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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Switzerland, the Soviet Foreign Minister, M. W. Molotov has sent a telegram of greetings to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. The latter has suitably replied.

* * *

Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a telegram of congratulations to President Iskandar Mirza, on the occasion of his election as President of the Pakistan Republic. The Swiss Minister in Karachi, Monsieur Emil Bisang represented the Federal Council at the festivities which have been held in the capital.

* * *

At the end of 1955, 54 diplomatic representations were registered in Berne, amongst them 12 Embassies and 42 Legations, with a staff of 281 diplomats and 422 clerks. The number of Consular representatives amounted to 160.

* * *

The Federal Council has decided to issue a new loan of 338 million francs at 3 per cent for the duration of 17 years.

* * *

The former Director-General of the Swiss Customs and Excise (Oberzolldirektor), 53 years old Ernest Widmer, was found guilty of misappropriating 100,000.—frs. (£8,330) over a period of eleven years, and the forging of a post office receipt. Extenuating circumstances included the restitution of the funds by the accused and his full confession. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment. He was also sentenced to forfeit his civil rights for five years after completing his sentence.

Cantonal

The accounts of the canton of Lucerne for the year 1955, close with a credit balance of 667,012.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Annual General Meeting of "Swissair" took place in Zurich, on Monday, March 26th. There were 644 shareholders present, representing 33,381 votes. Dr. Rudolf V. Heberlein was in the Chair. Amongst the guests who attended were: Federal-Councillors Lepori and Streuli, former Federal-Councillors: Celio and Pilet-Golaz, Dr. Iten, President of the "Eidg. Luftfahrtskommission", and Dr. Burkhard, Director of the Federal Air Office.

An increase of the share capital from 14 to 42 million francs, proposed by the Board has been accepted. A dividend of 6 per cent (1954: 4%) has been declared. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious motor-accident occurred on the road between Frutigen and Adelboden (Ct. Berne), when a motor-car taking a bend left the road and fell into a ravine. The driver, Ernst Geissbühler (51) of Frutigen, and Fritz Röthlisberger (70) of Bévillard were killed outright, whilst three other passengers were badly hurt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Appenzell, I.Rh. for the year 1955, register a deficit of 189,077.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Karl Elser-Bächtiger, "Gemeindeammann" of Oberbüren (Ct. St. Gall), and Mr. Franz Bodmer-

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, April 24th, 1956, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.,
7.30 p.m., at Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Agenda: Minutes of last meeting.

Admissions.

Resignations.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Elections.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than, Monday, April 23rd, 1956.

THE COMMITTEE.

Rupper, Industrialist, have been nominated honorary citizens of the community of Oberbüren. [A.T.S.]

The following towns have competed for the Swiss National Exhibition to be held in the year 1964: Berne, Lausanne and Geneva. Former exhibitions were held in Berne (1857), Zurich (1883), Geneva (1896), Berne (1914), and Zurich (1939). The Federal Council has decided that the next exhibition (1964) should be held at Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The administration of the "Fête des Vignerons", which was held in Vevey last year, have published their accounts, which show a profit of 1,200,000.—frs., after having recompensed the participants for their costume expenses. Half of this amount has been earmarked for future festivals. The other half goes to the "Confrérie de Vignerons" for the preservation of vine-yards. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of her 100th birthday, Mme. Marie Sallet of Moudon, was presented with the traditional arm-chair by the Government of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

The canton of Vaud's account for 1955, show a credit balance of 527,820.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1955, of the canton of Geneva, close with a credit balance of 7,218,251.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The city of Moscow has informed the Government and Municipal authorities of Geneva, that they would welcome a delegation of 10-12 persons to visit Moscow. This invitation has been accepted, and the following delegation has been chosen: for the cantonal Government, A. de Senarclens, President of the Government, Alfred Borel, Vice-President, E. Chamay, President of the Grand Council, A. Tombet, Chancellor. The communal authorities will be represented by L. Billy, Mayor of the town of Geneva, Maurice Thévenaz, A. Dussoix, E. Ostermann and R. Méroz. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor, Dr. Fritz Medicus, from 1911-1946, Professor of Philosophy and Pedagogics at the Federal Institute (ETH), Zurich, in Zurich at the age of 80.

Dr. jur. Bruno Hartmann, well-known lawyer, in St. Gall, aged 80.

Dr. Herrmann Rotzler, a former teacher of French and Italian at the "Obern Realschule" and the cantonal commercial school, Basle, in Basle at the age of 68.

Dr. Rudolf Wegeli, from 1910-1948, Director of the Historical Museum, Berne, in Muri (Berne), aged 79.

Willy Graber, chief of the "Betriebsabteilung der Gesellschaft des Aare-und Emmenkanals", and since 1945, a member of the "Kantonsrat", Solothurn, in Solothurn, at the age of 60.

Professor, Dr. Otto Burckhardt, formerly head of the "Geburtshilflich-gynäkologischen" section of the Clara hospital, Basle.

Professor, Dr. Robert Bing, a well-known nerve specialist, from 1908-1932, Professor of Neurology at the University of Basle, in Basle, at the age of 78.

C. H. Blass, from 1915-1941, chief engineer at CIBA, Basle, in Basle, aged 81.

Fridolin Knobel, Editor of the "Glarner Nachrichten" from 1908-1940, in Glarus, at the age of 82.

Summer Programme

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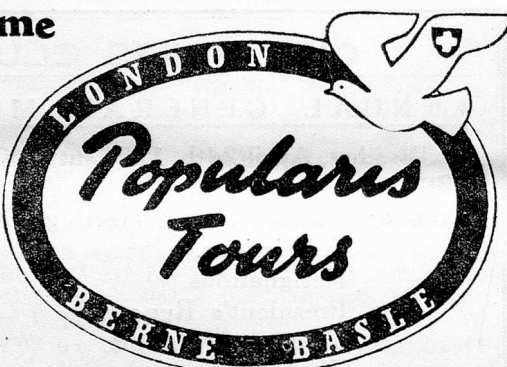
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Hermann Ryser, Consulting-Engineer in Berne, aged 71.

Rudolf Baumann, for 30 years General-Secretary of the "Union Helvetia", Lucerne, and at one time a Member of Parliament (National Council), in Lucerne, at the age of 71.

Professor, Dr. med. Bernhard Milt-Huber, since 1948, Professor of Medicine at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 60.

Mme. Emmy Troyon-Blaesi, a former well-known singer and pianiste, and for 40 years a teacher at the Conservatoire, Lausanne, in Lausanne, at the age of 83.

Dr. Rudolf Ernst, from 1901-1942, President of the "Schweizerischen Bankgesellschaft", and for many years President of the Board of the "Schweizerischen Lokomotiv- und Maschinenfabrik", Winterthur, in Winterthur, aged 91.

Dr. h.c. Karl Bürki, well-known Pedagogue, in Berne, at the age of 89.

Colonel, Dr. med. Carl Hauser, from 1910-1935, Head of the Swiss Army Medical Corps, in Lausanne, aged 90.

Friedrich Bernet, a member of the editorial staff of the "St. Galler Tagblatt", in St. Gall, at the age of 59.

Henry Blanchard, Swiss Consul in Wellington, New Zealand, in Bienne, whilst on holiday, aged 53.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES

Minister, Dr. Hans Sulzer (80) of Winterthur, since 1935, President of the Board of "Gebrüder

Sulzer", Winterthur, and a member of the Board of a great number of commercial and industrial concerns. From 1917-1920, Dr. Sulzer was Swiss Minister in Washington. He was a Delegate of the Federal Council on several special missions to London and Berlin. For many years Dr. Sulzer presided over the "Schweizerischen Landesausschuss der Internationalen Handelskammer" of which he became an Honorary President.

Dr. med. Paul Cattani (80) of Engelberg, eminent specialist for plastic surgery, and founder of the "Schweizerische Patenschaft".

Dr. August Gansser-Burckhardt (80) of Basle, Chemist and Archaeologist, Historian and Traveller. President of the Foundation "Pro Augusta Raurica", and *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Berne.

Professor, Dr. h.c. E. F. Laur (85) of Effingen, nr. Brugg, for a great many years at the Head of the "Bauernsekretariat", Brugg, and lecturer at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

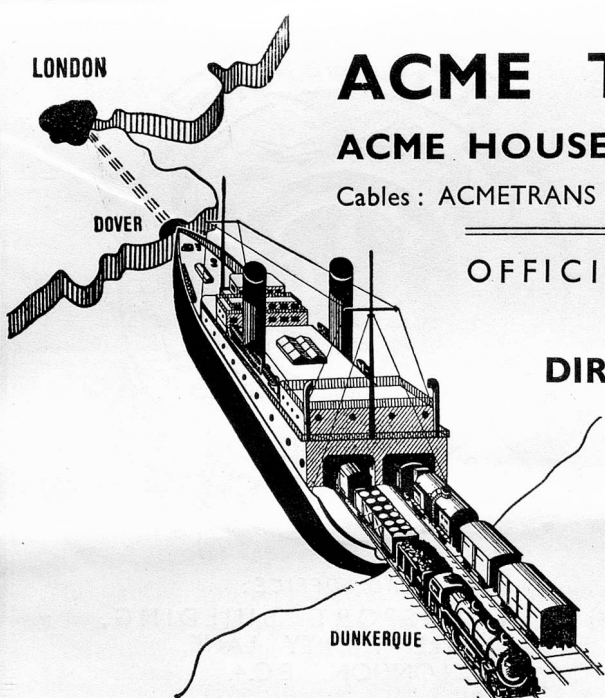
Dr. h.c. Heinrich Wachter (70) of Winterthur, Director of the Electricity Power Works of the canton of Schaffhausen, and afterwards for 30 years a member of the Management of the firm "Gebrüder Volkart", Winterthur, and President of the Board of the "Schweizerischen Industriegesellschaft", Neuhausen.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Eduard Reber, tax collector of Payerne, has left an amount of 32,000.—frs. to various chari-



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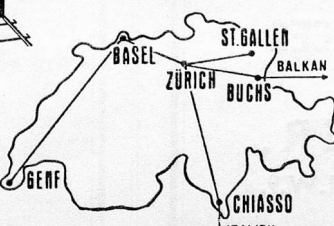


table institutions, amongst them 10,000.—frs. to the commune of Payerne for a covered market hall.

[A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Jakob Häusler of Unterentfelden (Ct. Aargau), Mr. and Mrs. A. Steiner-Berner of Zurich, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Fausch-Schlegel of Sargans. [A.T.S.]

Over 12 million tourists visited Switzerland last year, 6½ per cent more than in 1954.

The 11-member Swiss expedition to Lhotse (27,890ft.), near Everest, reached Namche Bazar, according to a report received. The party left Jaina-gar, a border town in eastern Nepal, on March 4th and reached Okhaldunga on March 13th. Some 300 porters and 21 Sherpas are accompanying the party.

According to the original plans the climbers will halt near Namche Bazar for fresh supplies before moving up to the mountain. The base camp will be established at 16,000ft., on the Khumbu glacier. The main climbing will be attempted in April.

A delegation of four British officers has arrived in Switzerland with a view to instructing Swiss troops in the use of Centurion tanks.

Swiss motorists must remove all pointed or sharp objects from their cars by June 1st, in a Swiss drive to cut down road deaths.

Pointed, edged or hooked door handles, hood handles with forward points, protective shields over headlights, and pointed luggage carriers are banned.

Swiss industry had only four strikes, involving 430 people and resulting in the loss of 1,036 working days, during 1955.

This is the lowest figure since 1927.

Isidorro Christen, the last postillion of the St. Gotthard mail coaches, which his father used to drive over the pass, has died at Bellinzona, aged 94.

Montreux International Coach Rally, 1956.

The 8th International Coach Rally will take place in Montreux from the 16th to the 19th May, 1956. The programme comprises technical tests, a 90-mile coach excursion in the mountains and a "Concours d'Elégance", as well as various social functions.

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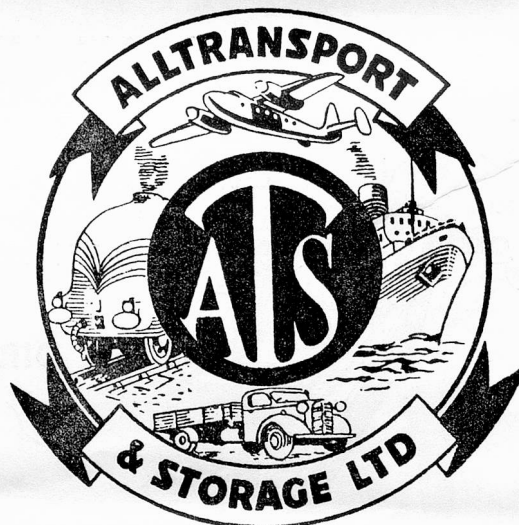
Boy Scouts Camp in Switzerland's "Wild West".

Saignelégier, Switzerland: More than 12,000 boy scouts will pitch tents at Saignelégier, in the "Franche-Comté", the well-known horse-breeding "Wild West" of Switzerland, on July 24th, till August 2nd. As early as 1938 boy scout groups were organised in all the Cantons of Switzerland, and today there are only a few villages which do not have their own small bands of boy scouts in the familiar khaki uniforms. The forest-fringed pasture land between the villages of Saignelégier and Tramelan offers a perfect background for the campers. This 5th Swiss Boy Scouts meeting is expected to stimulate a surge of tourists towards the "Franche-Comté", with many boy scouts and their parents and visitors getting acquainted with this unique region.

12th International Musical Competition in Geneva.

Following a decade-old tradition culminating in last year's festival in which 263 candidates from 22 nations took part, the International Musical Competition at Geneva in 1956 will again attract ambitious young talent from all over the world. It is scheduled to last from September 22nd to October 6th. Musical faculties to be judged include singing, piano, violin, oboe, horn and, for the first time, guitarre. The names of the judges — internationally prominent music connoisseurs — will be announced shortly.

The contests are organised, as in previous years, with the co-operation of Radio Geneva and the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.



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