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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 following Swiss Legations have been raised to the status of Embassies and their heads to the rank of Ambassador: *Italy*: Monsieur Alfred Escher; *Canada*: Monsieur Victor Nef; *Great Britain*: Monsieur Armin Daeniker; *United States of America*: Monsieur Henry de Torrenté; *Iran*: Monsieur Anton Roy Ganz; *China*: Monsieur Fernand Bernoulli; *Peru*: Monsieur Hans Rudolf Berger; *Spain*: Monsieur Philippe Zutter; *Sweden*: Monsieur Max Graessli; *Soviet Union*: Monsieur Alfred Zehnder; *India*: Monsieur Clemente Rezzonico; *Holland*: (appointment to come); *Turkey*: Dr. E. Kessler; *Belgium*: Monsieur Gaston Jaccard; *Greece*: Monsieur Eduard Fer; *Japan*: Monsieur Max Troendle.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Jean Decroux — at present Swiss Minister in Hungary — to the post of Swiss Minister in Eire.

Minister Decroux was born in 1903 and is a citizen of Bulle (Ct. Fribourg); he studied political science at the universities of Geneva and Lausanne. M. Decroux entered the service of the Confederation in 1927. He held appointments in Mannheim, Riga, Nantes and Oslo. In 1936 he was transferred to Paris where in 1943 he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1945, M. Decroux was put in charge of the Swiss Legation at Oslo as Chargé d'Affaires. After a two years leave he returned to the Federal Political Department in 1950, where for the next three years he occupied an important post. In 1953 M. Jean Decroux was appointed Swiss Minister to Hungary.

* * *

The newly appointed Swiss Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Monsieur Alfred Zehnder, was born in 1900 at Moscow and is a citizen of Zurich. He studied political science at the universities of Zurich and Hamburg. In 1925 he entered the service of the

Confederation and was transferred to Sofia, and in 1937 to Ankara. After a temporary stay at the Commercial Division of the Federal Political Department in Berne he was transferred to Berlin with the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1945 he returned to Berne as head of the section for political affairs, and a year later (1946) was promoted to the rank of Minister. In 1954 he was appointed Secretary General of the Federal Political Department in Berne.

* * * * * The Swedish Government have raised their Legation in Berne to the status of an Embassy. Monsieur Torsten Hammarstroem has been appointed Ambassador.

* * *

The Swiss Government has raised its Consulate General at Manila to the rank of a Legation. Monsieur Walter Hofer, hitherto Consul General has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Republic of the Philippines.

Minister Hofer was born in Berne in 1901 and is a citizen of Walkringen (Ct. Berne). He studied law at the university of Berne and in 1927 entered the service of the Confederation. He occupied various posts at the Federal Political Department and in 1948 he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires to Bulgaria, and in 1951 he was transferred in the same capacity to Pakistan. Since December 17th, 1954, Minister Hofer has been Consul General at Manila.

* * *

Monsieur de Bavier, Swiss Minister in Mexico, and M. William Tièche, head of the Swiss Consulate

CITY SWISS CLUB

OUR NEXT

SOIRÉE FAMILIALE

at which Ladies will be most welcome, is to take place on **Monday, June 3rd, 1957**, at the Dorchester Hotel (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.).

After Dinner, Mr. ALBERT FERBER, the well known artist, will give us a pianoforte recital.

Th. von SPEYR,
Hon. Secretary.

in Managua, represented the Swiss Confederation at the accession to office of the President of the Republic of Nicaragua.

* * *

At the end of 1956 the Swiss Confederation employed 98,534 civil servants (December 1955: 96,131).

* * *

The receipts of the Federal Customs Department for the month of March 1957 amounted to 78.2 million francs. From this amount the Confederation is receiving 62.7 million francs or 5.4 million francs more than in March 1956.

During the first three months of 1957 the receipts amount to 173.2 million francs or 28.4 million francs more than during the same period in 1956.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Eric Kessler — hitherto Swiss Minister in Dublin — to the post of Ambassador in Ankara.

The new Ambassador was born in 1897 in Winterthur. He studied at the Universities of Zurich, Geneva, Paris, Berlin and Göttingen, after which he took up the profession of a Journalist. From 1929 to 1939 Dr. Kessler was London correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", and at the outbreak of the last war was appointed Press Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London. In 1946 he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and transferred to Washington where he remained until 1950, in which year he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Bucharest. In January 1954 Dr. Kessler was sent to Dublin as Minister.

Cantonal

A motor-boat containing four persons overturned on the "Linthkanal" near the "Ziegelbrücke". Three of the occupants saved themselves by swimming, whilst the fourth, Ludwig Kaelin (21) of Lachen, was drowned.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. jur. Anton Faessler (30) of Emmenbrücke lost his life on a ski-ing excursion on the Titlis. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A man entered the branch offices of the "Banque d'Etat de Fribourg" at Estavayer-le-Lac and fired several shots at the cashier without, however, injuring him seriously. He then took out of the safe an amount of 80,000.— frs. and decamped. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three members of the Government of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh. have tendered their resignations. They are States Councillor Armin Locher (Oberegg), "Landeshauptmann" Albert Enzler (Appenzell) and "Landesbauherr" Josef Schmid (Appenzell). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. Gregor Zweifel (87) of Rorschach (Ct. St. Gall) has celebrated his diamond jubilee as a priest. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mgr. Joseph Hasler (57), priest in Wil (St. Gall), has been elected Bishop of St. Gall in succession to the late Dr. Josephus Meile. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Hotel Buin in Guarda (Engadine) was totally destroyed by fire. Two of the guests, Mme. Hedwig Neuenschwander-Salzmann (51) of Berne and her son Franz (13), lost their lives in the fire. The damage caused is estimated to be 200,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

Four mountaineers were injured and one killed on the ascent of the Grand Combin (Valais). The name of the victim is Pierre Beny (23), of Reconvillier.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. H. Hauswirth, Director of the Basle Fair has opened the 1957 Fair in Basle of 27th of April. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Raymond Gautier, a former Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization and Research Director for the International Children's Centre in Paris, in Geneva at the age of 71.

He was born in Geneva and in 1921 was appointed first assistant in the laboratory of Physiology at the University of Geneva. Two years later he took over the post of chief of operations at the Institute of Hygiene and Bacteriology.

Dr. Gautier joined the Health Organization of the League of Nations as head of its biological standardization section in 1925, and from 1926 to 1930 he was director of its eastern office at Singapore. Returning to Geneva, he devoted the next eight years to biological standardization, and was then appointed Acting Director of the Health Section of the League of Nations. He held that post till 1942 and afterwards undertook missions to Washington and London. He was the author of many works dealing with the epidemiology of scarlet fever and cholera, etc. He

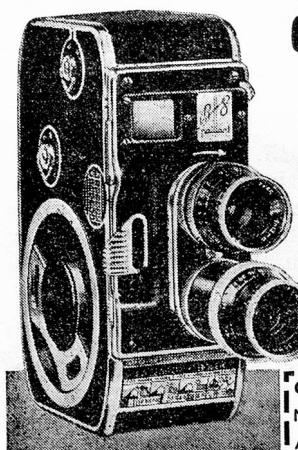
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was a member of the senate of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, and honorary member of the epidemiology section of the Royal Society of Medicine, London.

Eduard Bordier, banker, and at one time President of the commune of Cologny, in Gieva, aged 82.

Carl Werner, publisher, in Basle at the age of 75.

Mme. Angela Musso-Bocca, author, in Bellinzona, aged 71.

Jacques Schnyder, founder and managing-director until 1935 of "Scintilla A.G." Solothurn, in Berne at the age of 75.

Hans Michel, a school-teacher and author, in Interlaken, aged 69.

Louis Gianoli, landscape painter, in Geneva at the age of 89.

E. Scherz-Buchsacher, formerly manager of the "Kantonalbank" Berne, in Berne at the age of 80.

Dr. Franz Rudolf Fischer, well-known advocate, in Lucerne, aged 62. The deceased held the rank of a General Staff Colonel in the army.

Professor Josef Reinhart, for many years a school-teacher. He was well known as a dialect writer and author of plays and novels. In 1936 the University of Berne honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. Coissard of Bourdigny (Geneva); Mrs. & Mrs. S. Kuechler-Ackermann of Weggis, Mr. & Mrs. F. Traber-Feurer.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Magnin of La Chaux-de-Fonds have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary. (65).

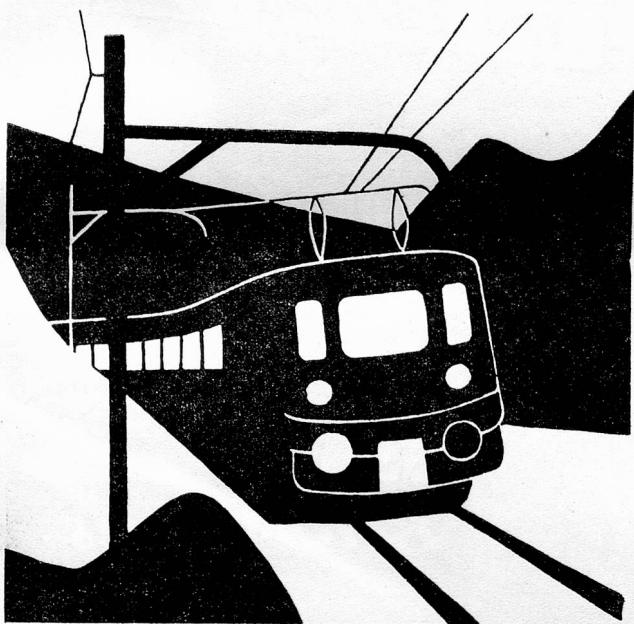
[A.T.S.]

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ANNIVERSARIES.

Pierre Grellet (75) of Chailly-ur-Clarens, journalist, editor of the "Gazette de Lausanne".

Sister Julie Hofmann (90) of Lausanne. Founder of the home Ebenhezer (for delicate children), Lausanne, and a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]



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Switzerland

VARIOUS.

The following cantons have published their accounts for the year 1956: Schwyz, *credit* balance 155,882.— frs.; Nidwalden, *credit* balance 84,654.— frs.; Grisons, the accounts balance; Ticino, *credit* balance 53,326.— frs.; Valais, *credit* balance 941,662.— frs.; Neuchâtel, *credit* balance 27,482.— frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The 23rd Federal Musical Festival will take place in Zurich in June and July 1957. [A.T.S.]

The Pope has appointed Colonel Robert Nuenlist as captain-commandant of the Swiss Guard in Rome, in succession to the late Colonel de Pfyffer d'Altishofen.

The new commandant, who is 46, is a citizen of Nidererlinsbach (Ct. Solothurn), and a former commander of the Lucerne district of the Swiss army, and at one time professor of philosophy at the Lucerne Academy of Philosophy. [A.T.S.]

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At the end of 1956 the Swiss Mercantile Marine for overseas transports numbered 23 vessels, employing 683 men of whom 336 are of Swiss nationality.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The Pilatus Cog-Wheel Railway from Alpnachstad to Pilatus-Kulm, the 7,000 ft. high scenic landmark of Lucerne, has gone into hibernation but visitors, for the first time, will be able to ride up to this popular look-out point all winter. They will avail themselves of the new aerial Kriens-Fraekmuenteegg-Pilatus cableway, which has just undergone a thorough check-up for winter duty.

* * *

Holland and Switzerland are jointly building five "Trans-European Express" trains, each with seating accommodation for 114 passengers and every conceivable comfort for the journey. Amongst the European routes on which these modern, first-class trains, which are of a uniform wine-red colour with silver stripes, are to travel every day is included the Amsterdam-Luxembourg-Zurich international route.