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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Alfred Escher, at present Swiss Ambassador in Rome, has been appointed Ambassador in Bonn, in succession to the late Albert Huber.

Ambassador Escher was born in 1906, and hails from Zurich. He studied Law at the Universities of Zurich, Kiel and Berlin, and obtained his doctorate in 1928 at the University of Zurich. M. Escher entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1931, and was sent to London, and afterwards to the Swiss Consulate at Bangkok. In 1935 he was transferred to Warsaw, and four years later (1939) to Berlin.

In 1941 M. Escher went to Ankara with the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation, the following year he was appointed Consul in Baghdad, and from there he went to Athens, where he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. He was transferred to London in 1945, as 1st Counsellor of Legation, and in 1948 the International Committee of the Red Cross appointed M. Escher as Commissioner in connection with the help for refugees in Palestine; he was at the disposal of the Red Cross Committee until June 1951, when he was appointed Swiss Minister in Iran, being at the same time accredited to Afghanistan.

In 1955 M. Escher was appointed Swiss Minister in Rome, in succession to M. Enrico Celio. Two years later (1957) he was promoted to the rank of Ambassador.

* * *

The Federal Council has recently appointed Dr. Albert Weitnauer to the post of Delegate of the Swiss Government for commercial treaties.

Dr. Weitnauer was born in 1916 in Basle, in which town he studied Law at the University. He entered the service of the Swiss Confederation in 1941 as Secretary to the Central Administration of War Economy. At the end of 1946 he joined the Division of Commerce at the Federal Department of Public Economy. From 1948 to 1949 Dr. Weitnauer was attached to the then Swiss Legation at Washington with the rank of 1st Secretary.

On returning to Berné he was appointed, in 1950, Sectional Chief at the Division of Commerce (Federal Political Department). In September 1953 Dr. Weitnauer succeeded Dr. V. Umbricht at the Commercial Division of the then Swiss Legation in London, and a year later (1954) he was transferred to Washington as Counsellor of Legation, returning in 1958 to the Commercial Division at the Federal Department of Public Economy.

* * *

The Spring Session of the two Federal Chambers (National and States Councils) was fixed to begin on Monday, 2nd March, and to last three weeks.

Monsieur Vittorino Veronese, since 1958 General Director of UNESCO, has paid an official visit to the Federal Council in Berné. He was received by M. Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Federal Councillors Petitpierre and Etter in special audience. Later the distinguished visitor was the guest of the Federal Council at a dinner.

* * *

The Federal Council gave the traditional dinner to the Foreign Diplomats and their ladies, accredited to the Confederation. Amongst the Swiss guests were the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor, the Presidents of the National and States Councils, the Presidents of the Governments of the cantons Berné and Fribourg, several army-corps and divisional commanders, and high Government officials.

Cantonal

The 30 million francs loan at 3½ per cent, issued by the town of Zurich, has been considerably over-subscribed, and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 17th, 1959.** As no circulars will be sent out for this meeting will members kindly note the date and advise the Dorchester Hotel of their intention to be present by the day previous to the Meeting. (This can be done by telephoning Miss Martin at the Dorchester Hotel, Telephone: MAYfair 8888).

Th. von SPEYR,

Hon. Secretary.

Two policemen were injured in Zurich when trying to stop a motor-car which had been reported as being stolen. The motorist on being signalled to stop deliberately ran into the policemen, who fortunately received only slight injuries. The thief was later arrested, and identified as a Hans Steiner (17), who had been recently discharged from prison after having been sentenced for theft and robbery. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Damage estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 200,000.— francs was caused through fire at the "Erziehungsanstalt Tessenberg" Neuenstadt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two skiers taking part in a local ski race in the Kiental (Ct. Berne) collided. One of them, Erhard Germann (19), of Frutigen, received serious injuries, and later died in hospital. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The American National Health Institute has made a donation amounting to \$5,200 to the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Harold Feller, Clerk of the Superior Court of the canton of Berne, has been appointed States Prosecutor of the Bernese "Mittelland". [A.T.S.]

* * *

A postbag containing a 20kg. gold bar, valued at 94,500.— francs, disappeared from a mail coach at the S.B.B. railway station in Basle. A reward of 5,000.— francs has been offered for information. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The manageress of a newspaper kiosk at the Ramsen railway station (Ct. Schaffhausen) was attacked by a stranger, who robbed her of her handbag. Fortunately the handbag did not contain the day's takings, but 100.— francs and a number of lottery tickets belonging to the manageress were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. jur. Ernst Steiner, States Prosecutor of the canton of Schaffhausen, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Arnold Gfeller, architect, who from 1939 to 1947, and from 1951 to 1959, has been a member of the National Council, has retired from Parliament. He is succeeded by Mr. Rudolf Suter, manager of the "Migros-Genossenschaft", Basle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

2,087 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of St. Gall during the year 1958; 1,577 persons were injured, 74 of them fatally. [A.T.S.]

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A man entering a radio shop in Rothrist (Ct. Aargau) demanded from the proprietor, Mr. W. Noethiger, the contents of the till. On refusal, the gangster knocked the shopkeeper down, and then unsuccessfully tried to open the cash register — afterwards taking to his heels. He was later arrested by the police, and identified as a 21-year-old chimney sweep. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Kulturstiftung Pro Argovia" has awarded a prize amounting to 5,000.— francs to Mr. Müller-Fehr, teacher and natural scientist, of Schiltwald (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Frau Anna Simmen-Zurmühle, of Schinznach-Dorf (Ct. Aargau), has celebrated her 100th birthday, at the "Altersheim" in Oberlinsbach. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Jürg Eser (19), of Kilchberg (Ct. Zurich), was fatally injured on a skiing excursion near Davos-Platz. [A.T.S.]

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The election for the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino shows the following result:— Radicals: 29 seats (1 gain); Conservatives: 23 seats (2 losses); Socialists: 10 seats (no change); Peasant Party: 2 seats (no change); Communists: 1 seat (new). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Neuchâtel show a credit balance of 2,118,661.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The number of traffic accidents reported in 1958 in the canton of Geneva amounted to 5,851; 261 persons were injured, 42 of them fatally. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The population of the canton of Geneva on 31st December 1958 numbered 240,305. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Charles Kohler, Director and Administrator of the paper "Sillon Romand", and collaborator of the paper "Patrie Suisse", in Lausanne, at the age of 71.

Peter Staehelin, from 1919 to 1947 a member of the editorial staff of the "National Zeitung" Basle, in Basle, aged 76.

Ernst Zraggen, in Hergiswil (Ct. Nidwalden), at the age of 63. The deceased was a member of the "Landrat" Nidwalden from 1934 to 1945. In 1946 he entered the Government of the canton of Nidwalden, in which he held the post of "Landammann" in 1953, 1955 and 1957.

André Chavannes, lawyer, from 1923 to 1952 a judge of the cantonal tribunal, in Lausanne, aged 77.

Professor Dr. med. Eduard Glanzmann, in Berne, at the age of 72. Since 1939 he had been Professor of Medicine at the University of Berne.

Jakob Herzog, the well-known painter, in Winterthur, aged 92.

Army-corps commander Ulrich Wille, in Meilen, at the age of 82.

The deceased was born in 1877, and was the son of General Wille, commander-in-chief of the Swiss army during the First World-War. He studied Law at the Universities of Geneva, Berlin and Leipzig, concluding his law studies with the degree of Doctor of Law. In 1901 Wille became a member of the Instructors Corps, and 23 years later was appointed commander of the "Zentralschulen". In 1933 he was in command of the 2nd army-corps. From 1931 to 1939 Colonel Wille held the post of "Waffenchef" of Infantry. He retired from the army in 1942.

Hans Staub, manager of the "Labor-Fac. A.G. Basle" (a subsidiary of the Persil concern), in Basle, aged 58.



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Josef Maria Bruhin, at one time President of the commune of Schwyz, and a member of the District Court Schwyz, in Schwyz, at the age of 100.

Dr. Joseph Ammann-Bachofen, from 1921 to 1959 editor of the paper "Linth", published in Rapperswil, in Rapperswil, aged 66.

Henri Martin, a former Swiss Minister, in Geneva, at the age of 80.

The deceased was for forty years in the Swiss diplomatic service. He was at one time a well-known personality in the London Swiss Colony, in the capacity of Commercial Attaché at the then Swiss Legation. He had been Consul-General at Montreal, and Swiss Minister, in turn, to Turkey, Egypt, Bulgaria, Poland and Portugal. He retired from the diplomatic service in 1946.

Henri-Paul Carnal, for forty-five years Head of the "Institut Le Rosey" in Rolle, in Rolle, aged 73.

Dr. Eduard Schütz, "Verkehrsdirektor" of Lucerne, in London (while on a visit), at the age of 57.

The deceased was from 1927 to 1929 a teacher at the "Kantonalen Gewerbeschule" Aarau, and from 1930 to 1943 he held the post of commercial teacher at the "Zentralschweizerischen Verkehrsschule" Lucerne. From 1944 to 1946 Schütz was rector of the "Städtischen Töchterhandelsschule" Lucerne, and since 1947 had been "Verkehrsdirektor" of Lucerne. For two years he was editor of the paper "Staatsbürger".

Pastor Julien Bourquin, for many years a preacher in Cortaillod, and President of the Historical and Archæological Society of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, aged 74.

Alfred Pochon, violinist, in Lausanne, at the age of 81. Born in 1878, he studied at Liège with César Thomson, of whose quartet he became a member, and was also first violin in the Ysaye Orchestra in Brussels. He began to be associated in 1902 with M. de Coppet and the Flonzaley Quartet, playing first violin in that combination. Later he joined the Stradivarius Quartet, which he left in 1938, and in 1939 he was appointed director of the Lausanne Conservatory.

Dr. Jur. Rudolf Toggenburg, in Ilanz, aged 60. He was in practice as a lawyer in Ilanz. Since 1931 he had been a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons. From 1935 to 1937 he held the office of "Landammann" for the Ilanz district. Dr. Toggenburg had also sat in the National Council since 1955.

[A.T.S.]

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ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. h.c. Ernst Moll (80), of Berne. "Direktionspraesident" of the "Bernischen Kraftwerke" from 1926 to 1951.

Dr. h.c. Alois Muri (80), of Tann nr. Schenkon (Ct. Lucerne). He was from 1943 to 1945, General Manager of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration. In 1934 he was honoured by the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Professor Carl Ludwig (70), a citizen of the canton of Grisons, from 1931 to 1946 a member of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town, and since 1947 Professor of Law at the University of Basle.

Georges Moeckli (70), from 1938 to 1954 a member of the Government of the canton of Berne, and since 1948 a member of the States Council (Ständerat).

Léon Dufour (80), of Geneva, President of the Board of the "Atelier de Sécheron S.A. Geneva". [A.T.S.]

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BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends of 1958:— Schweiz. Bankgesellschaft, Zurich, 10%; Schweiz. Volksbank, Berne, 7% (1957, 6%); Cifco Ltd. (Commercial and Industrial Finance Corporation) Zurich, 9% (1957, 8%). [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Brunner-Giger, of Lichtensteig (Toggenburg); Mr. and Mrs. J. Staub, of Bilten (Ct. Glarus). [A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car driven by a Mr. Alfred Loew (40), commercial traveller, of Basle, collided with an on-coming lorry between Rümikon and Kaiserstuhl. The driver of the motor-car received fatal injuries.

Two schoolboys waiting for the post-auto at Malix (Ct. Grisons) were run over by a motor-car, owing to a skid; one of them, Anton Walser (16), of Malix, was killed, but the other was able to jump clear.

Joseph Zimmermann (45), postmaster, and "Gemeindeammann" of Dierikon (Ct. Lucerne), was run over by a delivery van between Ebikon and Root, and received fatal injuries. He leaves a widow and five under-age children. The driver of the van has been arrested.

Two persons were killed and two seriously injured when a motor-car crashed into a tree on the road between Uznach and Benken (Ct. St. Gall). Those killed were Sophie Maria Winiger (23), and Marie Rüegg (19), both of Uznach. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

According to statistics just published, there are at present 5,000 foreign students registered at Swiss Universities. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A seven-man Swiss Alpine team under Raymond Lambert is to leave Geneva in April for West Pakistan to attempt to climb Mount Distaghil (25,868 ft.).

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