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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has nominated Dr. Hans Lacher, until recently chief of the Swiss Delegation in Berlin, to the post of Ambassador to the Philippines.

The new Ambassador was born in 1912 in Basle, and is a citizen of that town and of Einsiedeln. He studied Law at the Universities of Basle and Paris, and in 1941 entered the diplomatic service. After a stay of eight years at the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne, he was transferred to Washington. In 1954 Dr. Lacher was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and appointed Head of the Swiss Delegation in Berlin.

The Federal Council was represented at the marriage of King Baudouin, which took place on 15th December in Brussels, by the Swiss Ambassador to Belgium, Monsieur Robert Maurice, in "special mission".

The Swiss Government having received an invitation, from the President of the Central African Republic, to be represented at the proclamation of the Republic of Bangui, has nominated Mr. Robert Boetschi, Consul-General in Leopoldville, to represent the Federal Council in the capacity of *Ambassadeur en mission spéciale*.

Mr. Felix Schnyder, permanent observer for Switzerland at the United Nations, has been nominated by the Secretary-General to be the new United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in place of Mr. August Lindt, whose term of office has expired. Mr. Schnyder's election by the General Assembly is expected to be a formality, and he will then hold office until the end of 1963. Mr. Lindt has been, as previously reported, appointed Swiss Ambassador to Washington.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.7 million passengers in the month of October 1960, or 1.7 million more than in October 1959. Receipts: 32.7 million francs (October 1959: 29.4 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.84 million tons, or 360,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 54.9 million francs (October 1959: 48.2 million francs).

Mr. Robert Schneider (23), builder's foreman, of Lucerne, lost his life in an avalanche in the Hasenstoecke district.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The 1960 Art Prize of the town of Lucerne was awarded to Dr. Adolf Reinle, formerly conservator of the Art Museum, Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich has honoured the following with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Professor Dr. W. Schottky (Erlangen), Professor Otto Stern (Berkeley), Friedrich Sacher (St. Gall), and Professor Dr. H. Behnke (Münster). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Music Prize" (8,000.— francs) of the town of Zurich, due every third year, was awarded to the composer, Robert Blum, of Bremgarten. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Dr. Emil Vogt (Basle) has been elected Director of the "Schweizerischen Landes-Museum", Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

As a result of the elections for the Municipal Council of Bienne the strength of the various parties is as follows: Socialists 28 seats (no change); Liberals, 23 seats (two losses); Christian Socialists, 2 seats (no change); Bourgeois Party, 3 seats (two gains); Communists, 1 seat (no change); Duttweiler Party, 3 seats (one gain); Evangelical Popular Party, no seat (1 loss). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Monsieur Edmond Turcotte, Canadian Ambassador accredited to the Swiss Confederation, has died in Berne at the age of 62. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Paul Schaffroth (Liberal) has been elected Mayor of the town of Bienne, with 5,945 votes; his opponent, a Socialist, polled 5,577 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the *Dies Academicus* of the University of Berne, honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* were Professor Dr. Leonhard von Muralt and Dr.sc.nat. Georges Wander (President of the Board of "Dr. A. Wander, A.G.", Berne). Dr. Hans Stutz (Sumiswald) received the Haller medal, and the Theodor Kocher Prize was awarded to Professor Dr. Paul Hofer of Berne. [A.T.S.]

The oldest citizen of Moudon, M. Emile Pillevuit, has celebrated his 100th birthday. Mme. Veuve Katharina Kiener-Geier has also reached the age of 100. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mgr. Xavier von Hornstein, Professor of Theology at the University of Fribourg, has been elected rector of the University for 1961/62. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the invitation of "Europaunion" the West German Foreign Minister, Dr. Heinrich von Brentano, gave a lecture at the Stadtkasino in Basle on "Deutschland und Europa". A reception by the Basle-Town Government followed at which Federal Councillor Wahlen, the German Ambassador, Herr G. Mohr, and the German Consuls accredited to the Confederation, were present. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Senate of the University of Basle has elected Professor Dr.phil. Edgar Salin as rector of the University for the year 1961. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Guild "Zu Schneidern" Basle has celebrated the 700th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The newly appointed Turkish Ambassador has paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Basle-Town. He was received by Dr. Peter, President of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Seth Abderhalden (34), of Ulisbach-Wattwil, lost his life on the ascent from the Schwägalp to the Säntis, when he was surprised by an avalanche. Abderhalden was a well-known alpinist. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A new schoolhouse has been inaugurated at the Pestalozzi Village in Trogen; amongst those present was the founder of the village, Dr.h.c. Walter Robert Corti. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Walther Bringolf (Socialist) has been re-elected Mayor of the town of Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The driver of a motor-car, with two young men as passengers, lost control of the car, and crashed through a fence into the lake at Davos. Two of the men were able to swim to safety, but the third, Andreas Marugg (19), of Klosters, was drowned. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Fritz Linder (53), of Flums, on an ascent to the Ruggbändern in the Churfirsten district, slipped and fell down a rock. He was instantly killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Frau Ww. Maria Grob-Sutter, of Amriswil (Ct. Thurgau), has celebrated her 103rd birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Goods to the value of 20,000 francs were stolen from a jeweller's establishment near the "Degli Angeli" church in Lugano. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Municipal Council of Lausanne has asked the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud for a credit of 50,000.— francs towards the costs of a monument to the late General Henri Guisan, and the creation of a Fund to be known under the name "Swiss Youth". The Cantonal Government intends to subscribe an equal amount for these purposes. [A.T.S.]

The C. F. Ramuz Foundation has awarded the 1960 "Ramuz Prize" (10,000.— francs) to the writer, C. F. Landry (Rivaz). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Remo Bornatico, member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, has been elected President of the commune of Brusio (Poschiavo). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Grand Council of the canton of Valais has elected two new members for the Superior Court of the canton. They are Eugen Burgener (Conservative), advocate in Visp, and Aloys Morand (Liberal), of Monthey. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The police of Geneva have arrested a German national who had recently committed a burglary at a Geneva jeweller's shop, when goods valued 80,000.— francs were stolen. All the missing goods have been recovered. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Emil Braendli, since 1945 Prefect of the Bienne district, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, in Bienne, at the age of 71.

Leo Steck, landscape painter, and well-known painter on glass, in Berne, aged 78.

Robert Mylius-Hoffmann, partner of the banking concern Sarasin, Basle, in Basle, at the age of 75.



worldwide

Dr. Arthur Maillefer, since 1959 Professor of Systematic Botany at the University of Lausanne, and since 1930 Director of the Botanical Museum, Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 80.

Paul Rose, for 41 years on the staff of the "Journal de Genève", and since 1942 president of the commune of Onex, in Geneva, at the age of 70.

Heinrich Gubler, formerly rector of the "Realschule" Herisau, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Appenzell A.Rh., in St. Gall, aged 98.

Dr. R. Maag, senior chief of the "Chemischen Fabrik für Schaedlingsbekämpfung", Dielsdorf, in Dielsdorf, at the age of 78. In 1953 the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Walter Brueckmann, formerly Director of the Observatory "Locarno Monti", and a lecturer at the University of Berne, in Münsingen, aged 83. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES

The late Mlle. Esther Vionnet, of Lausanne, has left 10,000.— francs to the Cantonal and University Library, Lausanne.

M. Louis Michel, industrialist, who recently died in Prilly, has bequeathed 5,000.— francs to the Government of the canton of Vaud for various charitable institutions.

The late Mr. Robert Alchenberger, of Bienne, has bequeathed 80,000.— francs to the District Hospital, Bienne. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Arnold Grandjean (70), of Neuchâtel, industrialist and well-known personality in Swiss sports circles. In 1911 he was Swiss amateur cycle champion, and in 1912, Swiss professional cycle champion. Granjean was one of the pioneers of the cycle sport in Switzerland.

Professor Dr. Robert Durrer (70), of Kerns, President of the Board of the "von Rollschen Eisenwerke", and Professor of Metallurgy at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. The "Jubilar" is an honorary senator of the Technical University Berlin, and holder of the Carl Lueg commemoration medal, the highest distinction the German Iron Industry can award. [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. A. Boet-Roth of Waldstatt, Mr. and Mrs. R. Tschirky-Schneider of Weisstannen, Mr. and Mrs. E. Winkenbach-Vogel of Graenichen, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fehlmann-Karol of Rothenhausen, Mr. and Mrs. A. Martin-Favrat of Lausanne, Mr. and Mrs. W. Schwendimann-Breithaupt of Letten, Mr. and Mrs. K. Schiess-Frischknecht of Herisau, Mr. and Mrs. Roethlisberger-Adrian of Lagnau i.E., Mr. and Mrs. H. Stückerbach of Worben (Lyss), Mr. and Mrs. M. Tragust of Davos-Platz.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bollinger-Bolli of Schaffhausen have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]



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VARIOUS

A collection made by Swiss Radio (Glückskette), the Swiss Red Cross and the Caritas Association, for the victims of the Chilean earthquake in May of this year, amounted to 933,000.— francs. This amount will be forwarded to the Swiss Ambassador in Santiago for distribution. [A.T.S.]

* * *

4,633,700 watches were exported from Switzerland in October 1960, to the value of 128.8 million francs (September 1960: 4,247,100 watches to the value of 116.5 million francs). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, has sent M. Claude Pilloud, Assistant Director, to Katanga to study the humanitarian problems in that district. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Due to its charming position in the pre-alpine range of mountains and the long hours of sunshine, approximately 20 new holiday villas and chalets are being erected at Lenzerheide each year. The two Grand Hotels have carried out important renovation programmes for the coming winter season. The first section of the Skilift Tgantieni—Piz Scalottas has been rebuilt to meet modern requirements. Thanks to the new double hooks with a special mechanism allowing a smooth start, 1,000 skiers per hour can be conveyed. In the spring the second section will be adapted in a similar way. In the summer both sections are operated as chairlifts. At Valbella a second section of the skilift to Stätzalp has been rebuilt from Stätzalp to Stätzerhorn-Vorgipfel.

* * *

What is the attitude of the Swiss hotel owners and of the tourist traffic organisations towards the future? The Report of the O.E.E.C., which we have just quoted from, stated, last year, that no decline is to be anticipated in the increasing frequency of visitors, and this not only because of the better economic conditions prevailing in Europe, but also because of the longer holidays, the rise in the per capita income of the European population, and, finally, because of the growing need for rest and relaxation in a period of turbulent economic growth. At the beginning of this week, Dr. Werner Kämpfen, the present Director of the Swiss Tourist Centre in Zurich, and former Director of the Zurich Tourist Office, declared that Switzerland would have to make very great efforts in order to be able to offer still more satisfactory service to a still greater number of tourists who will be visiting this country in the coming year. One of the most difficult obstacles to be overcome in this domain is the problem of the shortage of suitable recruits for staffing the tourist industry. Dr. Kämpfen stated that this shortage was particularly serious in the hotel and restaurant industry, that is to say in those trade groups which offer unfavourable conditions in regard to working hours and free time, for the training of a capable new generation. Still, for the present, it is a comfort for Switzerland to know that things are not as bad here as they are in other European countries. The West German Tourist Traffic Associations are afraid that the shortage of labour may take on such a grotesque form that it may prove necessary to close down a number of restaurants and hotels. Owing to the traditional attraction exercised by the Swiss hotel industry, the foreign guest will always be King in a Swiss hotel.

The historical Hotel Bellevue near the peak of Mount Pilatus, Lucerne's scenic landmark, was destroyed by fire a few weeks ago. It had been the only year-round guest house open also to winter visitors to this world-famous summit. This part will now be played by the modern, more comfortably furnished Hotel Pilatus Kulm. The two aerial cableways open up the northern slope of Mount Pilatus, including the Fräkmüntegg ridge, to skiers. During the winter season sports tickets at substantially reduced fares will be issued.

* * *

“Curl your way to health” — that is the new slogan with which the sunny Engadine winter resort hopes to influence winter holiday plans — even those already fixed. It appeals particularly to followers of the gentle sport of curling, who are becoming more numerous year by year. The highlight of Pontresina's “curlers' winter” will again be the curling week, which takes place from 10th to 16th January 1961.

* * *

The World and European Ice Hockey Championships will be held at Lausanne and Geneva between the 2nd and 12th March 1961. Amongst the 18 nations who have already submitted their applications is the U.S.A., the winning team of the Olympic Games at Squaw Valley last winter.

* * *

On 21st January, in the year 861, the pious hermit Meinrad was murdered in the “Finsterer Wald” — The Dark Forest — of Central Switzerland, south of the Lake of Zurich. On the reputed spot where the deed was committed now stand the village, and the Monastery of Einsiedeln with its wonderful abbey church, one of the loveliest baroque buildings in Europe. Eleven hundred years after his death, St. Meinrad will be commemorated with special pageantry by a number of religious festivals in Einsiedeln, beginning on 21st January and ending on 9th October 1961.

* * *

Construction on the four-miles-long San Bernardino Tunnel in the Canton Grisons is to start in the spring of 1961. This road tunnel, which will join the upper reaches of the Rhine with the Italian-speaking village of San Bernardino in a straight line underneath the San Bernardino Pass, is expected to divert a substantial amount of motor-traffic from the heavily travelled St. Gotthard Pass, thus stimulating the tourist business in the little-known scenic corner of the Swiss Alps.

* * *

In addition to the Swiss Festival Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra will be taking part in the International Festival of Music Lucerne 1961 (16th August to 9th September). Chamber orchestral concerts will again be given by the Festival Strings Lucerne and the Collegium Musicum Zurich. The conductors will be Miltiades Cardis, Ferenc Friesay, Herbert von Karajan, Joseph Keilberth, Josef Krips, Rafael Kubelik, Paul Sacher, and Wolfgang Sawallisch. Negotiations are proceeding with the following soloists: Géza Anda, Clara Haskil, Artur Rubinstein (piano); Yehudi Menuhin, Nathan Milstein, Wolfgang Schneiderhan (violin); Margrit Conrad, Gottlob Frick, Ernst Häfliiger, Maria Stader, Fritz Wunderlich (singers).