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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has elected Dr. jur. Hans Fürst, at present President of the District Court of Horgen, to the post of Attorney-General in succession to the late René Dubois.

Dr. Fürst was born in Zurich in 1901 and studied law at the Universities of Tübingen and Zurich. In 1945 he was appointed Vice-President, and in 1947 President, of the District Court Horgen. From 1953 onwards he has also acted as a Substitute at the Superior Court (Obergericht) Zurich. He was a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich from 1935 to 1941, and again from 1951.

* * *

The Swiss Government has decided to promote the Swiss Consulates in Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco to the status of Consulates-General.

* * *

Federal Councillor P. Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department, during the recent session of the National Council announced that the order for one hundred P.16 Swiss-made fighter aircraft fitted with British jet engines has been cancelled. The first two aircraft produced crashed in Lake Constance during trials. After the two crashes an inquiry was ordered. The inquiry, which was completed some time ago, found that the crashes were caused by a defect in the controls. As that defect cannot be set right within a few months, and as the terms of delivery cannot therefore be observed, the Government decided to cancel the order.

M. Chaudet said: "Thus, we may have to come back to the proposal already made in Parliament last March for the purchase of another series of one hundred Hawker Hunters in Britain", the cost of which will be about £13 million.

* * *

During the month of April 1958 the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 19.9 million passengers, or

200,000 more than in April 1957. Receipts: 30.3 million francs (April 1957: 30.0 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.76 million tons, which is 340,000 tons less than during the same period in 1957. Receipts: 37.0 million francs (April 1957: 41.7 million francs).

* * *

The Government of Switzerland has informed the "Hochkommissariat für Flüchtlingswesen" that for the years 1958 to 1960 they will pay an amount of 2.3 million francs towards the costs of liquidating refugee camps. An account payment of 1.15 million francs has already been made. Dr. August Lindt (Swiss), High Commissioner of Refugees, has expressed the hope that other Governments will follow Switzerland's example.

* * *

Cantonal

Two mountaineers on an excursion on the "Kleinen Mythen" lost their lives near the "Haggenspitz". They were Paul Huber (21) and R. M. Baumann-Groebl (36), both employees of the Swiss Federal Railways in Basle.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Jost Dillier (Conservative) has been elected President of the commune of Sarnen with 280 votes. His opponent, Dr. E. Kathriner (Liberal) polled 228 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Hans Hess, merchant, a member of the Bourgeois party, was elected President of the commune of Steffisburg (Ct. Berne) with 1,041 votes. Mr. Willy Blaser, the candidate of the Socialist party, received 1,023 votes. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

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As briefly reported in our last issue, the Chemical Works J. R. Geigy, A.G. Basle, have celebrated their 200th jubilee. The official celebration took place in Basle between 3rd and 6th June.

Dr. h.c. Carl Koechlin, President of the Board, in welcoming the numerous guests — amongst them Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and former Federal Councillor Stampfli — passed in review the history of the firm, mentioning particularly some of the personalities who had played an important role in this concern.

He announced that the Board has decided to mark the occasion by making a donation to the welfare work of the employees, and to social, scientific and academic bodies, to the amount of six million francs.

One of the days during the festivities was called "Tag der Wissenschaft", at which three hundred scientists of sixteen European and Overseas countries were present, amongst them a number of Nobel prize winners. They were addressed by Dr. Hartmann Koechlin, Delegate of the Board, who handed to the rector of the Basle University, as a jubilee present, the valuable picture "Bildnis einer 34 jährigen Frau", by Hans Holbein the elder (1460/70), which had been purchased from an American picture gallery, and which will find its home in the "Holbein Kabinett" at the "Basler Kunstmuseum".

The University of Basle in appreciation of the close relationship between Industry and Science has bestowed honorary doctor degrees on two members of the firm — Dr. Hartmann Koechlin (faculty of medicine) and Dr. Carl Koechlin (faculty of philosophy).

The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich has honoured Dr. Hartmann Koechlin with honorary doctorate, and the University of Lausanne has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Dr. Carl Koechlin. [A.T.S.]

The Turkish Ambassador in Berne, Dr. Fahrettin Kerim Goekay, has paid an official visit to the town of Basle, where he was received by members of the cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of a football match between teams of the firms A.G. Sandoz and Schindler Waggon A.G., played at the St. Jakob stadium in Basle, a fatal accident occurred.

A member of the Schindler team, having been fouled, retaliated with a blow on the head of his opponent, who collapsed and later died at the hospital to which he had been taken. The deceased was Samuel Brechbühl (36), of Birsfelden, father of two children.

The match was discontinued and the offending player (of Hungarian nationality) was arrested by the police.

[A.T.S.]

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Two alpinists on a climbing excursion on the Guggern (Obentoggenburg) lost their lives. They were Walter Buess (47), engine driver, and Reinhold Graf (39), clerk, both of Winterthur. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The well-known watch manufacturing concern Le Coultre of Sentier (Vallée de Joux) employing staff of 750, has celebrated its 125th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Pierre Decker, formerly chief surgeon at the cantonal hospital Lausanne, has been made an honorary citizen of the commune of Lavey-Moreles (Ct. Vaud). [A.T.S.]

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The commune of Vallorbe has honoured the writer Benjamin Vallotton (born 1877) with honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

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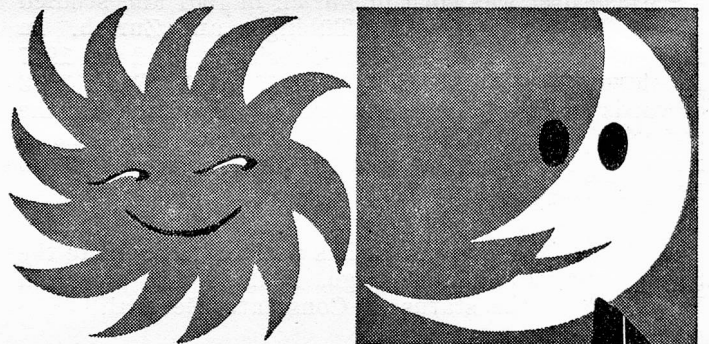
Mr. Daniel Tille (24), of Ormonts-dessous, was killed while on a climbing excursion in the Diableret district. His fiancée, Marily Bleul, of Montreux, who had accompanied him, was injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Pierre-Auguste Leuba has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel, and M. Jean-Louis Barrelet, Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

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A trade union official of La Chaux-de-Fonds, having already previously been charged with driving whilst under the influence of alcohol, appeared again before the District Court of Neuchâtel for the same offence. This time he was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment and a fine of 120.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Three new military barracks erected in Geneva, at a cost of more than six million francs, were inaugurated in the presence of the municipal authorities, army-corps commanders Frick and Gonard, and a number of other high rank officers. [A.T.S.]

At the end of April 1958, the population of the canton of Geneva numbered 239,078. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. phil. Walter Lesch, journalist and author, in Küsnacht (Zurich), at the age of 61. Amongst his best known plays are: "Hansjogel im Paradies", "Caesar in Rüblikon", and "Dienstmann No. 13".

Professor Dr. Richard Gutzwiller, since 1928 head of the "Apologetischen Institutes des Schweiz. Volksverein", in Zurich, aged 62.

Colonel Jaques H. Clerc, District Commander of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 64.

Professor Dr. phil. Karl Jaberg, formerly Professor of Philology at the University of Berne, in Berne, aged 81.

Victor Amadruz, formerly assistant-manager of the District 1 of the Swiss Federal Railways, in Lausanne, at the age of 84.

Dr. Giuseppe A. Marca, President of the commune of Mesocco and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, in Mesocco.

Adolf Biderpost, for 66 years a priest in Ernen (Ct. Valais), and an honorary canon of the cathedral at Sitten, in Ernen, aged 93.

Paul Hertig, director of the administration of the paper "La Liberté" published in Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 62.

Guillaume Fatio, in Geneva, aged 93. The deceased belonged to a well-known family of Geneva bankers, and after being for many years at the head of the family bank he retired and devoted all his time to charity work. When the League of Nations set up its headquarters in Geneva Fatio acted as liaison officer between the International institution and the local authorities. He was for several years President of the International Home for Students. The University of Geneva honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

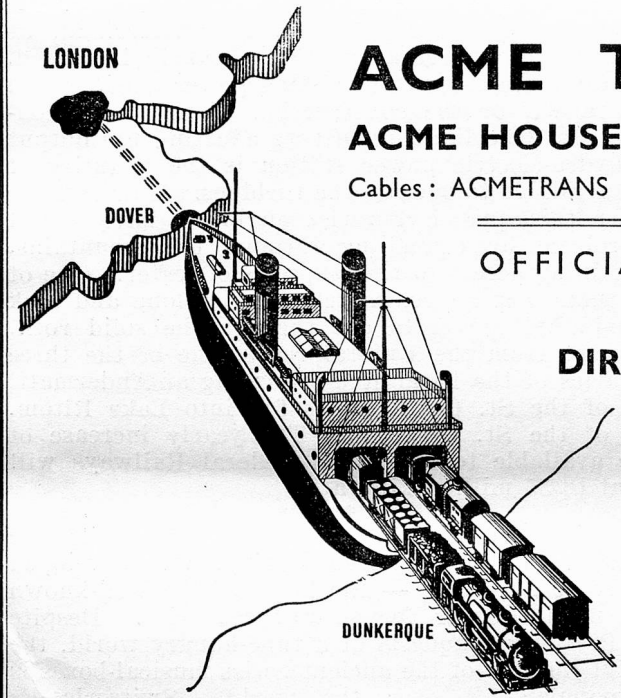
Hans Trudel, well-known sculptor, in Baden, at the age of 77.

Maurice Sandoz, author and composer, founder of the "Prix pour le concours national des jeunes musiques", in Lausanne, aged 66.

Ernst Moeckli, from 1928 to 1953 editor of the paper "Der Schweizer Soldat", in Zurich, at the age of 72.

Werner Lenherr, administrator of the "Dralehens-kasse" Waldkirch (St. Gall) and for a number of years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, in Waldkirch, aged 65.

Dr. Franz Meier, from 1942 to 1957 rector of the *Gymnasium* Immensee. [A.T.S.]



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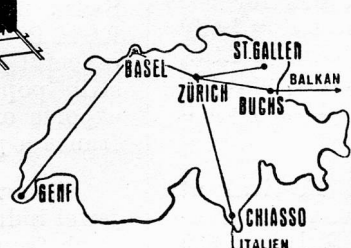
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LEGACIES.

The late Mr. Heinrich Weber, civil engineer, of Zurich-Altstetten, left the amount of 25,000.— francs to the commune of Altstetten for the expansion of the district museum. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Pierre Bovet (80), of Geneva, a former Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Geneva, and Honorary Director of the Rousseau Institute.

Dr. med. Max Picard (70), of Schopfheim, physician, author and critic. Amongst his best known works are: "Das Menschengesicht", "Hitler in uns selbst", and "Die Flucht vor Gott". In 1952 he was awarded the Nobel Prize. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

A military mission from West Germany, headed by General Dorn, has arrived in Switzerland on a visit to various military institutions.

Sergeant-major Jean-Jacques Leyvraz (32), of Glattbrugg, crashed with a Vampire machine in the neighbourhood of Wald (Zurich) and was killed.

Fusilier-recruit Kurt Meister (20), machine designer of Eschikofen (Ct. Thurgau), fell out of a window at the military barracks, Herisau, and was killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Schneider of Balgach (Ct. St. Gall), Mr. and Mrs. G. Petermann-Rossel of Renan near St. Imier, Mr. and Mrs. J. Goetschmann-Frey of Zuzach (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motorist from Fribourg, travelling at excessive speed round a bend in the village of Posieux, collided with an oncoming car. The driver of this car, Eugène Crotti (51), of Fribourg, and his passenger, Mme. Jacquenod, were killed. The driver of the first car has been arrested.

Three persons were killed when a car, owing to a skid, crashed into a stone wall near Affoltern am Albis (Ct. Zurich). Those killed were Ernst Müller (42), innkeeper, of Bonstetten, Miss M. Regen (21), waitress, and Adolf Aeberli (58), farmer, of Bonstetten.

A serious accident occurred on the road from Biasca to Osogna (Ct. Ticino) when two motor-cars were involved in a head-on collision. Eight persons were seriously injured, and Mrs. Anna Helfenberger (42), of Basle, was killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

Switzerland's cost of living rose 1.5 points last month to 182.2 (August 1939, 100). Rent increases are blamed.

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Recently a British passenger vessel has for the first time entered the Port of Basel. The s.s. "Lady Margaret", the largest ship of Yacht Holidays Ltd., 85, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1, will ply the Rhine with destination Basel, Switzerland, on a fortnightly schedule.

* * *

The date of the Yehudi Menuhin Festival at Gstaad, Bernese Oberland, has been advanced. Concerts will now take place from 25th July to 6th August.

According to statistics published by the Swiss Federal Railways the receipts for goods traffic for 1957 at the following railway stations were: Basle 57.7 million francs, Zurich 44.3 million francs, Chiasso 30.8 million francs, Brig 30 million francs, Geneva 27.3 million francs, Berne 11.5 million francs, Buchs 9.4 million francs, Sitten 8.9 million francs, Luino 8.6 million francs, and Lausanne 7.4 million francs.

* * *

Agreement on the proposed enlargement of Zurich's Kloten Airport has now been reached by all the interested parties. The plans provide for the anticipated traffic during the coming ten to fifteen years. Four-and-a-half million pounds will be needed to provide for the near future, which will see the general introduction of jets to civil aviation. 365,131 departures by air were reported from Kloten during 1957.

* * *

A total of 11,141,244 foreign motor vehicles, frontier traffic included, entered Switzerland for a limited stay in 1957, i.e. 3 millions, or 38 per cent, more than in 1956. Of this number, 2,638,348 (24 per cent increase) units were identified as long-distance tourist vehicles, namely 2,378,113 cars (25 per cent increase), 208,163 motor cycles and scooters (16 per cent increase) and 52,072 motor coaches (11 per cent increase); United Kingdom, 71,272 (4 per cent increase). Foreign private cars were allowed to enter Switzerland without customs documents from 1st January 1958; it is doubtful, therefore, if statistical figures of this type will be obtainable in the future.

* * *

Waters which have sped northwards from the Alps for thousands of years will in future make the journey in the opposite direction to the Adriatic. The consumption of electric current in Switzerland, as elsewhere, has in recent years constantly increased. As a result the output of existing power stations had to be raised, or the construction of new ones contemplated. One limiting feature affecting the output of a hydro-electric power station is the quantity of water available to operate the turbines. How can one increase this quantity? Swiss engineers have solved the problem by tunnelling through the mountains, thus gaining access to new supplies of water. One of these tunnels is approximately 3 miles long and took two-and-a-half years to cut through the solid rock. The water from the Unteralpreuss, one of the three tributaries of the River Reuss forming at Andermatt, north of the St. Gotthard, is fed into Lake Ritom, south of the St. Gotthard. The yearly increase of power available to the Swiss Federal Railways will amount to 35 million kilowatts.

* * *

A miniature musical-box, which can be built into a cigarette lighter or even a ring, was developed recently at Ste-Croix — the home of the well-known Swiss musical-boxes for several centuries. Despite Elvis Presley's conquests of a tune-hungry world, the peaceful jingling of the ancient Swiss musical-boxes is still popular all over the world. Switzerland's exports of musical-boxes amount to 20 million Swiss francs a year.

* * *

Geneva's renowned exhibition of the watch and jewel industries, will take place this year at the Musée Rath from 29th August to 21st September. A special complementary show will be dedicated to "The Pearl".