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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 Achmad Sukarno, President of the Republic of Indonesia, arrived on the 26th of June, via Bonn, at the Kloten airport on his official visit to the Confederation, accompanied by his Foreign Minister, and a large suite.

On descending, from the air-liner he was greeted by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, Counsellor of Legation, M. A. Dominici, Chef du Protocol, and members of the Government of the canton of Zurich.

After a short stay, the distinguished guests left for Berne; on their arrival at the Berne-Weissenbühl station, they were greeted by Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, who was accompanied by the Federal Chancellor, the President of the Government of the canton of Berne, and the Mayor of the town of Berne.

The following day, the Indonesian President was officially received at the Palais Fédéral by the Swiss President, and members of the Federal Council. Cordial greetings were exchanged by the two Heads of State, after which the guests were driven in open carriages to the "Wattenwyl Haus", where they were introduced to the Heads of Foreign Missions accredited to the Confederation.

In accordance with a wish expressed by Monsieur Sukarno a visit was paid in the afternoon to the Roamer Watch Company in Solothurn, one of the largest watch manufacturing companies in Switzerland, employing 1,200 workers, he was accompanied by Federal Councillor Holenstein. On their return to the Federal capital a Banquet was given to the visitors at the Bellvue Palace Hotel, at which all the members of the Federal Council were present, as well as high ranking military and state officials.

* * *
Federal Councillor M. M. Petitpierre stated in Parliament that Switzerland would have atomic reactors capable of producing 1 million watts in operation by 1965.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during the month of May, 1956, 17.3 million passengers, or 815,000 more than in May, 1955. Receipts: 27.3 million francs. (May, 1955: 26 million frs.).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.01 million tons or 24,000 tons more than during the same period in 1955. Receipts: 39.2 million francs. (May, 1955: 39.1 million frs.).

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, 1st August, 1956
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same Hall**

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The Federal Council has nominated M. Jean Piffaretti to be Consul General in Bombay, and M. M. Corti, Consul General in Genoa.

M. Jean Piffaretti, a citizen of Arzo (Ct. Ticino) was born at Porrentruy in 1899. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1923. He occupied posts at the Swiss Consulates of Milan, Torino, Livorno, Singapore and Shanghai. From 1946 — 1949, he was at the Swiss Legation in China, with the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and afterwards held the appointment of General Consul in Genoa.

M. Max Corti, a citizen of Winterthur and Stabio (Ct. Ticino) was born in 1909, in 1945 he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department. From 1948-1953, he held the posts of Secretary of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Warsaw and Vienna after which he returned to Berne.

The Federal Court sitting in Berne has passed the following sentences on the four Rumanian exiles who stormed the Rumanian Legation in Berne in February 1955, and held it for 38 hours. (The chauffeur, Durel Setu, employed by the Legation, was killed during the assault.).

Oliviu Beldeanu (leader) 4 years in jail, and to be expelled from Switzerland for 8 years, Codrescu, 3½ years prison, and to be expelled from Switzerland for five years, Chirila, 2½ years in jail, and to be expelled from Switzerland for five years, Ochiu, 1 year and four months in jail, and to be expelled from Switzerland for five years.

Monsieur Juan Rohl, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Guatemala, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

National Councillor Duttweiler, has addressed a complaint to the members of the National Council, accusing Federal-Councillor M. Petitpierre for defamation of character. The special commission appointed by the Chamber to investigate the matter has decided by 12 votes to 1, that Duttweiler's complaint should be ignored, the National Council has with 141 votes against 5 declared that Duttweiler's complaint was not justified.

Cantonal

On July 5th, 1956, one hundred years have passed since the Zurich State Government approved the first by-law of the Swiss Credit Bank, Zurich. (Schweiz. Credit Anstalt, Crédit Suisse). In 1955, the total assets of the Bank exceeded the 3,000 million francs mark. Last dividend paid 8 per cent plus 2 per cent centenary dividend.

The Bank maintains in its centenary year within Switzerland 29 branches and is represented abroad by an agency in New York and, both in USA and Canada, by an affiliated company, and since 1954, by a representative office in London. The staff numbers 2,629 employees [A.T.S.]

At the end of the month of May, 1956, the population of the town of Zurich numbered 420,000 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

The firm Robert Aebi & Cie., A.G. of Zurich, Zollikofen and Geneva, hydraulic engineers, has celebrated its 75th Jubilee, on which occasion a "jubilee bonus" has been paid to the staff. [A.T.S.]

The 480th anniversary of the Battle of Morât was celebrated by a solemn service at the Cathedral of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

The Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Mansilio Coppini, has paid an official visit to the town of St. Gall. After a visit to the "Stifts" library, a reception was held which was attended by the members of the cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

M. Charles Reitzel (Radical) has been elected Mayor of the town of Aigle, in succession to M. Henri Badoux, who has resigned for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

A coach with a number of passengers collided with a train at a level crossing between Brigue and Visp. The driver, Edelbert Laager (born 1935) of Geschinen (Ct. Valais) was killed and several of the passengers were injured. [A.T.S.]

A serious accident occurred in the neighbourhood of La Chaux-de-Fonds, when a lorry collided with a motor car. Four passengers of the latter, all members of a family of Le Locle, were seriously injured. The driver of the lorry, who was under the influence of alcohol was arrested. [A.T.S.]

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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Siegfried Wille-Haefelfinger, late President of the Criminal Court, Basle, in Basle, at the age of 90

Dr. med. Ad. Frutiger, for over 50 years a medical practitioner, in Basle, aged 80.

August Deppeler, Publisher and Director of the "Aargauer Tagblatt" since 1917, in Aarau, at the age of 74.

Dr. J. Regi, from 1911-1940, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and from 1940-1947 a member of the cantonal Government, in Schuls, aged 74.

Dr. Oskar Eberle, well-known dramatist and *Regisseur*, in Altdorf, at the age of 56.

Domenik Weber-Castell, Head of a large firm of ironmongers, and for many years a member of the Schwyz District Court, in Schwyz, aged 71.

Albert Schmid, Director of the "Brandversicherungsanstalt" of the canton of Grisons, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Chur, at the age of 66. The deceased held the rank of Colonel of Infantry in the army. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. jur. H. Duerrenmatt, (80) of Berne, from 1927-1946, a member of the Government of the canton of Berne.

Dr. Erhard Branger (75) of Davos. He was "Landammann" of Davos from 1920-1936, and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the

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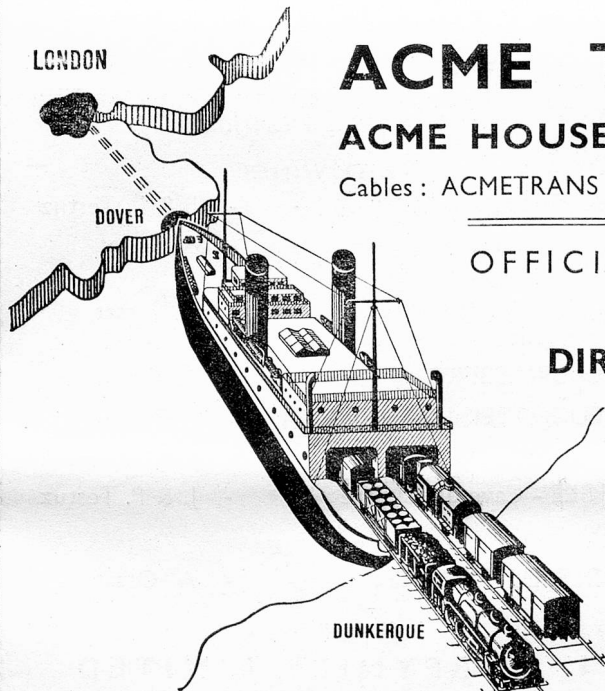
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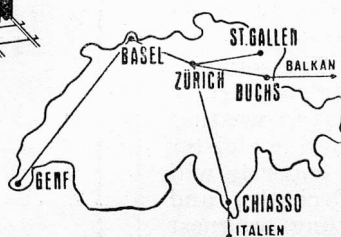
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canton of Grisons over which he presided in 1932. In 1936, he was appointed Director of the Rhaetischen Railways, from which post he retired in 1949.

Dr. h.c. Carl Bertschinger (75) of Oberwil-Pfaeffikon (Zurich). He was from 1917-1935, a member of the National Council, and sat for nearly ten years in the "Kantonsrat", Zurich. Dr. Bertschinger was for many years Director of the "Gutswirtschaft Maggi" in Kemptal. On the occasion of his 60th birthday in 1941, the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, honoured him with the degree of doctor *honoris causa*.

L. Wechsler, (60) of Zurich, founder of the "Praesens Film, A.G." Zurich, and producer of many Swiss films. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES.

The late Mlle. Josepha Schaerli of Lucerne, has left a legacy amounting to 24,000.—frs to the commune of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

According to figures just published by the Statistical Bureau of the Swiss Federal Railways, the ten most important railway stations with regard to receipts from passenger service are: Zurich, 45 million francs, Berne, 17.8 million francs, Basle, 17.5 million francs, Geneva: 14.5 million francs, Lausanne, 13.5 million francs, Lucerne, 9.1 million francs, St. Gall, 5.9 million francs, Winterthur, 6.5 million francs, Bienne 5.6 million francs, and Neuchâtel, 4 million francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

In the fourth annual report, covering the year 1955, the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research states that of 319 requests for support, 177 have been granted, thirty-five refused, two referred to other institutions, and twenty-five were withdrawn by their authors; eighty applications are still under consideration. For the 177 research schemes which were approved, sums totalling nearly 3,100,000 Swiss francs have been made available. To this amount must be added another 423,000 Swiss francs expended as stipends or subsidies for ninety-six young scientists. Amounts of 100,000 Swiss francs each have been set aside for medical and for legal research.

* * *

During the first three months of this year Switzerland imported 32,800 motor vehicles, or 4,000 more than in the corresponding period of last year. In the automobile sector the figure is 18,902, representing a total of 107.2 million Swiss francs. Two-wheeled vehicles amounted to 13,909 machines, valued at 11.2 million Swiss francs.

* * *

Precious original manuscripts of the 5th to the 15th century from the school and church of the former Gallus abbey, will be on display in the magnificent baroque room of the collegiate library until the end of October. The richness of the Carolingian tradition will be evident in this exhibit entitled "Science and Art in the St. Gall Monastery". — The summer concerts scheduled from June 9 to September 1st in St. Gall include serenades on Tuesdays, weather permitting, in the cross-walk of the Catherine cloister or in the St. Mangen Church. Classical concerts will be given by the St. Gall Symphony Orchestra and featured under the direction of Max Lang or guest conductors.



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