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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in June 1957 17.6 million passengers, or 1.4 million more than in June 1956. Receipts: 27.9 million francs (June 1956: 25.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.09 million tons, which is 200,000 tons less than during the same period in 1956. Receipts: 40.4 million francs (June 1956: 40.2 million francs).

* * *

The Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) has received news from the Swiss Legation in Mexico that in the recent earthquake disaster no Swiss nationals were hurt.

* * *

On the occasion of the 1st of August celebration Dr. Th. Heuss, President of the West German Republic, who is on holiday in Sils Maria (Ct. Grisons), has sent a congratulatory message to Dr. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

The Israeli Minister in Berne, Monsieur Yeshayazu Aviad, accredited to the Confederation since October 1956, has died at a hospital in Berne.

* * *

Argentina has rejected the Swiss Government's protest against cancellation of an extension of the concessions granted by the municipality of Buenos Aires 21 years ago to the Compania Argentina de Electricidad and the Compania Italo-Argentina de Electricidad, in both of which Swiss capital is invested.

The Swiss Note reserved the right to reparations for damage caused to Swiss interests. The Argentine reply said it was impossible to accept the protests, because the two companies were constituted in Argentina and were subject to Argentine sovereignty exclusively.

The Swiss Government has sent a cheque for 4,550,000.— francs (approximately £375,000) in response to the appeal launched jointly by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Refugees on behalf of the Hungarians in Austria and Yugoslavia.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Minister Dr. Friedrich Gyax to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Poland in succession to Minister Fuchs.

Minister Gyax was born in 1902 and is a citizen of Seeburg (Ct. Berne). He studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Berne and Berlin. On the conclusion of his studies he occupied posts in commercial concerns and in 1934 entered the service of the Commercial Division of the Federal Economic Department. Eleven years later (1945) Minister Gyax was transferred to the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) and sent to New York as Consul General, where he remained until 1956. On his return to Berne he held the post of deputy to the head of the department for Political Affairs. At the beginning of this year he received the title of Minister.

Cantonal

The small village of Buerglen (Ct. Uri), the birthplace of William Tell, has celebrated its 1,000th anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

A collision occurred on the route Lachen—Altdorf, when a local train ran into the back of the stationary

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd 1957. As no circulars will be sent out for this meeting will members kindly note the date and advise the Dorchester Hotel of their intention to be present by the day previous to the Meeting. (This can be done by telephoning Miss Martin at the Dorchester Hotel, Telephone: MAYfair 8888).

Th. von SPEYR,
Hon. Secretary.

Chur—Basle—Paris express; 36 persons were injured, five of them seriously. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Members of the so-called Swiss delegation to the Moscow youth festival were attacked when their train arrived at Zurich, and some were slightly injured. Several hundred demonstrators had assembled at the station, and they chanted in chorus "Go back to Moscow" when the Zurich group emerged from their carriages.

Some of the group left their luggage behind in escaping the crowd. The demonstrators hung about the station until the early morning, in the expectation that others who took part in the festival would be arriving.

The visit of Swiss youth to Moscow after the Hungarian tragedy has caused much controversy and condemnation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The old abbey church of Bellelay (Bernese Jura), one of the oldest in Switzerland, many times destroyed and as often rebuilt since the abbey's foundation in 1040, is in process of restoration yet again after a long period of disrepair. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two motor-cars collided near Hindelbank (Ct. Berne). The driver of one of the cars, Willi Balli (31), architect, of Berne, was killed and three of the passengers received injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A Buecker-Jungmeister machine crashed on the south side of the "Hornberg" near Gstaad (Bernese Oberland); the pilot, Theophil Brunnschweiler (52), civil servant, of Berne, was killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two persons were killed and one seriously injured when a motor-car collided with a train at a level-crossing near Biglen (Ct. Berne). The names of the deceased are: Mme. M. Berger-Maurer (48), of Steffisburg, and Joh. Berger (36), chauffeur, of Steffisburg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Matzendorf (Ct. Solothurn) has bestowed honorary citizenship on Mlle. Maria Felchlin, a medical practitioner in Olten. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The premises of the "Schaufel- und Fensterfabrik W. Gschwind" in Oberwil (Ct. Basle-Country) were partially destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of half a million francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Ferdinand Fuerer-Gubelmann, "Stadtammann" of the town of Rapperswil (Ct. St. Gall), is shortly retiring after having been for 51 years in the service of the communal administration. He is at present Vice-President of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The town of Rapperswil (Ct. St. Gall) has recently made a gift of a young stag to Prince Charles, Duke of Cornwall.

Mr. Joseph Robinson, British Consul General in Zurich, has paid a visit to the "Stadtamman" of Rapperswil in order to thank him, on behalf of the Queen, for the gift. [A.T.S.]

A sports plane crashed at Spreitenbach (Ct. Aargau). The pilot, Ernst Braendli (37), policeman, of Zurich, and his passenger, Oskar Hunziker (41), hairdresser, of Teufental, were killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Sanatorium "Bellevue" in Kreuzlingen has celebrated its 100th anniversary. This well-known institution is at present managed by Dr. med. & phil. Otto Binswanger. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At the end of 1956 the population of the canton of Neuchâtel numbered 140,188. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered a garage in the Plainpalais district of Geneva and removed a safe containing 16,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. phil. Hans Ganz, author, painter and composer, in Zurich, at the age of 68. The deceased studied at the Universities of Leipzig, Munich, Berlin and Basle, at the Academy of Music, Zurich, and the Academy of Painting, Paris. Amongst his best-known literary works are the novel "Peter das Kind", and his dramas "Der Lehrling" and "Der Morgen". Some of his paintings were shown at various exhibitions in Paris, Boston and Buenos Aires.

Nicolas Bertschy, veterinary surgeon, and from 1936 to 1941 President of the commune of Duedingen. He was a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg. He died at Duedingen, aged 65.

Hans Kuechlin, consulting engineer, in Lucerne, at the age of 74. The deceased was for over 41 years in the service of the Swiss Federal Railways.

Theophil Savoy-Anderegg, from 1931 to 1953 editor of the "Oltener Tagblatt", in Solothurn, aged 65.

Professor Ferdinand Morel, since 1938 Director of the "Bel Air" clinic, and Professor of Medicine at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 69.

Mme. A. Waldvogel, authoress, in Schaffhausen, aged 71.

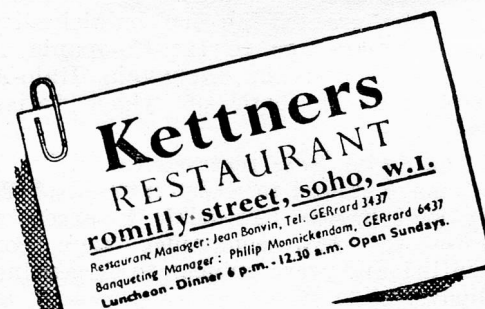
George Bise, industrialist, in Fribourg, at the age of 59.

Klemenz Dahinden, Director of the Electric Power Station, Altdorf, and from 1916 to 1931 a member of the "Landrat", in Altdorf, aged 75.

Eduard Jnfanger, in Stans, at the age of 77. The deceased was from 1912 to 1930 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Obwalden. In 1930 he was elected a

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member of the cantonal Government and ten years later (1940) occupied the post of "Landammann".

Colonel Rudolf Schupbach, industrialist, President of the commune of Kirchberg, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne. In the army he held the following commands: the 23rd Infantry Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, and the 6th Infantry Brigade. He died in Burgdorf, aged 77.

Dr. Franz Heinemann, for 24 years head of the "Bürgerbibliothek" Lucerne, and from 1920 to 1946 editor-in-chief of the "Luzerner Neuesten Nachrichten". He died in Lucerne at the age of 87.

[A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Eduard Günther of Kilchberg has left a legacy of 6,000.— frs. to the commune of Waedenswil (Ct. Zurich) for cultural and charitable purposes.

Mr. Gabriel Studer, a former proprietor of a café in Lausanne, has made a donation of 49,000.— frs. to the town of Lausanne for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Spring-Graber of Steffisburg (Ct. Berne), and Mr. & Mrs. F. Koehler-Schneebeli of Meilen (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARY.

Dr. jur. and Dr. phil. Edgar Refardt (80) of Basle, author of a great number of musicians' biographies and of the "Historisch-Biographischen Musiker Lexikons." [A.T.S.]

VARIOUS.

Accidents in the Alps have this year again been heavy. A group of alpinists started from Saas Fee to climb the "Weissmies" summit (4,031 m.); one of the party, Paul Rinsoz (59), a watchmaker of La Chaux-de-Fonds, fell into a glacier crevasse. The well-known glacier pilot Geiger was summoned and he succeeded in getting the man out of the crevasse, but the latter died soon afterwards.

René-Louis Gregory (15), of Geneva, fell from a mountain top near Thyon (Ct. Valais) and was killed.

* * *

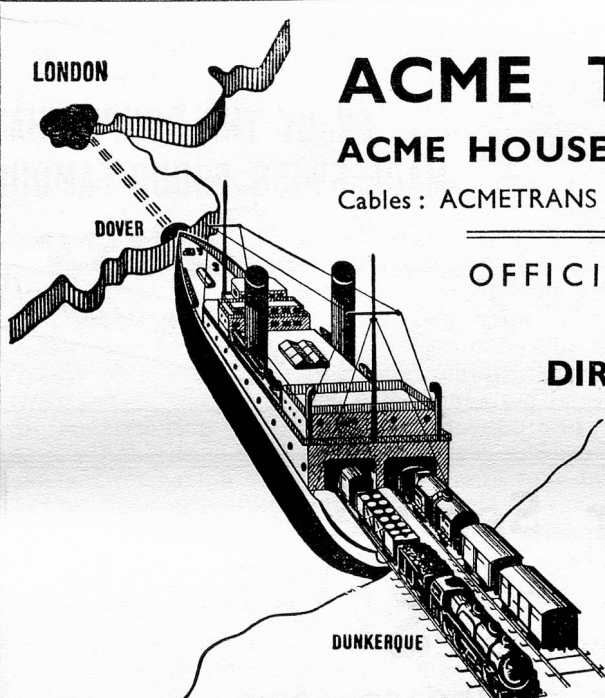
The Swiss Merchant Fleet aggregated 148,000 tons at the end of 1956; of its 23 vessels 18 were suitable for service on long-distance routes.

* * *

4,000 periodicals are published regularly in Switzerland. The total of political dailies is estimated at 120. Owing to the extreme decentralization of the Swiss Press, daily sales per newspaper are low — there are 330 political newspapers with a sale of 1,000 to 5,000 copies, and only 11 with a daily net sale of over 50,000. [A.T.S.]

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 13th, 1957. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. Steiner, W. Schlapfer, Miss M. Paly, J. D. Bernoulli, James Sieber, Adrien Rueff.



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