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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur P. H. Aubaret, at present Consul-General in Wellington, to the post of head of the Swiss delegation to the Neutral Nation Commission for the repatriation of prisoners of war in Korea, in succession to Minister Dr. Fritz Real.

The annual conference of Swiss Mission heads abroad took place in Berne under the presidency of Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister; 31 Ambassadors and Ministers, at present on holiday in Switzerland, attended the conference.

Mr. Walter Clavadetscher has been appointed Director of the section "Landwirtschaft" at the Federal Economic Department in Berne.

Mr. Clavadetscher was born in 1904 at Altstaetten (Ct. St. Gall), and is a citizen of Malans (Ct. Grisons). He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and afterwards was a teacher at the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule Custerhof" in Rheineck. In 1951 he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of St. Gall.

According to the "Jahrbuch 1956" of the Federal Post, Telegraph & Telephone administration, the PTT administration has made in 1955 a net profit of 60,068,643.— frs. Of this amount the Confederation has received the sum of 60 million francs.

The two Federal Chambers sent an official delegation consisting of eight National Councillors and three States Councillors to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference which took place in London in the middle of this month. Six further members of the National Council, and one member of the States Council joined the delegation unofficially, which was headed by Dr. J. Condrau, President of the National Council, and Dr. K. Schoch, President of the States Council.

The autumn session of the Federal Chambers started on Monday, September 16th, and will last for two to three weeks.

Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco have paid a courtesy visit to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The American Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Henry Taylor, landed at the airport Château Neuf (Ct. Valais), and on descending from the plane was greeted by M. René Spahr, President of the Valaisan section of the Swiss Aero Club. The distinguished visitor afterwards boarded a Piper-Super machine piloted by the famous glacier pilot, Mr. Geiger, and flew over the Matterhorn, landing on the Theodul glacier (3,500 m.).

The Indonesian Ambassador, Monsieur Ahmad Subardjo Dyoyoodisury, has presented his credentials to Dr. Thomas Holenstein, Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

Cantonal

One person was seriously injured and six were slightly injured when a rope on the rope-railway Attinghausen-Brusti (Ct. Uri) broke. All the injured passengers were taken to the cantonal hospital in Altdorf.

[A.T.S.]

The CIBA chemical works in Basle have made a donation amounting to 10,000.— frs. for the inhabitants of Bristen and the Maderaner valley (Ct. Uri) who sustained damage during the recent floods.

[A.T.S.]

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Mr. Albert Frey-Wyssling of Zurich has been elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society (United Kingdom) for his studies on ultramicroscopic structure of protoplasm and of plant cell walls. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At a Press Conference in Zurich Dr. E. Wetter, President of the "Schweiz. Rentenanstalt" Zurich and a former Federal Councillor, announced that this concern will at the beginning of next year celebrate the 100th anniversary of its foundation. It was mentioned that the "Rentenanstalt" has up to date issued 700,000 policies representing a sum of 3.9 milliard francs, of which 85 per cent are placed in Switzerland and the remainder in Germany, France, Holland and Belgium. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. A. Steiger, *Ordinarius* of the philosophical faculty of the University of Zurich, and "Dozent" for military science at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, has been relieved of his posts pending an investigation for embezzlement. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The traditional "Knabenschiessen" took place in Zurich. 8,177 boys competed. Master Mathias Pult (16) of Zurich was declared "Schützenkönig" with 33 points. The Swiss army was represented by Army corps commander Ulrich Wille, and Divisional commanders Ernst Uhlmann and Schumacher. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Officials from the Russian Embassy in Berne tried to seize a Russian woman who was on her way to join her daughter in Buenos Aires.

Mrs. Zlata Fridmann, the woman in question, signed at the Kloten Airport a statement to the effect that she did not want to have any relations with Russia, and placed herself under the protection of the Swiss authorities. A member of the Soviet Embassy entered the medical post where Mrs. Fridmann was and tried to compel her to return to Russia. He was asked by the airport police to give her back her passport and to leave the place. The woman has since arrived in Buenos Aires. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Karl Eitle (42) a sports master of Zurich lost his life whilst climbing in the Maderaner valley. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At a recent sitting of the Berne cantonal parliament the question of the Eiger rescue gave rise to a discussion. Some members of the Oberland district

protested against criticisms of the local guides, who had been accused of failing to co-operate to the full in the rescue. It was again made clear that when the first call for help was made Grindelwald had not a sufficient number of guides available to make up a search party. A group of guides from Wengen responded to the appeal, but close co-ordination between guides and experienced volunteers should be maintained.

The Bernese Government has decided to reorganize its Alpine rescue service with the help of two representatives of the Swiss Alpine Club and two of the Bernese guides. Asked if a ban on ascents of the Eiger wall was being considered, a Government spokesman replied that the Government would not renew the ban pronounced in 1937 — which had in fact no effect — but would by all means warn climbers against the dangers involved in any attempt at scaling the Eiger wall. [A.T.S.]

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The Bienne Fair, which opened on August 23rd and closed its doors on the 2nd of this month, was visited by 66,933 persons (1955: 63,302). [A.T.S.]

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The paper "Courrier de la Vallée de Tavannes", edited by M. Henri Kramer, has celebrated its 50th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 2,000th anniversary of the town of Basle was celebrated with much pomp and ceremony from August 22nd to 24th. Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss

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Confederation, addressed a large gathering on the Münsterplatz, conveying the greetings and congratulations of the Federal Council and the entire Swiss population

About 4,000 "Basler" from all corners of the earth attended a reception given in their honour at the Town Hall, where they were greeted by Mr. Fr. Brechbühl, President of the Government of the canton Basle-Town, and Dr. N. Jaquet, President of the organisation committee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Otilie Rohr-Brändli, an inmate of the "Frauenaltersheim" Schönbühl in Schaffhausen, has recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The new aerial cableway linking the village of Zermatt to the Black Lake, at the foot of the Matterhorn, has been inaugurated. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three Vaudois mountaineers, J. P. Corbaz, François Jequier and Yves Dunant scaled, for the first time, the north wall of the "Aiguilles dorées" in the Trient district. The climbing of this difficult wall took seven hours. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mlle. Elise Graz of Palezieux (Ct. Vaud) has celebrated her 100th birthday, on which occasion she was presented with the traditional easy-chair by the cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the opening of the "Comptoir" Lausanne, Dr. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, delivered the greetings of the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The inhabitants of La Chaux-de-Fonds have celebrated with much *élan* the 300th anniversary of their independence. At the official banquet M. André Sandoz, President of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel, delivered the greetings of the cantonal authorities; other speakers were M. Gaston Schelling, Mayor of La Chaux-de-Fonds, M. Pierre Pellegrini, President of the Swiss Press Association, and M. Albert Haller, President of the "Braderie". A large procession, witnessed by about 75,000 persons, wended its way through the streets of the town. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Baron Maurice de Rothschild, who recently died at Pregny, near Geneva, has bequeathed his château and estate, as well as a large sum of money, to the canton of Geneva. Part of the grounds at Pregny may be turned into a public park. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Hermann Eberli of Udligenswil (Ct. Lucerne) was killed whilst climbing on the Otschiburg, above Brienz. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Jean Peitrequin, Mayor of the town of Lausanne for the last eight years, and for 20 years a member of the Municipal Council, is shortly vacating his post. [A.T.S.]



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Mr. Ulysse Junod of St. Croix, a former President of the Urban Council of St. Croix, and for twelve years a member of the District Court, has celebrated his 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Henry Burrus, in Boncourt, at the age of 67. The deceased had been since 1911 the head of the firm "Manufacture de tabac et de cigarettes F. J. Burrus & Cie." Boncourt. He was from 1915 to 1946 President of the commune of Boncourt, and from 1939 to 1947 a member of the National Council.

Professor Dr. Arnold Bohren, a former Director of SUVAL, in Thun, aged 82.

Eduard Kaiser, painter, in La Chaux-de-Fonds (owing to an accident) at the age of 65.

Auguste de Montfalcon, a member of the Tribunal of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 70.

Emile Graber, in Dornach, at the age of 64. The deceased was a member of the "Kantonsrat" Solothurn and "Stadtammann" of Dornach. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. Leopold Ruzicka (70) of Zurich. The "Jubilar" was appointed in 1918 "Privat Dozent" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and three years later (1921) at the University of Zurich. In 1923 he received the title of Professor, being appointed *Ordinarius* for organic chemistry at the ETH. Professor Ruzicka was in 1939 the recipient of the Nobel prize (for chemistry) and the Marcel Benoist prize. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of several foreign Universities.

Dr. phil. August Baerlocher (70), of Baden, for the last 40 years editor of the "Aargauer Volksblatt". [A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES.

The late Max Jaeggli-Hartmann of the firm Jakob Jaeggli & Co., Ober-Winterthur, has left the sum of 100,000.— frs. to the "Stiftungsfond" of the firm, and 20,000.— frs. to the Billiard Club, Winterthur, of which he had been a member for many years.

Mme. Bertha Disler-Oechslin, who recently died at Schaffhausen, has bequeathed the sum of 10,000.— frs. to the "Musikschule", Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. Ulysse Gentil of La Brévine, Mr. & Mrs. S. Beltraminelli of Bellinzona. [A.T.S.]

The recently deceased Paul von Sprecher, a former District Court President, has left a legacy amounting to 20,000.— frs. to the "Jugendheilbad Giuraulta" in Rothenbrunnen, 10,000.— frs. to the "Evangelischen Lehranstalt" Schiers, and 10,000.— frs. to the "Kinderheim" Plankis.

* * *

The "Kulturgesellschaft" of the district of Lenzburg has received as a gift from the family of Max A. Isler the villa "Buenzegg" with a large ground. The "Kulturgesellschaft" has decided to use the building for a home for old people. [A.T.S.]

REVISION OF THE FEDERAL LAW CONCERNING MILITARY TAX.

Through the Swiss Embassy in London, we have received a preliminary draft of a new revised federal law, which we herewith publish *in extenso*.

Readers are invited to express their views in this matter.

* * *

REVISION DES BUNDESGESETZES UEBER DEN MILITAERPFLICHTERSATZ.

Die Eidgenössische Steuerverwaltung hat am 8. Mai 1957 einen *Vorentwurf* herausgegeben. Es handelt sich aber hier nicht um eine endgültige Gesetzesvorlage, sondern um eine *Diskussionsgrundlage*. Soweit dieser Vorentwurf auf dem Gebiete des Militärpflichtersatzes für die Auslandschweizer von Interesse ist, kann er wie folgt, in kurzen Zügen, zusammengefasst werden.

* * *

1. Wehrpflichtige, die im Ersatzjahre während wenigstens sechs Monaten im Ausland Wohnsitz haben, ordnungsgemäss beurlaubt und ihrer bisherigen Ersatzpflicht, nachgekommen sind, sind von der Ersatzpflicht befreit, sofern sie
 - a) bei Beginn des Ersatzjahres seit mehr als zehn Jahren ununterbrochen im Ausland wohnen; steht der Wehrpflichtige bei Beginn des Ersatzjahres im Landwehralter, so tritt die Befreiung schon nach fünf Jahren ununterbrochenen Wohnsitzes im Ausland ein; oder
 - b) im Ersatzjahr zu Militärdienst in der Armee ihres ausländischen Wohnsitzstaates oder zu einer dem Militärpflichtersatz entsprechenden Abgabe verhalten werden; oder
 - c) im Ersatzjahr als Bürger ihres ausländischen Wohnsitzstaates der Armee dieses Staates zur Verfügung stehen, nachdem sie in dieser Armee die ordentlichen Dienste geleistet haben.
2. Ist der Wehrpflichtige vor seinem letzten Wegzug ins Ausland schon früher im Ausland wohnhaft gewesen, so werden die früheren Auslandjahre auf die Fristen nach Ziffer 1, lit.a, angerechnet, soweit sie die Zahl der Jahre übersteigen, die der Wehrpflichtige inzwischen in der Schweiz verbracht hat.
3. *Abgabemass* :
 - a) Die Personaltaxe wird beibehalten und in Würdigung der Geldentwertung auf Fr. 15.— erhöht.
 - b) Hiezu kommt eine Abgabe vom Gesamteinkommen (statt nur vom Erwerb), die auf 2,4% festgesetzt wird.
 - c) Vom Ersatzpflichtigen im Auszugsalter (20. — 36. Altersjahr) wird die volle Abgabe erhoben, vom Pflichtigen im Landwehralter (37. — 48. Altersjahr) 2/6 der vollen Abgabe. Wehrpflichtige im Landsturmalter (49. — 60. Altersjahr) entrichten die Ersatzabgabe (zu 1/6) nur auf besonderen Beschluss der