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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

The winter session of the Federal Chambers, which will last three weeks, began on the 2nd of this month.

Mr. Robert Bratschi (Socialist) was elected President of the National Council for 1957-1958. He was born in 1891 and is a citizen of Boezingen (Ct. Berne). After 10 years' service with the Swiss Federal Railways, he was from 1920 to 1953 General Secretary, and since 1946 also President of the Swiss railwaymen's union. From 1934 to 1953 Bratschi presided over the "Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbund", and since 1953 has occupied the post of Director of the Berne-Loetschberg-Simplon railway. He entered the National Council in 1922.

Dr. jur. Fritz Staehli (Cons.Chr.Soc.) was elected President of the States Council. He was born in 1895 and hails from Siebnen (Ct. Schwyz). After studying law he practised as an advocate until, in 1937, he was elected President of the Tribunal Schwyz.

Dr. Staehli was a member of the National Council from 1928 to 1939, and since 1939 has sat in the States Council.

Dr. Augustin Lusser (Cons.Chr.Soc.) has been elected Vice-President of the States Council. He was born in 1896 and is a citizen of Bar (Ct. Zug). He studied national economy and law at the Universities of Fribourg and Berne. In 1936 he became a member of the "Kantonsrat", over which he presided in 1940. Since 1939 Dr. Lusser has occupied the post of Mayor of the town of Zug. He entered the States Council in 1941.

The Federal Council has appointed Minister Agostino Soldati to the post of delegate of the Swiss Government to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), and head of the Swiss delegation, in succession to Minister Gerard Bauer, who vacated the post in July 1957.

Minister Soldati was born in 1910 in Buenos-Aires and hails from Neggio (Ct. Ticino). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1938 and successively occupied posts at the Swiss Legations in Rome, Berlin, Lisbon and Paris. In 1956 Minister Soldati was appointed Permanent Observer at the United Nations in New York with the rank of Minister.

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Legation in Yugoslavia to the status of Embassy, and the Minister, Monsieur Jean-Frédéric Wagnière, to the rank of Ambassador.

Minister Felix Schnyder, at present Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Israel, has been appointed Permanent Observer at the United Nations in New York. He was born in Burgdorf and is a citizen of Kriens (Ct. Lucerne). Minister Schnyder studied law at the University of Berne, and afterwards occupied various posts in commercial concerns.

In 1940 he entered the service of the Swiss Foreign Office and held posts in Moscow, Berlin and Washington. In March 1957 he was nominated Swiss Minister in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Richard Mordasini, Swiss Consul at Naples, is vacating his post for health reasons. His successor is Mr. Charles Mayor, at present Vice-Consul at Lorenzo-Marques, who has been promoted to the rank of Consul. He was born in 1908 and is a citizen of Echallens (Ct. Vaud). Consul Mayor entered the service of the Political Department in 1934 and formerly held appointments in Sao-Paulo and Johannesburg.

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Two most important events in Swiss domestic politics occurred recently when the electoral body voted in favour of two Federal Draft Bills.

A new constitutional article was approved by 496,422 "ayes" as against 143,809 "noes", investing the Government with the power to promulgate laws and regulations in the domain of the peaceful utilisation of nuclear power, and for the protection of the population from the effects of radiation.

The second Draft Bill related to the provisioning of our country with cereals under State control. The voters approved this regulation with 400,877 "ayes" to 238,468 "noes".

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.2 million passengers in the month of October 1957, or 300,000 fewer than in October 1956. Receipts: 28.2 million francs (October 1956: 28.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.39 million tons, or 50,000 tons less than during the same period in 1956. Receipts: 44.8 million francs.

Cantonal

The Municipal Council of Lucerne has awarded the art prizes of the town for 1957 to the following: August Blaesi, sculptor, of Lucerne (3,000.— frs.); Robert Wyss, etcher (1,000.— frs.), and Rolf Brem, sculptor (1,000.— frs.), also of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

The music prize of the town of Zurich for 1957 (8,000.— frs.) was awarded to Rolf Liebermann, conductor and composer. [A.T.S.]

A stranger entered a builder's canteen in Zurich, demanding from the service girl the contents of the till. The latter, while trying to phone the police, was knocked unconscious, and the attacker took to his heels with a small amount of money and a few cigarettes. [A.T.S.]

At a delegates' meeting of the "Nouvelle Société Helvétique" which took place in Zurich Professor Dr. A. Laett was elected an Honorary Member of the Society. [A.T.S.]

The murderer of the Zurich composer Robert Oboussier, Walter Siegfried (18), was sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Frehner (80), a former representative of Wädenswil, was run over by a motor-car and killed. [A.T.S.]

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The Belgian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur F. Seynaeve, has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich. He was received by Dr. W. Koenig, President of the cantonal Government, and later on attended a luncheon at the "Haus zum Rechberg" as the guest of the Government of the canton of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Glarus, Mme. Katharina Stuessi-Zweifel of Unter-Ennetlinth, has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

In checking the accounts of the head of the Protestant Church Administration of the town of Zug, who recently died at the age of 62, it was found that during the years 1954 to 1956 he had embezzled an amount of 234,500.— frs. [A.T.S.]

States Councillor Willy Spuehler (Zurich) has been appointed to the post of President of the Swiss Radio Administration, in succession to Dr. Fritz Rothen, who is retiring for age reasons. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Anton Meili (Mels) to the post of Director of the Federal Statistical Office. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. vet. Ernst Fritsch (Winterthur) has been elected to the post of Director of the Federal Veterinary Office, in succession to Professor Dr. Flückiger, who is retiring. [A.T.S.]

A young man entered the premises of a jeweller's shop in Berne, and, brandishing a revolver, demanded from the proprietor the contents of the safe. The



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latter persuaded the man to leave the shop, and the intruder departed. The police were informed, and were able to arrest the youth (16), who had also stolen a car. [A.T.S.]

A smash-and-grab raid took place at the jewellery establishment Haeusler in the Zeitglockenlaube in Berne. Watches and jewellery valued at several thousand francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the *dies academicus* of the University of Berne the following were honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Hermann Rupf of the philosophical and historical faculty; Wilhelm Fröhlich of the philosophical faculty; Andreas Speiser, publisher of the opera "Ommia" by the composer Leonhard Euler; and Dr. Robert Weissmann for his work on "Insektenbekaämpfungsmittel".

The Theodor Kocher Prize was awarded to Dr. S. Weidmann, and the Haller medal to Dr. Paul Stucki.

Professor Dr. Joos Cadish was elected Rector of the University. [A.T.S.]

The Tribunal of Bulle (Ct. Fribourg) sentenced a motorist, who, when driving while under the influence of alcohol, caused a serious accident, to two months' imprisonment (conditional) and a fine of 100.— frs. (!) [A.T.S.]

A cyclist knocked into a young woman, who was returning from work, in a suburb of Solothurn struck a blow at her, snatched her handbag and decamped. [A.T.S.]

A motorist of Basle, causing the death of a 23-year-old cyclist when driving while under the influence of alcohol, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment (conditional) and a fine of 300.— frs. (!) The delinquent, who had been previously fined for a similar offence, drove off without attending to his victim. [A.T.S.]

Damage through fire, estimated at over 100,000.— frs., was caused at the "Schützenhaus" Restaurant, a historical building in Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]

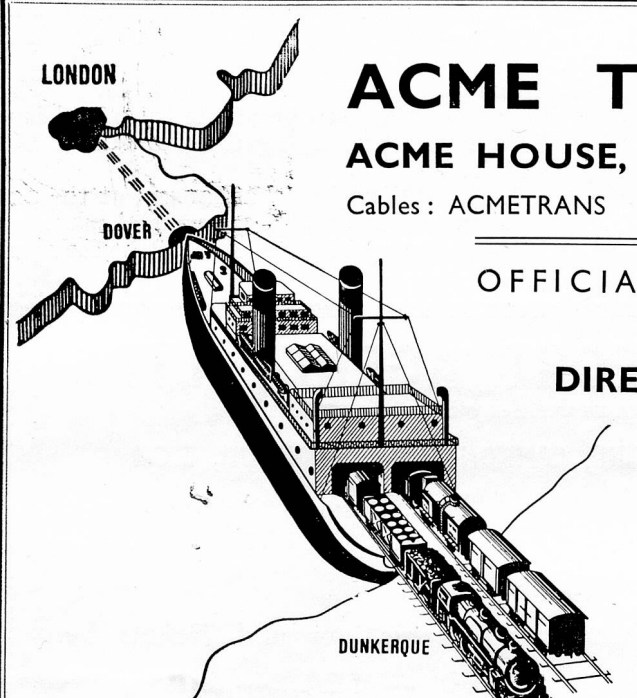
The new Rhine bridge, connecting the commune of Au (Ct. St. Gall) with the market place of Lustenau (Vorarlberg), was recently inaugurated. The new bridge, replacing two old wooden bridges, was built at a cost of four million francs.

Federal Councillor Dr. Philipp Etter and members of the Swiss and Austrian authorities attended the inauguration celebration. [A.T.S.]

The Priests' Seminary of St. Luzi, Chur, has celebrated its 150th foundation anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Reinhard Hackspiel of Nuglar to the post of Director of the Postal District of Aarau. [A.T.S.]

Two gangsters attacked a garage attendant on the main road between Zurich and Hunzenschwil. The attacked, Rudolf Kegel (45), offered resistance and was shot at and seriously hurt. The two men then departed by car with the contents of the till amounting to 718.— frs. [A.T.S.]



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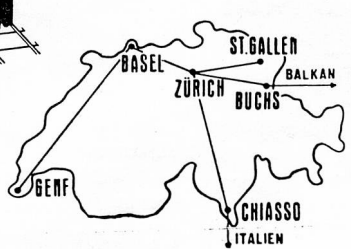
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Mme. Emilie Christine Miauton of Pully (Ct. Vaud) has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

M. Jacques Chamorel, advocate in Lausanne, has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to the late M. François Devenage. [A.T.S.]

The Grand Council of the canton of Berne have elected as their representatives in the States Council Mr. Dewet Buri (NGB) and Mr. Georges Mœckli (Socialist). [A.T.S.]

Dr. Georges-André Chevallaz has been elected Mayor of the town of Lausanne, in succession to M. Jean Peitrequin, who is vacating his office.

The new mayor was born in 1915 and is a citizen of Montherod (Jorat). From 1942 to 1955 he was a teacher at the commercial school and at the University of Lausanne. Since 1955 he has held the post of Director of the Cantonal and University Library. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Emile Kuepfer, historian and formerly a teacher at the *Gymnasium* Morges, has been made an honorary citizen of the town. [A.T.S.]

Goods valued at several thousand francs were stolen from a jeweller's establishment in the Via Nassa in Lugano. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Josette Biollay of Monthey (Ct. Valais) has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

Professor Felix Fiala has been elected Rector of the University of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Geneva on October 31st numbered 237,441, of whom 197,541 are residing in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Geneva is at present M. Jules-Jaques Rais, who is 96 and lives in a home at Petit-Saconnex. He was born in Develier (Jura Bernois). [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Theodor Beck, a former Manager of CIBA, in Basle, at the age of 74.

Emil Boillat, formerly Manager of the Banque Populaire, Basle, in Basle, aged 93.

Fritz Klipstein, Sports Editor of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", in Zurich, at the age of 64.

Colonel Fritz Renfer, master builder, in Solothurn, aged 78. The deceased was at one time commander of the 11th infantry regiment (Solothurn).

Edouard Fasel, from 1930 to 1946 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Boesingen, at the age of 69.

Mgr. Marc Dalbard, formerly head of the seminary of Fribourg, in Fribourg, aged 81.

Robert Amiguet-Peter, for 10 years Director of the "Comptoir" Lausanne, in Lausanne, at the age of 77.

Franz Kuntschen, from 1948 to 1953 Director of the Eidgenössischen Amtes für Wasserwirtschaft, in Berne, aged 69.

Georges Blancpain, Director of the "Brauerei Cardinal", Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 86.

Mme. Angiolina Mocetti, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Ticino, in Massagno, aged 100.

Charles Schnyder von Wartensee, a former Vice-President of the "Direktorium" of the Swiss National Bank, in Lugano (whilst on holiday), at the age of 84.

Dr. Georges de Lavallaz, the well-known surgeon, in Martigny, aged 45.

Albert Naine, from 1933 to 1936 a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, of the Grand Council and of the National Council, in Geneva, at the age of 86.

Karl Anthamatten, in Brigue, aged 62. The deceased was at one time Mayor of the town of Visp, and since 1936 a member of the Government of the canton of Valais.

Dr. h.c. Ernst Müller, in Schaffhausen, at the age of 72. He was appointed in 1930 commercial manager of the Steel Works Georg Fischer, A.G., Schaffhausen.



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and ten years later (1940) Vice-President of the Board of this concern. In 1956 the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Robert Pahud, in Chexbres, aged 77. The deceased was from 1936 to 1955 head of the Federal "Preiskontrollstelle". [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

The Federal Council has accepted a number of resignations from the high command of the Swiss army.

These resignations are due to some officers reaching retiring age, whilst others wish to relinquish their commands in order to make room for younger men.

The resignations are of Divisional-Colonel Marcel Montfort, head of the "Zentralschulen"; Divisional-Colonel Marcel Tardent, since 1952 commander of the 2nd division; Brigade-Colonel Max Haeni, commander of the 11th brigade; Colonels Ernst Altorfer and Walter Ensslin, commanders of frontier brigades.

Colonel R. de Diesbach (1909), of Fribourg, has been appointed to the command of the 1st division, with promotion to the rank of Divisional-Colonel.

Brigade-Colonel René Dubois (1905), of Buttes (Ct. Neuchâtel), has been nominated commander of the 2nd division, with promotion to the rank of Divisional-Colonel.

General-Staff Colonel Paul Gygli (1909), of Utzenstorf (Ct. Berne), is to take over the command of the 7th division, with promotion to the rank of Divisional-Colonel. He was from 1952 to 1955 Military and Air Attaché in London.

Divisional-Colonel Jacques Boissier (1905), of Geneva, has been appointed "Waffenchef der leichten Truppen".

Colonel Peter Burekhardt (1906), of Basle, formerly Chief-of-Staff of the 3rd army-corps, has been appointed "Unterstabchef der Generalstabsabteilung", with promotion to the rank of Divisional-Colonel.

The following have been promoted to the rank of Brigade-Colonel: Gottfried Peter (1906), of Basle; Hans Ulrich von Erlach (1910), of Berne; Pierre Godet (1911); of Cortaillod; Joerg von Sprecher (1907), of Maienfeld; Ernst Brandenberger (1906), of Rueschlikon; and Jakob Becker (1908), of Thalwil.

Brigade-Colonel Hans Brunner (1904) has been appointed commander of the "Zentralschulen".

[A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

Mr. Wilfried Heusser, of Duernten (Ct. Zurich), who died in 1955 in Salt Lake City (U.S.A.) at the age of 80, has left his entire fortune, amounting to 275,000.— frs., to the commune of Duernten, for charitable and cultural institutions.

The "Brandversicherungsanstalt" of the canton of Berne, on the occasion of its 150th Jubilee, has made a donation of 500,000.— frs. to the "Natur-schadenfonds".

The late Mlle. Emily Roth, of Teufen, residing in Schwyz, has left the sum of 20,000.— frs. each to the "Krankenhaus" Schwyz and the commune of Teufen.

The recently deceased Mme. Regina Thuerlimann-Rohner, of Künsnacht (Ct. Zurich), has bequeathed

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40,000.— frs. to the commune of Rebstein, for charitable purposes.

The late Dr. med. Ernst Forster, of Seengen (Ct. Aargau), has left the amount of 63,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions.

The following institutions have received legacies totalling 105,000.— frs. from the late Hermann Schreiber, of Thusis (Ct. Grisons): School Fund, Thusis, 25,000.— frs.; "Krankenhaus", Thusis, 20,000.— frs.; Children's Home, Thusis, 10,000.— frs.; Evangelical Parish, Thusis, 20,000.— frs.; Old People's Home, Thusis, 30,000.— frs.

The parish of Moenchaltorf (Uster District) has received a legacy of 10,000.— frs. from the late Sister Emma Schlumpf, for renovation of the church and church hall.

The late Mrs. Karolina Hess-Maurer, of Adliswil (Ct. Zurich), has left the amount of 30,000.— frs. to the commune of Adliswil towards the costs of erecting a home for old people.

The recently deceased Mrs. Evodie Bachofen-Hoppler, of Uster, has left a legacy of 25,000.— frs. to the "Krankenhaus" Uster. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Georg Hasler (70), of Winterthur, a former General Manager of the "Schweiz. Unfallversicherungsgesellschaft" Winterthur, and since 1957 President of the Board of the "Unfall Winterthur" and "Winterthur Leben".

Ernest Dubois (90), of Lausanne, from 1895 to 1914 editor of the "Nouveliste Valaisan", and from 1914 to 1945 editor of the "Gazette de Lausanne". He is a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Willy Bretscher (60), of Zurich, for 40 years in the service of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" and since 1933 chief editor of that paper.

Dr. Alfred Müller (70), of Amriswil. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau, and from 1935 to 1951 a member of the National Council. At present Dr. Müller occupies the posts of President of the "Bankrates" of the Swiss

National Bank and President of the "Schweiz. Hotel-Treuhand-Gesellschaft".

Jakob Bühler (75), of Schaffhausen, well-known author and journalist. Amongst his principal works are the novels "Im roten Feld" and "Yolandas Vermächtniss", and his play "Volk der Hirten".

[A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Barmettler-Joller of Buochs (Ct. Nidwalden), Mr. & Mrs. K. Haab-Treichler of Uetikon (Ct. Zurich), Mr. & Mrs. A. Lehmann-Marti of Egg (Ct. Zurich), Mr. & Mrs. H. Gabathuler-Rieder of Oberschan (Ct. St. Gall), Mr. & Mrs. Emil Santschi-Zumstein of Brienz (Ct. Berne).

Mr. & Mrs. M. Schuler-Imhof of Ibach (Ct. Schwyz) have celebrated their Iron wedding anniversary (65 years). [A.T.S.]

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 17th, 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: Dr. Ch. Hagenbach, S. Dreyfuss, W. Diener (Tanga), A. G. S. Luminati, W. Goldmann, L. W. Krucker, W. Allenspach, E. H. Schlatter (St. Gall), Anton Bon (Basle), F. Dannmeyer, H. Frutiger, P. H. Aubaret (Wellington, New Zealand), A. Spargnapani (Washington, U.S.A.), F. Wespi.

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