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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 Jean-Louis Pahud to the post of Swiss Minister to Egypt and Ethiopia, with residence in Cairo, in succession to Minister André Boissier, who died in May of this year.

Minister Pahud was born at Lausanne in 1909, and is a citizen of Bioley-Magnoux (Ct. Vaud). He studied law at the Universities of Lausanne and Siena (Italy) and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1938. After having occupied a post at the Swiss Legation in Cairo, he returned to Berne where he held for two years a post at the Federal Economic Department.

In 1950, M. Pahud was transferred to Madrid in the capacity of 1st Counsellor of Legation. Since October, 1955, he was *en poste* in Addis Ababa, as *Chargé d'Affaires ad int.*

Minister Alfred Zehnder, Head of the Division for Political Affairs, and General Secretary of the Federal Political Department in Berne, will in the near future receive a new appointment.

The Federal Council has nominated Minister Robert Kohli as his successor. The latter was born in 1896, and is a citizen of Rueschegg. (Ct. Berne). He studied *juris prudencia* at the University of Berne, and entered in 1918, in the service of the Political Department where he occupied several important posts. After having been promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, he was in 1945, nominated Swiss Minister at The Hague, and four years later (1949) to Belgrade in the same capacity. On June 30th, 1953, he left the Political Department to become President of the "Schweizerischen Verrechnungsstelle".

The two Federal Chambers — National and States Council — assembled on the 17th of September in Berne for their three weeks autumn session.

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) announced in Washington,

that it has entered into an agreement with the Swiss Government, subject to ratification, under which the Swiss Government would lend 200 million francs (£17,000,000) to the Bank.

* * *

Customs receipts during the month of August, 1956, totalled 78.9 million francs. The net amount for the benefit of the Confederation amounts to 55.9 million francs, or 10.1 million francs more than in August, 1955.

Receipts for the first eight months of the current year total 431.0 million francs, which is 49.6 million francs more than in the same period in 1955.

* * *

Switzerland has declined Colonel Nasser's invitation to join the organisation he is setting up to negotiate a revision of the Suez Canal Treaty of 1888. An official communiqué explains that Switzerland was not a party to the treaty, and that her few ocean-going ships almost never use the Canal.

* * *

The Swiss Government has announced that it has decided to open negotiations for the "provisional adherence" of Switzerland to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. (G.A.T.T.).

* * *

The traditional conference of Swiss Ministers took place in Berne from September 6th to 8th, under the Presidency of M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. A large number of Swiss Ministers abroad attended the conference.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that a
SOIREE FAMILIALE
(with Ladies)

will take place on:

Tuesday, October 2nd, 1956, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.
at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.
followed by a talk by Mr. Louis Baume, (son of Mr. A. C. Baume) on his recent travels to Singapore, Malaya and Hongkong, illustrated with coloured film.

L. A. CHAPUIS,
Hon. SECRETARY.

The Swiss National Bank is reminding the public, that the old 20.— frs. notes (with Pestalozzi picture) will be recalled by September 30th, 1956, and after that date lose their value. From October 1st, 1956, these notes can only be changed for new ones, at the offices of the Swiss National Bank.

Cantonal

The "Viscose", Emmenbrücke (Ct. Lucerne), manufacturers of artificial silk, has celebrated its 50th Jubilee.

This concern which exports their goods to over 50 countries employs a staff numbering 3,600. President of the Board is Colonel Ed. von Goumoens. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The oldest woman citizen of Zurich, Mme. Maria Guyer-Huber, has celebrated her 103rd birthday, she still enjoys good health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A party of Swiss climbers, aged 15 — 20, had made the ascent of the Jungfrau (13,630 ft.) without guides. On their way down one of them slipped on an icy slope, dragging the whole party after him. They were all on one rope. They fell about 2,000 ft. before coming to rest.

Five were killed, and four seriously injured. The names of the victims are: Werner and Hans Zurbrugg, and Werner Lauener, of Lauterbrunnen, Karl Graf, and Hans Gertsch of Wengen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three Zurich climbers, R. Gossweiler and the brothers Ehrlich were overtaken by a landslide on their way to the Kroente hut in the Spannort group and were killed outright. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Walter Sturzenegger (aged 19) of Küssnacht (Ct. Zurich) was killed by lightning on the ascent of the Wildhorn, and his companion was badly burnt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two masked men entered the station building at Pieterlen, (Ct. Berne), and threatened the booking clerk with revolvers. They then rifled the safe and decamped — by motor car. The police were warned, but so far no arrests have been effected. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur M. Coppini, has paid a visit to a large watch manufacturing concern in Tavannes. He was accompanied by M. Moine, a member of the Government of the canton of Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Etienne Philippe, (Delsberg) has tendered his resignation from the National Council. He is succeeded by M. Jean Gressot, Prefect of the district of Porrentruy, who was a member of the Council before. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Denery paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Solothurn. He was received at the Town Hall by "Landammann" Vogt. After a luncheon offered to the distinguished guest, a visit was paid to the municipal art museum, and the Jesuit cathedral. [A.T.S.]

A 133 lb. male rhinoceros was born in Basle Zoo, the first ever born in captivity anywhere. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At the Schoenbühl home for old people, Mrs. Otilie Rohr-Brändli, the oldest inhabitant of the town and canton Schaffhausen, has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious motoring accident occurred on the Zurich-Berne Road, near Lenzburg, when a small car ran into a stationary lorry. Dr. Heinz Hauer (aged 53) chemist of Zurich, and his wife Paula (aged 52) were killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Pavillon de Montreux", the new concert hall, with seating accommodation for 1,200, and stage room for 100 musicians and singers, was opened recently in the presence of a number of guests, amongst them Federal Councillor Chaudet, the French and West German Consul General, and M. Maret, President of the Government of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 102nd birthday of Mme. Elisa Regamey-Delessert of Forel (Ct. Vaud) the Prefect of Lavaux, the President of the commune of Forel, and the Pastor of Savigny paid a visit to the "Jubilarin" presenting their congratulations. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 30 million franc loan at 3½ per cent, issued by the "Crédit Foncier vaudois" has been oversubscribed, allocations had to be cut. [A.T.S.]

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The 37th "Comptoir Suisse" was opened at Lausanne on the 8th of September. At the "official Day" Federal-Councillor Th. Holenstein made an important speech. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Boudry Court sentenced a motorist, who under the influence of alcohol caused a serious accident, to ten days imprisonment, and a fine of 30.— frs. (No wonder traffic accidents are on the increase). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three Swiss frontier guards were sentenced at Geneva for stealing thousands of francs worth of watches, clothes, perfumes and other articles from Customs depots at Geneva Airport in 1954 and 1955.

One man was sent to prison for three years and 10 months, and the others for three years and six months, with other penalties including loss of civic rights for five years. [A.T.S.]

* * *

In Zurich the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community contracted with a group of Swiss banks for a loan of 50 million Swiss francs for 18 years at 4½ per cent. It is understood that most of the money will go to the Italian steel industry to increase cast iron resources.

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Paul Veillon, a former Judge of the Tribunal of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 84.

Fritz Kaenzig, Manager of the "Eigenheim Bank", and President of the Board of the "Kieswerke" Heimberg, in Basle, aged 47.

Pierre Favarger, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, and the National Council, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 82.

Richard C. Seiler, author of a number of well-known novels, amongst them "Fridolin Martigs Kinder", "Das Geld auf der Strasse", "Leben auf Abruf", etc. etc., in Lucerne, aged 58.

Dr. Leo Billeter, a well-known personality in the canton of Neuchâtel, and a former member of the Grand Council, in Neuchâtel.

Dr. Charles Kinzelbach, since 1943, a member of the Board of the Ludwig von Roll'schen Eisenwerke, A.G., in Solothurn, at the age of 76.

Dr. Gotthold Oderbolz, Head of the "Algemeinen Armenpflege" Basle, in Basle aged 56.

Mme. Christine Jenny-Jenny, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Glarus, in Ennenda, aged 102. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

On reaching retiring age the following high ranking officers will retire at the end of the current year:

Divisional-Colonels Karl Schmid and Edgar Schumacher, Brigade-Colonels Nicola Walter, Ernst Gross, Hans Speich, Ed. Bandelier, R. Burnat, Karl Etter, and Hans Pestalozzi.

Divisional-Colonel Georg Züblin, commander of the 9th Division has been nominated "Waffenchef der leichten Truppen", Divisional-Colonel Ernst Uhlmann, commander of the 8th Division, will change over to the 6th Division.

Brigade-Colonel Carlo Fontana (born 1906) of Tesserete has been promoted to the rank of Divisional-Colonel, (9th Division), and Colonel Alfred Ernst (born 1904) of Aarau, will be in command of the 8th Division.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Fritz Verzar (70) of Basle, for 25 years ordinarius for Physiology at the University of Basle, a corresponding member of many scientific societies, and an honorary doctor of a number of Universities.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Zysset of Neuchâtel, and Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Keller-Koepfer of Bremgarten. (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

* * *

There were 17,500 accidents on Swiss roads in the first half of 1956, compared with about 17,000 the previous year.

There was no great change in the number of injured and killed, 11,550 and 401 respectively.

The 401 killed comprised 217 drivers of vehicles, 58 passengers and 126 pedestrians.

The number of vehicles registered in Switzerland increased by 50,000 between the two half-years in question.

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