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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Enrico Celio, Swiss Minister in Rome, having reached retiring age, will shortly vacate his post.

The Federal Council has designed as his successor, Dr. Alfred Escher, at present Head of the Swiss Delegation of the Neutral International Commission for the exchange of prisoners of war in Korea.

Minister A. Escher was born in 1906, and hails from Zurich, he studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Kiel and Berlin, and in 1928 obtained his doctorate. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1931, and was sent to London and afterwards to the Swiss Consulate in Bangkok. In 1935, he was transferred to Warsaw and four years later (1939) to Berlin.

In 1941, M. Escher went to Ankara with the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation, the following year he was appointed Consul in Bagdad and from there he went to Athens, where he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

He was transferred to London in 1945, as 1st Counsellor of Legation, and in 1948, the International Committee of the Red Cross appointed M. Escher as commissioner in connection with the help for refugees in Palestine, he was at the disposal of the Red Cross Committee until the 22nd of June, 1951, when he was appointed Swiss Minister in Iran, being at the same time accredited to Afghanistan. (Minister Escher, whilst in London, was frequently seen in the Colony.)

The Finance Commission of the two Chambers (National and States Council) is studying the question of an increased remuneration for Federal Councillors; the salary of a Federal Councillor was fixed in 1947 to be 48,000.—frs., in addition a yearly amount of 70,000.—frs. was made available for the entertainment expenses of the seven Councillors.

It is proposed to increase the salary of a member of the Government from 48,000.—frs. to 55,000.—frs.

The Soviet Government has asked Switzerland to look after their interests in the Kingdom of Irak, the Federal Council has accepted the mission.

The Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Egidio Reale, who has occupied his post since 1947, has been recalled to Rome. He will be succeeded by Monsieur Maurilio Coppini. The new Ambassador was born in 1900. He has held various posts in Moscow, Belgrade, Helsinki and Vienna, and from 1948-1950, he was Italian Consul General at Zurich.

The accounts for the year 1954, of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration close with a surplus of 64.4 million francs. (1953: 53 million francs.)

The Federal Department of Justice and Police in Berne, stated that the Munich Police have arrested a German alleged to have driven gunmen from Germany to Switzerland to attack the Rumanian Legation in Berne last month. The arrest was made at the request of the Swiss, they said.

The Swiss Police also mention that the four gunmen, now under arrest, were born in Rumania, but their full identity may not yet have been definitely established. The Police say they confiscated two sub-machine guns, one German revolver, one German automatic pistol, two small pocket pistols, several knives and daggers, and 158 rounds of ammunition.

The two Federal Chambers met on March 14th for their Spring session in Berne, which will last between 2 - 3 weeks.

Cantonal

Professor, Dr. G. Miescher, Professor of Dermatology at the University of Zurich, has been honoured with the title of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Munich. [A.T.S.]

The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Denery paid a two days' visit to the town of Zurich, during which he inspected the Kloten Air Port, the cantonal hospital, the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), and the "Kunsthaus". The distinguished guest was offered a dinner by the municipal authorities. [A.T.S.]

The "Schweizerische Depeschagentur" in Berne, has celebrated its 60th foundation anniversary. Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, spoke on Radio Lausanne about this event, extending the congratulations of the Government to the Management. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the school buildings in Pully (Ct. Vaud) caused damage estimated to exceed 200,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 25th International Motor Show in Geneva, called the "Salon du Jubilé" opened its doors on the 10th of this month. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Max Petitpierre, who in his address stressed the steadily increasing importance of the Geneva exhibition. He said that Switzerland was launching a £24 million plan to improve roads, and another railway tunnel would be built through the Alps, under the St. Gothard Pass mainly for carrying cars. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious motor accident occurred at the Kerenzerbergstrasse, nr. Mühlhorn (Ct. Glarus). The driver of the car, Mr. Hans Pfenninger, Director of the Cocoa-Cola works, Zurich, and his passenger, M. Artmann of Essen (Germany) were killed, the six-years-old daughter of Mr. Pfenninger escaped with slight injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Edmond Guyot, Director of the Neuchâtel Observatory, and Professor at the University of this town has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme Caroline Fiechter-Singler, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Basle, has celebrated her 99th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Albert Kober (70) of Basle, eminent Journalist, and a member of the editorial staff of the "National Zeitung", Basle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Schneider-Leutenegger of Sirnach (Ct. Thurgau), and Mr. and Mrs. R. Läderrach-Rieder of Dätwil (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES.

Madame Jeanne Audemars-Correvon who recently died in Lausanne, at the age of 73, has left various legacies to charitable institutions amounting to 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

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BANK DIVIDENDS.

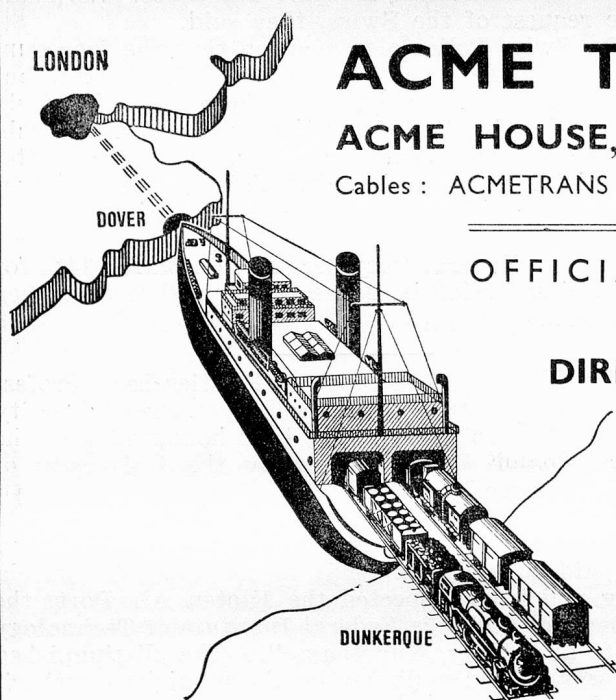
Solothurner Handelsbank, Solothurn: 6 per cent (1953: 6%); Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Basle: 4 per cent (1953: 4%); Hypothekarkasse des Kantons Freiburg: 5 per cent (1953: 5%); Gewerbebank, Zurich: 6 per cent (1953: 6%); Obwaldner Gewerbebank, Sarnen: 5 per cent (1953: 5%). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Here are some balances of the accounts for 1954 of the following cantons:

Aargau	.....	Credit Balance	.....	2,031,226.—frs.
Glarus	.....	Credit Balance	.....	245,844.—frs.
Solothurn	.....	Credit Balance	.....	4,450,000.—frs.
St. Gall	Credit Balance	3,224,625.—frs.
Appenzell A.Rh	Credit Balance	46,027.—frs.

[A.T.S.]



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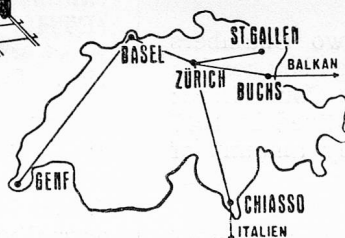
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