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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Fritz Hegg, at present Swiss Minister at Tel Aviv, to the post of Minister in Hungary.

Minister Hegg was born in Berne in 1903, and is a citizen of Münchenbuchsee (Ct. Berne). He studied law at the Universities of Berne, Munich and Florence, and entered the service of the Confederation in 1931. Dr. Hegg has successively occupied posts at Besançon, Montreal, Toronto, Oslo and Stockholm.

In 1946 he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires and later on Minister at Helsinki. After a short stay at the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) he was appointed in 1954 Minister at Tel Aviv.

* * *

Monsieur Felix Schnyder, since 1954 1st Counsellor of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Washington, has been appointed Minister in Tel Aviv.

Minister Schnyder was born in Burgdorf and is a citizen of Kriens (Ct. Lucerne). He studied law at the University of Berne and afterwards occupied various posts in commercial concerns.

In 1940 he entered the service of the Federal Political Department and successively occupied posts in Moscow, Berlin and Washington. On his promotion to Counsellor of Legation in 1949 he was nominated head of the "Swiss Delegation" in Berlin. Since 1954 Minister Schnyder has functioned as 1st collaborator to the Minister in Washington.

* * *

The Federal Council has nominated Monsieur Pierre Dupont, Counsellor of Legation, to the post of Swiss Minister to Venezuela and Panama with residence at Caracas.

Minister Dupont was born at Geneva in 1912. He studied law and qualified as a barrister. In 1939 he entered the service of the Federal Political Department and was sent to the Legation in Paris as Attaché. Five years later (1944) he was transferred to Brussels. In 1948 he became a member of the Swiss Delegation

at the "Organisation for European Economic Co-operation" (O.E.E.C.). In 1953 Monsieur Dupont was recalled to Berne where he was put in charge of the Finance Section at the Federal Political Department.

* * *

The American Ambassador in Berne, Miss F. Willis, has been transferred to Oslo. She will be succeeded by Mr. Henry J. Taylor. The new Ambassador was born in 1902 at Chicago, and is at present head of the Chemical Bank and Trust Company of New York; formerly a journalist and radio commentator he is not a career diplomat.

* * *

Monsieur Luis Gonzales Barros, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Columbia, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.3 million passengers in February 1957, or 300,000 more than during the same period in 1956. Receipts: 21.8 million francs (February 1956: 21.5 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.95 million tons, which exceeds last year's figures by 410,000 tons. Receipts: 38.8 million francs (February 1956: 34.5 million francs).

Cantonal

A messenger left for a moment a brief-case containing 17,970 frs. in cash at the counter of the post office, Fraumünster, Zurich, in order to put a letter in the letter box; when he returned the brief-case had gone and another had been put in its place. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, May 9th, 1957 at 6.30 for 7 o'clock
at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1,
followed by a causerie illustrated with slides given
by M. Nicole and entitled "Franchir les alpes
avec élégance".

L. A. CHAPUIS,
Hon. Secretary.

Mlle. Jda Hermann has celebrated her 100th birthday at Wädenswil (Zurich). She has spent all her life at Wädenswil where for many years she ran a laundry. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On February 28th 1957 the town of Bienne numbered 55,004 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two individuals entered the premises of a Bank and Exchange Office at the "Blumenrain" Basle, and knocked down the proprietor (50) with a revolver butt. The proprietor put up a fight and the noise caused people in the house to become suspicious and call the police. On their arrival the gangsters took to their heels exchanging shots with the police; one of the men was hit and both surrendered. They originate from the Saar district. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The town of Langenthal (Ct. Berne) has just registered its 10,000th inhabitant. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three motor-cyclists were involved in a collision on the road from Altstätten to Oberriet; two of them were slightly injured whilst the third, Bernard Dux, father of ten children, succumbed to his injuries.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Two persons were killed in a motoring accident near Brunnadern (Ct. St. Gall). The names of the victims are: Mrs. Hengartner-Schneebeli (55), of Rueti (Ct. Zurich), and Mrs. Elise Schneebeli (91), also of Rueti. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two masked and armed men entered the Change Office of the "Schweiz. Bankverein" at the corner of the Rue Montblanc — Quay du Montblanc, Geneva.

Whilst one of the gangsters covered the two clerks with a revolver the other grabbed notes, mostly foreign, amounting to between 30,000 and 40,000 Swiss francs. One of the bank clerks was able to put the alarm into action, whereupon the two intruders decamped and were driven away in a waiting car. They were later arrested on French territory. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Karl Geiser, a well-known sculptor, in Zurich at the age of 59.

Professor Karl Henschen in Basle aged 79. The deceased was for 22 years chief surgeon at the "Bürgerspital", Basle, and a lecturer at the University of this town. He retired in 1948.

Karl Appert-Gasser, a member of the District Court Schwyz, and the "Kantonsrat", in Schwyz, at the age of 60.

Georges Cuttat, a former Prefect of the Moutier district, in Moutier, aged 72.

Dr. Hugo Dürrenmatt, in Berne at the age of 81. The deceased studied law at the Universities of Lausanne, Munich, Berne and Paris, after which he established himself as a lawyer at Herzogenbuchsee. From 1912 to 1930 he was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne. In 1927 Dr. Dürrenmatt was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Berne, from which post he retired in 1947.

Albert Hueni, for the last 26 years in a leading position at the "Bauernsekretariat", at the age of 53.

Paul Ruch, from 1927 to 1953 District Commander (Kreiskommandant) of Bienne, in Bienne, aged 70.

Dr. Hellmut Schnitter, from 1918 to 1954 a member of the editorial staff of the "Nationalzeitung" Basle, in Basle at the age of 66.

Dr. Alfred Clausen, a former cantonal judge and from 1947 to 1955 a member of the States Council, in Brigue, aged 80. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Max Rychner (60) of Zurich, since 1939 a member of the editorial staff of the paper "Die Tat", Zurich, and a well-known journalist and author.

Henry Thelin (90) of Lausanne. He was at one time a member of the Grand — and the National-

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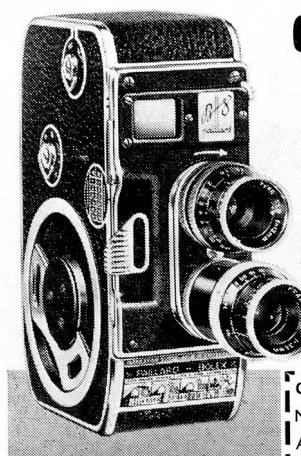
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Council, and from 1912 to 1934 was a member of the Federal Supreme Court, Lausanne.

Emil de Ribaupierre (70) of Montreux, well-known violinist and conductor. Founder of the "Société de l'orchestre du conservatoire de Montreux", the "Conservatoire de Montreux and Vevey", and the "Ecole normale de musique de Lausanne".

Brigadier Jules Schwarz (70), a former commander of the fortress of St. Maurice and the 10th mountain brigade.

Werner Kurz von der Forst (70), of Küsnacht (Zurich), former technical manager of the "Aluminium, A.G." Neuhausen.

Hermann Langen (80) of Zernez, from 1910 to 1937 a warden of the Swiss National Park (Grisons). [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Tock of Neuchâtel, Mr. & Mrs. Anna Maria Stuck-Komas of Rheineck (St. Gall), Mr. & Mrs. A. Rohr-Furter of Lenzburg, Mr. & Mrs. V. Giances-Moena of Dielsdorf. [A.T.S.]

VARIOUS.

The Swiss motorship General Guisan, owned by "Suisse-Atlantique Société de Navigation Maritime, S.A." and built in 1948 by William Gray & Co. Ltd. of West Hartlepool, with engines by Sulzer Brothers Ltd., has been sold to the Graig Shipping Co. Ltd. She carries 9,140 tons d.w., and is to be renamed "Graigfelen". The price paid is about £840,000.

The following cantons have published their accounts for the year 1956: Berne, *credit* balance

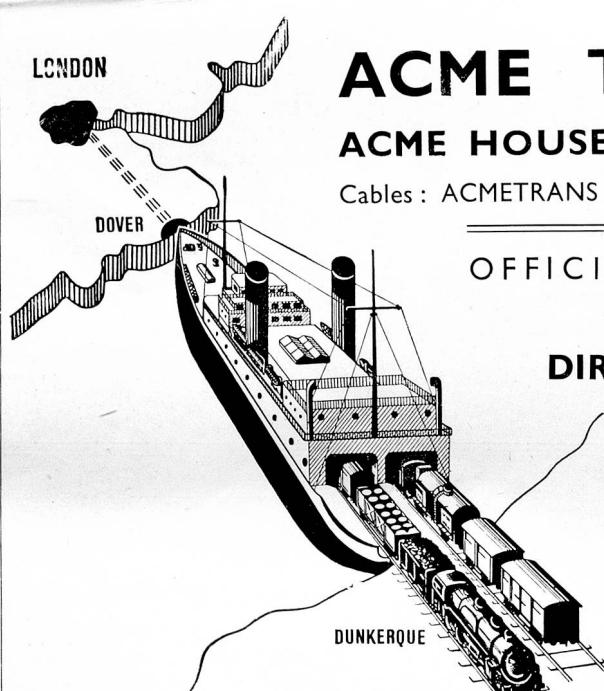
277,356.— frs.; Basle-Country, *credit* balance 61,000.— frs.; Geneva, *credit* balance 4,297,045.— frs.; Obwalden, *credit* balance 37,175 frs. [A.T.S.]

EASTER 1957.

Easter once more reminds us that the flowering of new life which follows the wintry season carries with it a message of hope to all thinking men. The rebirth of nature, the miracle of spring, is a phenomenon visible to our senses that needs no effort of comprehension, but the great mystery of life after death remains hidden under an impenetrable veil. Nothing can pierce this veil but a simple faith in the Christian revelation with its implication of a resurrection. Spiritual comfort and unshaken hope are the reward of those who possess such faith.

In our daily lives and in the affairs of international politics, the need for hope is as great as ever. As we look around we become aware of the lack of stability and the threat of disaster that confront humanity. Yet most of us, to whatever country and political or religious persuasion we may belong, yearn for a "detente" and for peace. This applies not only to the international position but also to the never-ending industrial disputes. The world seems to pass through a crisis of re-adjustment and it is not easy, at the present moment, to get a clear view of the future. All we can do is to hold on to Hope, hope for goodwill, peace and understanding among the nations no less than in the economic field.

Editor.



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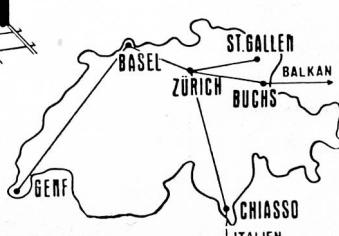
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