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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, told Parliament that he would propose to the Government that Switzerland's envoys in the more important capitals should be accredited as ambassadors. At present Switzerland is one of the few countries whose leading diplomats are only "Ministers".

Addressing the States Council, M. Petitpierre said that accreditation as ambassadors would not prejudice in any way the transfer of envoys to lesser posts, where they would be known as Ministers; the rank of ambassador would be valid only for the period of limited appointments.

* * *

The two Federal Chambers (States and National Council) having assembled in Berne for their summer session lasting three weeks.

* * *

Monsieur Mohan Sinhe Mehta, the newly appointed Indian ambassador, has presented his credentials to M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The new ambassador was, from 1949-1951, Indian ambassador at The Hague, and since 1951, High Commissioner of India to Pakistan.

* * *

A supplementary agreement giving the Swiss new tariff concessions under the United States-Swiss trade agreement of 1936, as compensation for last year's increase on watch tariffs, was signed in Geneva.

It was emphasised that this is the first time the U.S. has agreed to grant tariff concessions as compensation for the application of its escape clause.

Moreover, the American-Swiss agreement provides that should the watch tariff be reduced in the future the concession now granted in compensation would remain in force, though the Swiss would then have to grant in turn new concessions to the U.S.

The Federal Council, in agreement with the Government of the canton of Geneva, have agreed that the Four Power Conference (at Highest level), which is timed to take place from 16th to 18th July, should take place at Geneva.

* * *

The Prime Minister of Thailand, Marshal Pibul Songgram, was officially received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne, by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, and the members of the Federal Council.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.39 million passengers during April, 1955, or 918,000 more than in April, 1954. Receipts: 26.93 million francs (April, 1954: 25.59 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 234,000 tons and is returned as 1.84 million tons. Receipts: 33.36 million francs (April, 1954: 32.71 million francs).

* * *

M. Max Petitpierre, the Swiss President, attended the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the European institute for nuclear research — a project in which 12 countries are co-operating, and the cost of which, in the first seven years, will be £10 million. The site lies not far from the Cointrin airport, at the foot of the Jura.

M. Petitpierre said the researches would not be carried out secretly; the results would be published for the benefit of science in general.

Among other speakers was Sir Ben Lockspeiser, president of the council of the European organization

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on Tuesday, July 5th, 1955, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1 (Stanhope Room).

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, July 4th, 1955.

THE COMMITTEE.

for nuclear research, who said that their aim was to establish a focal centre of study and experiment, where groups of scientists could achieve together what they would be unlikely or unable to do apart.

Cantonal

Members of the City of London Livery Club, who have spent two weeks at Brunnen, attended a reception given in their honour by the Government of the canton of Schwyz at the Town Hall in Schwyz. "Landammann" St. Oechslin in his address of welcome expressed the admiration of the Swiss people for the great achievements of the British people in the last war, and called for three cheers for H.M. the Queen. The President of the City of London Livery Club, Mr. A. S. Henderson suitably replied. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three persons were killed, and two seriously injured when a motor-car driven by a German subject, collided in overtaking at excessive speed near Thun, with a motor-cycle and another car. The names of the victims are: Werner Peter (44) of Sutz Lattrigen, Ernst Hoffmann (49), Chauffeur, of Biel, and Mlle. E. Hochstettler (20), house-maid, of Thun. The driver of the German car H. Kemmener (23) of Munich was injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Thomas Mann, who, in 1929 received the Nobel Prize. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss "Schiller Foundation" has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. At a solemn meeting in the Town Hall, Zurich, at which were present Federal-Councillor, Dr. Ph. Etter, Professor, Dr. K. Schmid, rector of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) read a paper on "Schiller und die Schweiz".

The Schiller prize, amounting to 15,000.—frs. was awarded to the Swiss writer Gonzague de Reynold, further awards were made to Mr. Max Frisch (Zurich) and Edmond Gilliard (Fiez), 4,000.—frs. each, 1,000.—frs. each to Clà Biert (Zuoz), Enrico Talamona (Lugano) and Walter Gross (Winterthur). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The German writer, Thomas Mann, who in 1949 became a Swiss citizen, and now resides in Kilchberg (Zurich), has celebrated his 80th birthday.

The municipality of Zurich gave a reception in his honour at the "Murlaltengut" at which a great number of eminent personalities, amongst them, Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, were present. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A motor-car collided at a level-crossing near Villmergen with an oncoming train. The car was totally destroyed and six persons were injured of whom two were seriously hurt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

National-Councillor, Robert Grimm, since 1911 a Member of Parliament, representing the Socialist Party, has intimated that he will not be a candidate at the Parliamentary re-election in October of this year. [A.T.S.]

La Fête des Vignerons

1st-14th August, 1955

The 1955 Winegrowers' Festival at Vevey will be the first for 28 years—it only occurs three or four times in a century—so it is an opportunity not to be missed. How to get there? The best way by far is on the regular Swissair Tourist and Night Tourist flights to Geneva. 23-day Night Tourist fares include:

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The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Sir Seymour Howard, accompanied by two City Sheriffs and three Household Officers recently paid an official visit to the town of Basle. The Lord Mayor took his 18th century mace, valued at £2,500, and the sword bearer, Mr. William D. Boston took a £150 Canadian sable hat as part of his regalia. They travelled by Swissair flight SR 105, and returned by SR 104.

The party was received at the Town Hall by the Basle authorities, where Mr. Tschudi, President of the cantonal Government addressed them in English, expressing the pleasure he had in welcoming such distinguished visitors. Sir Seymour replying voiced his admiration for our country which he said, has so much in common with Great Britain, and particularly laid stress on the commercial relationship between the two cities.

The reception was followed by a dinner at which were present representatives of commerce and industry and of the English colony. The following day the Lord Mayor and his party paid a visit to the Basle Port and the "Bürgerspital". [A.T.S.]

* * *

A motorist, who had previously been several times convicted for reckless driving, and who caused the death of another motorist when driving under the influence of alcohol, was sentenced to two years imprisonment and an indemnity amounting to 14,000.—frs. to the widow and son of the unfortunate victim, by the Cantonal Court, Liestal. [A.T.S.]

* * *

General Henri Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army during the last war, was officially received in Aarau by the municipal authorities, who have named a street after him. [A.T.S.]

* * *

According to figures just published by the Federal Statistical Buro in Berne, the population of the canton of Fribourg, on December 1st, 1950, numbered 159,695 persons (80,783 males and 77,910 females).

Fribourg: 29,005 inhabitants, Estavayer: 2,452, Romont: 2,807, Bulle: 5,255, Kerzers: 1,944, Morat: 2,795, Düdingen: 4,033, Tafers: 1,574, Wünnewil: 2,153, and Châlet-St. Denis: 2,908. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Japanese Minister in Berne, Monsieur Toru Hagiwara has paid a visit to the exhibition "Tempel und Teehaus Japan" in Basle, he was afterwards entertained by the Government of the canton Basle-Town at the Town Hall. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The new Concert Hall in La Chaux-de-Fonds, which has taken two years to build, costing two million francs, was inaugurated by a concert given by the "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande", conducted by Paul Schuricht. The Hall has accommodation for 1,000 people. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A motorist (47) of the Val de Ruz with three previous convictions for motoring offences, was sentenced to 20 days imprisonment for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Edmund Guinand has been nominated President, and M. Gaston Clottu, Vice-President for 1955/56 of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

M. Lucien Billy, has been elected Mayor of the town of Geneva, in succession to M. Albert Dussoix. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

James Valloton, lawyer and expert on International law, in Pully, at the age of 85. The deceased had been established as a lawyer in Lausanne since 1897, and was a member of the Institute of International law of which he was one of the Vice-Presidents. He was a delegate of the Federal Council on a number of International Congresses, and author of many books on law.

Dr. Paul Pfeil, well-known Journalist, in Zurich, aged 52.

Hans Fretz-Wegmann, Publisher and Head of the firm "Gebrüder Fretz, A.G.", Zurich, at the age of 67.

Harald Barth, composer, in Zurich, aged 49.

Professor Ubaldo Emma, since 1943 Assistant Manager of the Lyceum of the canton of Ticino, in Lugano.

Max Bossart, Director of the Watchmakers' School, Solothurn, in Solothurn at the age of 48.

Alois Furrer, "Korporationspräsident", and for 20 years a member of the "Landrat" and Superior Court of the canton of Uri, in Silenen, aged 83.

E. E. Meyer, for 40 years Pastor of the Protestant community of Geneva, at the age of 68. [A.T.S.]

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