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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

Monsieur Max Koenig, at present Deputy to the chief of the section for International Organisations at the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne, has been appointed Head of the Swiss Delegation to look after British and French interests in Egypt; in this capacity he has been promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary.

* * *

The following diplomats have presented their credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Marcus Feldmann, and M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne:

Monsieur Hugo Valvanne, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Finland; Monsieur M. Yeshavadu Aviad, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Israel; Madame Josephine McNeill, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Eire; Monsieur Fakhin Sheikh El'Aard, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia. Mme. McNeill is the second woman diplomatist in Berne, the other is the United States Ambassador Miss Frances Willis.

* * *

The Federal Supreme Court, sitting at Lausanne, rejected a claim for damages by King Saud of Saudi Arabia against a Swiss firm for manufacturing several thousand Saudi Arabian golden sovereigns. It said the firm could not know they were legal tender.

* * *

The Swiss Consulate in Tunisia has been raised to the status of a Legation. The Federal Council has nominated Monsieur Lucien Guillaume as Chargé d'Affaires *ad. int.* The appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary will follow later.

National-Councillor Dr. P. Gysler, President of the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the present year.

* * *

The 30,000,000.— frs. Swissair loan at 3½ per cent has been considerably oversubscribed, and allocations have had to be reduced.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 19.8 million passengers in the month of September, 1956, or 900,000 more than in September, 1955. Receipts: 29.9 million francs. (Sept., 1955: 28.5 million francs). 2,200 million tons of goods traffic was transported, an increase of 100,000 tons over last year's September figures. Receipts: 41 million francs. (September, 1955: 40.6 million francs.)

The Federal Council has agreed to take 4,000 Hungarian refugees for the present.

* * *

Major Arnold Kaech (Ettiswil) has been appointed Head of the Federal Military Administration, in succession to Colonel H. Bracher. Major Kaech was formerly Chief of the Federal Sports and Gymnastic school at Magglingen near Bienne.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of October, 1956, totalled 83.1 million francs or 11.4 million francs more than during the same period in 1955.

The receipts during the first ten months of the current year amounted to 548.1 million francs, which exceeds the figures for the same period of last year by 68.2 million francs.

CITY SWISS CLUB

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A LECTURE and FILM SHOW

by the well-known Glacier-Pilot HERMANN GEIGER, has been arranged for **Thursday 6th December 1956 at the Lecture Hall of the Central Hall, Westminster at 6.15 p.m.**

Tickets at 5/ each are obtainable from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London S.W.1.

Applications will be treated in strict rotation.

The Swiss Legation at Budapest has informed the Federal Political Department in Berne that all the members of the Swiss Colony are safe.

Cantonal

The cantonal teachers' seminary at Schwyz-Rickenbach has celebrated its 100th anniversary. [A.T.S.]

Swiss Communism seems to be disintegrating under the impact of the news from Hungary. The resignation of many prominent party members was followed by the secession of two entire sections at Prateln and Muttentz, industrial suburbs of Basle. [A.T.S.]

Three individuals entered the premises of the "Sparkasse Zinstragender Sparhafen" at 23, Fraumünsterstrasse, Zurich, threatening the cashier with revolvers, and demanded the handing over of the contents of the safe. The cashier rang the alarm, and some of the employees tried to grapple with the intruders who fired altogether eight shots, which fortunately did not hit anybody. They then decamped without having achieved their aim to commit a robbery. So far no arrest has been made. [A.T.S.]

The oldest female inhabitant of the town of Zurich, Mme. Maria-Gujer, has died at the age of 104. [A.T.S.]

The Foreign Press Association has offered a dinner in Berne in honour of the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Markus Feldmann. M. R. E. Singer, correspondent of the Brussels paper "Soir", was in the Chair. Amongst the guests were Ministers W. Stucki, de Rham and Clottu, National-Councillor Bringolf (Schaffhausen), and a number of heads of the Swiss Civil Service. [A.T.S.]

To celebrate the anniversary of the Bolshevik October revolution the Soviet Ambassador held a reception at the Russian Embassy in Berne. None of the members of the Federal Government attended, they were represented by Counsellor of Legation, M. André Dominicé, Chef du protocole. [A.T.S.]

Mr. A. Baeriswyl, a member of the Government of the canton of Fribourg for the last twenty years, has decided not to be a candidate in the governmental elections on December 2nd, 1956. [A.T.S.]

The result of the elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Schaffhausen is as follows: Socialists: 30 members (formerly 22); Liberals: 19 members (formerly 22); Peasant Party: 18 members (formerly

26); Cath. Popular Party: 7 members (no change); Landesring Party (Duttweiler): 3 members (no change); Evang. Popular Party: 1 member (formerly 2); Democrats: 3 members (new party); Liberal Socialists: 1 member (formerly 0). [A.T.S.]

The castle of Oberberg near Gossau (Ct. St. Gall) which was partly destroyed by fire in October, 1955, will be rebuilt at the cost of 400,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

A serious accident occurred at Bremgarten (Ct. Aargau) when a motor-car drove into a group of school children. Ten-year-old M. Stadelmann of Niederwil was killed, and two other children were seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Albert Perrin, a watchmaker of Geneva, undertook a flight in a Sports machine which he had constructed himself. On trying to land at the airport of Puplinge, he crashed and was killed. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Ruest, from 1906-1928, a teacher of chemistry at the "Kantonsschule", Zurich, and from 1928-1945, a teacher at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 79.

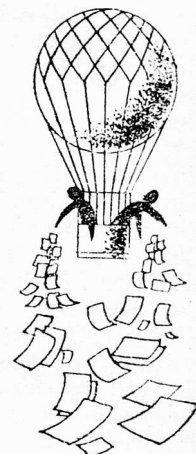
Charles Rochat-Cenise, Journalist. The deceased was from 1941-1944 editor of the "Feuille d'avis des Montagnes", Le Locle, and afterwards editor of the periodical "Curieux", Neuchâtel. He died at Lausanne, aged 56.

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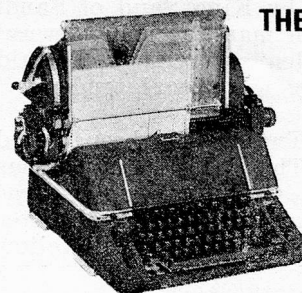
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Friedrich — Oscar Buchmüller, formerly Director of the "Eidg. Amtes für Mass & Gewicht", in Berne, at the age of 71.

Alphons Badrutt, for many years a clergyman in Le Locle, where he died aged 63.

V. von Vincenz, Pharmacist, in Basle at the age of 74.

Dr. Hermann Renfer-Jordi, from 1919-1946 General Manager of the "Basler Lebensversicherungsgesellschaft", in Basle, aged 82.

Rudolf Vetter, Editor of the "Zürcher Post", at the age of 73.

Caesar Bachmann, from 1944-1956 a member of the Government of the canton of Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 64.

Charles Schneider, a well-known organist, in Lausanne, at the age of 69.

Paul Wieser, a member of the "Kontonsrat", Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 61.

Professor Jacques Weybrecht, a former conductor of the brass bands of St. Imier and Bienne, and a member of the music academy, in Bienne, aged 92.

Dr. Gottfried Weiss, Professor of law at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 64. [A.T.S.]

* * *
ANNIVERSARY.

Professor Dyhrenfurth (70) of Ringgenberg near Interlaken, eminent Geologist and Himalayan explorer. [A.T.S.]

* * *
ARMY.

A serious accident occurred during the recent manoeuvres of the 4th army-corps, when a car of the 34th "Nachrichten kompagnie" broke through the

railings of a small bridge near Bischofszell and fell into the river Thur. Fus. Peter Maag (25) (draughtsman) of Zurich was killed and two other soldiers were seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *
DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Baumann-Bruderer of Neukirch-Egnach. (Ct. Thurgau), and Mr. and Mrs. J. Schuenpf-Greminger of Winterthur-Töss. [A.T.S.]

* * *
LEGACIES.

The late Hans Hirt, Industrialist of Fribourg, has left an amount of 39,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *
VARIOUS.

The Soviet Government had invited a delegation consisting of five members of the "Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbund" to visit Moscow. This invitation has been declined, "owing to the brutal attack on Hungary". [A.T.S.]

Mr. Henri L. Bequet has been appointed Head of the Salvation Army in Switzerland in succession to Commissioner N. F. Duggins. [A.T.S.]

The *Zermatterhof Hotel*, which for 75 years has been a favourite meeting place in the world-famous holiday and sport centre of Zermatt, has now in various stages been expanded into a first-class "Grand Hotel" in every sense of the word at an expenditure of over one million francs. The interior fittings are most select and harmonize well with the latest comfort. The manager, Mr. Johannes Stoeper, who took up employment 35 years ago at the "Zermatterhof"

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and who to-day is in charge of the latter as well as six other hotels and restaurants in the "Free Community of Zermatt" with a total of 120 employees, has celebrated his 60th birthday on October 24th.

* * *

Winter Sports Events at Wengen.

Visitors to Wengen will be able to attend the Course for Ski-ing Instructors, which will take place from December 2nd/9th and 9th/16th, 1956.

Other notable events will be: The British Ski-Running Championships for Landies on January 15th, the 31st Wengen No-Fall Championship for the Sunday Times Cup, which will take place on the Maennlichen on February 21st, and the Annual Ski Race for school girls and boys of the community of Lauterbrunnen for the Lord Tedder Cup and the Field Marshal Montgomery Challenge Cup.

* * *

Swiss measures for the relief of Hungarian refugees have so far shown the following results:

Government of the canton of Berne: 30,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Basle Town: 50,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Vaud: 30,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Lucerne: 25,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Geneva: 20,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of St. Gall: 30,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Ticino: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Nidwalden: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Appenzell a. Rh.: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Uri: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Fribourg: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Schaffhausen: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Thurgau: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Valais: 5,000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Glarus: 4,000.— frs.

Swiss Red Cross Society: 2,500,000.— frs.; Collection "Neue Zürcher Zeitung": 100,000.— frs.; Collection "Basler Nachrichten": 103,750.— frs.; Grand Council of the canton of Aargau: 30,000.— frs.; Swiss University students: medicals to the value of 50,000.— frs.; Urban Council of Berne: 10,000.— frs.; Town of Winterthur: 10,000.— frs.; Town of St. Gall: 10,000.— frs.; Town of Lausanne: 10,000.— frs.; Town of Schaffhausen: 4,000.— frs.; Town of Lucerne: 5,000.— frs.; Town of Thun: 3,000.— frs.; "Burggemeinde", Berne: 5,000.— frs.; Urban Council, Grenchen: 5,000.— frs.; Students of the University of Lausanne: 5,000.— frs.; Municipal Council, Chur: 2,000.— frs.; "Standeskommission", Appenzell I. Rh. 2,000.— frs.; Urban Council, Koeniz: 1,000.— frs.; Urban Council of Bienne: 5,000.— frs.; Pupils and Teachers of the "Kantonsschule", Chur: 3,000.— frs.; Collection of Reform Churches of Zurich: 15,000.— frs.; Urban Council of Rorschach: 2,000.— frs.

Management and Staff of the firm Landis & Gyr, Zug: 13,000.— frs.; Brown, Boveri, A.G., Baden: 3,000.— frs.; Evangelische Volkspartei der Schweiz: 5,000.— frs.; Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein: 1,000.— frs.; "Allgemeine Konsumgesellschaft", Zurich: 10,000.— frs.

Apart from donations in cash large quantities of medicaments, food, garments, furniture, etc. etc. amounting to several thousand francs have been sent.

Two thousand Hungarian refugees have been accommodated in Switzerland.

Pestalozzi Children's Village Ten Years Old.

Recently, a village with a total of 18 houses and 450 inhabitants celebrated its ten-year existence which, by itself, would be nothing extraordinary when one considers the more than thousand-year-old history of so many other Swiss places. However, the neat little colony standing on the fringe of the respectable parish of Trogen in the Appenzell countryside of Eastern Switzerland represents an experiment which has turned out happily and which has become known throughout the world as the Pestalozzi Children's Village. More than 200 of the 450 young inhabitants enjoy the rights of a naturalised person, there being 72 orphans, 78 half-orphans and 54 social orphans from Great Britain, France, Italy, Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece and Switzerland. Including local residents only staying for a short period, ten nations are represented to-day in the village named after the great Swiss educationalist, Heinrich Pestalozzi. In addition, more than a thousand youngsters spent their summer holidays here, being accommodated in a village guest house called the "Cocinella", which had been especially constructed for them. Year after year many "Old Boys", who in the meantime have turned the education they received in the Children's Village to profitable account either in professional life or as university students, return thankfully to the scene of their happy youth for a short while. On the occasion of the Jubilee celebrations, the first letter bestowing the honorary freedom of the Children's Village was presented to the Swiss author, Walter Corti, the initiator of this enterprise which, in the aftermath of the Second World War, was intended to become "a meeting place to work together and understand one another, surmounting national, religious and linguistic barriers". The scene of the village festivities was "Canada Hall", a donation from Canada. Amongst the guests of honour were the diplomatic representatives of Canada and of all those nations who have entrusted a group of children of their own country to the village.



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