music at Cologne and Munich, and in 1902, became conductor of the "Stadtsängerverein" Winterthur. Later on he took over the leadership of the "Gemischten Chores", Zurich, and from 1904-1921 conducted the "Männerchor" Zurich. From 1906-1949, Andrea conducted the concerts of the "Tonhallegesellschaft" Zurich in succession to Hegar.

The "Jubilar" was also a prolific composer of operas, symphonies, songs and piano music. In 1914, the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in recognition for his services rendered to classical and modern music.

Johann Heil (70) of Winterthur, Central Secretary of the "Christlichen Metallarbeitervereins der Schweiz". He was for many years President of the "Christlich-nationalen Gewerkschaftsbundes der Schweiz". [A.T.S.]

The following have celebrated their diamond-wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Aramis-Duvois of Dayards (Val de Travers), Mr. and Mrs. Rüd-Meier of Zurich.

Mr. and Mrs. M. and F. Ryf-Hubacher of Attiswil have celebrated their "stone" wedding anniversary (70). The husband is 92 and the wife 93 years of age. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Lower House of Parliament agreed to buy 100 Venom jet fighters, built under licence in Switzerland, for about £9,385,000.

DER BUNDESBRIEF VON 1291.

(Gekürzte Uebersetzung aus dem lateinischen Urtext)

Im Namen Gottes Amen.

Wir, die Landleute von Uri, von Schwyz und von Unterwalden geloben und schwören, angesichts der bösen Zeit und zu besserem Schutz und Schirm, einander beizustehen mit Rat und Tat, mit Leib und Gut, mit gesamer Macht und Kraft, wider alle und jede, die uns Gewalt und Unrecht tun.

Einhellig versprechen und geloben wir einander, keine fremden Richter in unsern Tälern zu dulden.

Und niemand schädige den andern an Leben und Gut. Wer aber Schuld auf sich geladen, leiste Genug-tung.

Entsteht Unfrieden zwischen Eidgenossen, so sollen die Besten unter uns zusammentreten und ihn schlichten.

Unsere Bundessatzungen, zum Wohl aller geordnet, sollen, mit Gottes Hilfe, ewig dauern.

Geschehen im Jahre des Herrn eintausend zweihundert ein und neunzig, zu Anfang des Monates August.

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