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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers of Parliament sitting together, elected Dr. Max Petitpierre, Head of the Federal Political Department, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1960.

The new President was born in 1899 in Couvet, and is a citizen of Couvet and Neuchâtel. He studied law at the universities of Zurich, Neuchâtel and Munich. After the conclusion of his studies he established himself as an advocate and notary in Neuchâtel. From 1926 to 1931, and again from 1938 to 1944 he was Professor of International Law at the University of Neuchâtel.

In 1937, he was elected a member of the Grand Council of his native canton, and five years later (1942) he entered Parliament (States Council) as a Liberal.

On the 14th of December 1944, M. Petitpierre was elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to M. Pilet-Golaz. Since then he has been in charge of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office). M. Petitpierre was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1950 and 1955.

* * *

Professor Dr. sc. tech. Friedrich Traugott Wahlen (Peasant and Bourgeois Party) was elected Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen was born in 1899 in Gmeiss (Ct. Berne) and is a citizen of Trimstein-Rubigen. He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained the degrees of doctor of science and ing. agr.

From 1922 to 1929 he resided in Canada, and since 1924 had occupied the post of chief of the Canadian Agricultural Department. In 1929 he returned to Switzerland and was appointed head of the Federal Agricultural Testing Office in Zurich-Oerlikon, which post he held until 1943, when he was appointed Professor of Agriculture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, which appointment he relinquished on his nomination as Director of

FAO in Washington, where he became Vice-General Director in 1957.

Mr. Wahlen was awarded the Marcel Benoist Prize for scientific research, he is also a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich. From 1942 to 1949, Wahlen was a member of the States Council. In December 1958 he was elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to the late Dr. Markus Feldmann.

* * *

Federal Councillor Paul Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department, was re-elected for another four-year mandate.

* * *

Four new Federal Councillors were elected by the Federal Assembly. The new Ministers are: Dr. Jean Bourgknecht (Conservative Christian Socialist) of Fribourg, Mr. Ludwig von Moos (Conservative) of Sachseln (Ct. Obwalden), Dr. Willy Spüler (Socialist) of Zurich, and Professor Dr. Hans-Peter Tschudy (Socialist) of Glarus.

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Dr. Jean Bourgknecht was born in 1902 at Fribourg. He studied law at the universities of Fribourg, Vienna and Berne. On completing his studies, he established himself as a lawyer in his native town. In 1950 Bourgknecht was elected Mayor of the town of Fribourg, and a lecturer (Dozent) at the university of Fribourg. He was from 1951 to 1955 a member of the National Council, and since 1956 a member of the States Council.

* * *

Mr. Ludwig von Moos was born in 1910 at Sachseln. He studied *juris prudence* at the university of Fribourg. From 1941 to 1946, he held the post of President of the commune of Sachseln. In 1943 he was elected a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Obwalden. From 1935 to 1942, von Moos was editor of the "Obwaldner Volksfreund", and from 1941 to 1942 a member of the "Kantonsrat". He was elected in 1943 a member of the States Council, and three years later (1946) became a member of the cantonal government. Von Moos is the father of seven children. He is the first representative of the so-called "small cantons", which created the Confederation in 1291, to sit in the Federal Government.

* * *

Dr. Willy Spühler, was born in Zurich in 1902, and studied national economy at the universities of Zurich and Paris. He is a specialist in public economy and hygiene. In 1942, Spühler was elected a member of the "Zürcher Stadtrat" which seat he held until his election as a Federal Councillor. From 1938 to 1955 he was a member of the National Council, and in 1956 he entered the States Council.

* * *

Dr. Hans-Peter Tschudy, was born in 1913 in Basle. He was elected a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town in 1944. In 1948 he became a lecturer (Dozent), and in 1952 Professor at the university of Basle. In 1953, Tschudy was elected a member of the government of the canton of Basle-Town, and in 1956 entered the States Council.

* * *

Dr. Charles Oser was re-elected as Federal Chancellor.

* * *

Dr. jur. Arnold Gysin, has been elected President of the Federal Insurance Court for 1960/61. He was born at Basle in 1897 and is a citizen of Basle and Liestal. He became a member of the Federal Insurance Court in 1951.

* * *

Dr. jur. Adolf Boner has been elected a member of the Federal Insurance Court, in succession to Dr. E. Nietlispach.

He was born in 1901 at Laupersdorf. After having studied law at the universities of Berne and

Fribourg, he established himself as a lawyer in Balsthal. In 1933 Boner became a member of the "Kantonsrat" Solothurn. He sat in the National Council from 1939 to 1959. In the army he held the rank of Colonel of artillery.

* * *
M. Gaston Clottu (Liberal) has been elected President of the National Council for 1960.

The new Speaker of the Lower Chamber was born in 1912, and is a citizen of Cornaux and Neuchâtel. He studied law at the universities of Neuchâtel, Berne and Paris, after which he practised as an advocate and notary in Saint Blaise and Neuchâtel. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, over which he presided in 1951/52. In 1953, Clottu was elected a member of the cantonal government. He entered the National Council in 1951.

* * *
M. Gabriel Desplands (Radical) has been elected President of the States Council.

He was born in 1901, and is a citizen of Cossy, Rougemont and Geneva. By profession he is a veterinary surgeon. Desplands was President of the commune of Echallens, and from 1934 to 1945, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In 1945 he was elected a member of the cantonal government. He was elected a member of the National Council in 1941, and changed to the States Council firstly from 1943 to 1944 and then again from December 1947.

* * *
Dr. Emil Duft (Conservative) has been elected Vice-President of the National Council.

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He was born in 1895, and is a citizen of Kaltbrunn (Ct. St. Gall). He studied economics in Berne, London and Zurich. Duft was until recently President of the Board of an important private banking house, and enjoys the reputation of being an expert on financial matters.

* * *

Dr. Antonio Antognini (Conservative) was elected Vice-President of the States Council.

He was born in 1893. He studied law at the universities of Zurich and Torino, after which he established himself as an advocate and notary in Bellinzona and Biasca. Antognini is Vice-Mayor of Bellinzona and President of the States Bank of the canton of Ticino. He entered the National Council in 1935, and since 1943 he has been a member of the States Council.

* * *

Monsieur Christoph Albert von Tschudy, Swiss Minister in Morocco, is vacating his post on reaching retiring age. He was born in 1894 in Alexandria and is a citizen of Glarus. He entered the diplomatic service in 1920, which he left in 1925. In 1940, M. von Tschudy re-entered the service, and five years later (1945) he was appointed Consul at Besençon and later on he was transferred to Casablanca. In 1947 came the appointment as Consul-General at Rabat. In 1956 he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Morocco.

* * *

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Consulate in Wellington (New Zealand) to the status of Consulate-General, and has appointed Dr. Oscar Rossetti as Consul-General.

Dr. Rossetti was born in 1912, and is a citizen of Caneggia (Ct. Ticino). He studied law at the university of Zurich, and entered the diplomatic service in 1941. He has successively held posts in Rome, Ankara, Prague and Vienna.

* * *

Dr. Eduard Feer, Swiss Ambassador in Greece has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. He is succeeded by Monsieur Werner Fuchs, at present Swiss Minister in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador.

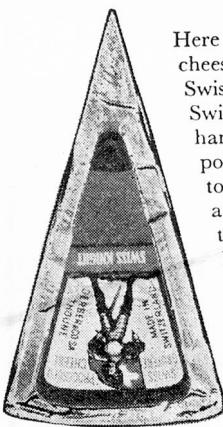
Ambassador Feer was born in 1894 in Basle, and is a citizen of Brugg and Aarau. He studied political science at the universities of Munich and Zurich. He entered the diplomatic service in 1925, and successively held posts in Berlin and Washington. In 1945, Feer was appointed Swiss Minister in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay with residence in Buenos Aires. Five years later (1950) he was transferred to Brazil in the same capacity. In 1955 followed his appointment as Swiss Minister in Greece; when the Swiss Legation was raised to an Embassy he was promoted to Ambassadorial rank.

Ambassador Fuchs was born in 1903, and hails from Zurich. He studied law at the universities of Zurich, Heidelberg and Munich.

Dr. Fuchs entered the diplomatic service in 1928. He occupied successively posts in Manchester, New York, Lisbon and Washington. In 1950 he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Venezuela and Panama, three years later (1953) he was transferred to Poland as Minister. In 1957 he changed over to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Salvador.

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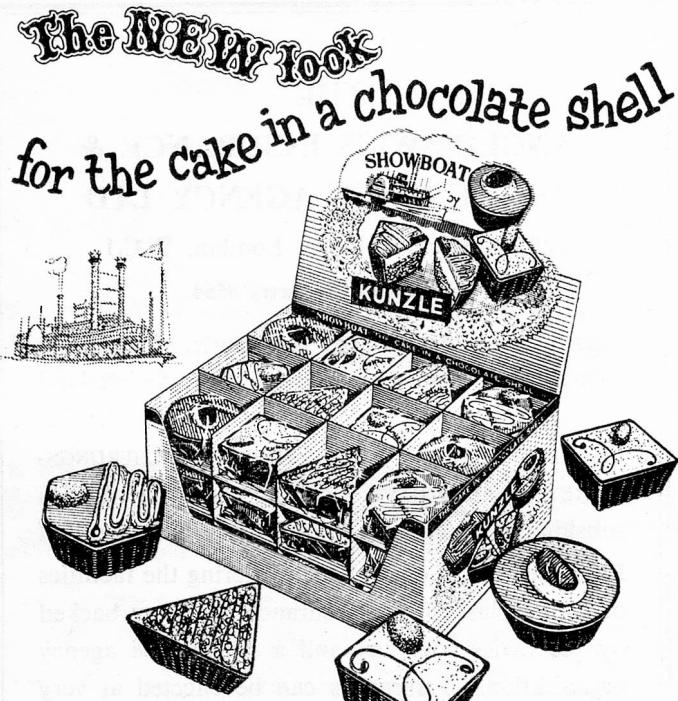
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The Swiss Federal Railways carried in October 1959 17.1 million passengers, or 1.3 million fewer than in October 1958. Receipts: 29.4 million francs.

Goods traffic is returned as 2.5 million tons, which is 120,000 tons more than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 48.1 million francs (October 1958: 44.1 million francs).

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of November 1959, total 81.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 57.2 million francs, or 10.8 million francs more than in November 1958.

During the first eleven months of 1959, the Confederation has received 656.3 million francs, or 25.0 million francs more than during the same period in 1958.

Cantonal

The Zurich District Court sentenced Dr. Walter Egli — who in 1958 was suspended from his post as Prefect and District Attorney of the Pfäffikon district pending an investigation of "Nötigung" to the detriment of a former member of the Zurich government, the late Emil Reich — to five months imprisonment, a fine of 400. — francs and the Court costs. Dr. Egli was from 1941 to 1959, a socialist member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The board of the "Privat-Kommerzbank A.G.," Zurich, has applied to the Commercial Court of the canton of Zurich for a moratorium. Announcing this in a statement to the Press, the bank said the sudden death of Dr. J. Teitler, a member of the board, had caused serious misgivings among its clients. The board added that there were good grounds for believing that the bank would be able to raise new funds enabling it to open again soon, and to drop the moratorium. (It is understood that the bank has been particularly engaged in hire purchase finance, and in certain forms of foreign exchange transactions.)

(Comtelburo)

The former manager of the Zurich Tourist Office, Dr. Arnold Ith, has been invited for a year by the Nepalese government to Kathmandu to organise tourism. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Max Gubler, painter of Zurich has been awarded the art prize (8,000. — francs) of the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A Venom aeroplane crashed whilst landing at the Dübendorf airport. The pilot, Major Wolfram Sodenhoff (51) of Zurich was killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Foundation has awarded a prize of 5,000. — francs each to Karl Jakob Wegmann (Zurich), and Dr. phil. Franz Giegling (Zurich). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Marcel Benoist Prize for 1958 (for the promotion of scientific research) has been awarded to Professor Dr. Klaus Clusius, of the university of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Socialists retain the majority which they gained four years ago in the communal council

(Gemeinderat) of Berne. The following have been elected: Dr. E. Freimüller (Socialist), Fritz Grüter (Socialist), Fritz Schmidlin (Socialist), Dr. R. Tschäppät (Socialist), Klaus Schädelin (Bourgeois Party), Paul Dübi (Bourgeois Party), and H. Morgenthaler (Bourgeois Party). The Council numbers seven members. [A.T.S.]

* * *

As a result of the elections for the municipal council of Berne, the strength of the various parties is as follows: "Junges Bern" 4 seats (2 gains), Evangelical Popular Party 2 seats (no change), Christian Socialist Party 4 seats (4 gains), Bourgeois Party 10 seats (4 losses), Socialist Party 37 seats (no change), Liberal Party 17 seats (1 gain), Independents 6 seats (1 gain). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The literature prizes of the town of Berne have been given to the following: Hans Cornioley (1,500. — francs), Frank Alfred Graber (1,000. — francs), Mr. G. Heimann-Heizmann (1,000. — francs), Rudolf Joho (1,000. — francs), Dr. Kurt Kipfer (750. — francs), Dr. G. Renker (1,500. — francs) and Dr. Adolf Schaer-Ris (1,500. — francs). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The British Ambassador in Berne, Sir William Montagu-Pollock, paid an official visit to the town of Fribourg. The government offered a luncheon in his honour at the Museum Ratze. The distinguished guest afterwards visited the university. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. jur. Edwin Zweifel (Radical) has celebrated twenty-five years of membership of the government of the canton of Basle-Town. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. med. h.c. Ludwig Binswanger, of the Sanatorium Bellevue in Kreuzlingen, has been honoured by the medical faculty of the university of Freiburg i. Breisgau with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three burglars entered the premises of a butcher in the Rue de la Paix at La Chaux-de-Fonds, and removed a safe containing several thousand francs. They tried to open the safe in a neighbouring wood, but were surprised by the police. Two of the burglars, of Italian nationality, were arrested, whilst the third managed to escape. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Gaston Bridel, chief editor of the "Tribune de Genève" has celebrated his 40th jubilee as a

journalist. He was on the editorial staff of the "Gazette de Lausanne" for 18 years, and on the "Tribune de Genève" for 22 years. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Three Spaniards who made an attempt to rob a garage at Cornavin (Geneva) have been arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the university of Geneva a collection was made, which, up to the present has brought in 3,351,000. — francs. Of this amount 2,244,000. — francs are earmarked for the "Cité universitaire", 922,000. — francs for research purposes, and 185,000. — francs has been put at the disposal of the university with any special stipulation.

[A.T.S.]

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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Wilhelm Bartsch, a lawyer and from 1911 to 1956 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg at the age of 87.

Jean-Robert Tissot, Director of the "Ateliers de Sécheron" Geneva, and General Manager of the "Nouvelle Compagnie Générale Électrique", Nancy, in Geneva aged 48.

Dr. jur. Albrecht Knittel, since 1936 President of the Basle Criminal Court, in Basle at the age of 62.

Mlle. Madeleine Hahn, President of "Les Amis de la Jeune Fille" in Montreux aged 82.

General Staff Colonel Peter Straumann, a former member of the Federal Instructors Corps, in Samedan at the age of 58.

Hans Boss, from 1919 until his death, on the editorial staff of the "Agence Télégr. Suisse" Berne, in Berne aged 66.

Dr. Ernest Lorson, from 1938 to 1950, Mayor of the town of Fribourg, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg at the age of 64.

Dr. jur. Hermann Inderbitzin-Naef, clerk of the cantonal tribunal Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 44.

Dr. h.c. Fritz Brun, composer and conductor, in Morcote at the age of 81. The deceased was from 1902 to 1945 orchestral and choral conductor in Berne.

Professor Dr. Adolf Hartmann, until 1943 a teacher of chemistry at the cantonal school Aarau, in Aarau aged 78.

Christian Meier, in Netstal at the age of 71. He was for 39 years a member of the "Glarner Landrat", and for the last sixteen years he had sat in the National Council. The deceased was President of the Socialist party of the canton of Glarus.

August Peter, in Pfäffikon aged 87. The deceased was for many years publisher and editor of the "Wochenblatt" Pfäffikon. He sat at one time in the "Kantonsrat" Zurich and the National Council.

[A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Emil Bosshard has left the amount of 111,000.— francs to the commune of Hittnau for charitable and educational purposes. The testator was from 1893 to 1940 a teacher at the primary-school Zurich-Enge.

Mr. Carl Schadegg, merchant of Herisau, who died in October 1959, has left the sum of 100,000.— francs. Of this amount 80,000.— francs are to be used for a building for old people in Herisau, and 20,000.— francs for charitable purposes.

The commune of Leutwil (Ct. Aargau) has received the amount of 200,000.— francs from the estate of the late Frau Mathilde Aeschbach-Kissling of Leutwil. The interest on the capital to be used for the education of citizens of both sexes of the commune of Leutwil.

Mr. Peter Koller (75) of Zurich has made a donation of 20,000.— francs to his native commune Berikon (Ct. Aargau) for financing school excursions.

An anonymous donor has given the amount of 10,000.— francs to the parish of Würenlingen (Ct. Aargau) for the preservation of the 300-year-old "Schutzenkapelle".

Mr. Max Felchlin, industrialist in Schwyz, President of the Public Utility Association of the canton of Schwyz, has made a donation of 600,000.— francs to the Fund "Schwyzer Berghilfe".

The late Domenico Martinelli, master-builder in St. Moritz, has left the amount of 51,000.— francs to various charitable institutions of the canton of Grisons.

Dr. Pierre Mercier, a lecturer (Dozent) at the university of Lausanne has made a donation amounting to 50,000.— francs to the Vaudois Society of natural Science. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARY.

Dr. med. Heinrich Hunziker (80) of Walchwil, an eminent goitre specialist.

M. Frank Olivier (90) of Lausanne, from 1912 to 1939 Professor of Latin literature at the university of Lausanne.

Professor Dr. Eugen Grossmann (80) of Zurich, from 1914 to 1946 Professor of national economy at the university of Zurich. He is the author of a number of works on economics. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Rüegg-Peter of Wila (Tössatal), Mr. and Mrs. A. Hurni-Gerber of Effretikon (Zurich), Mr. and Mrs. Richard-Prior of La Chaux-de-Fonds, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Jaggi-Fischer of Innertkirchen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

CENTENARIANS.

Beda Kessler, watchmaker of Tramelan, Mme. Veuve L. J. Trümpler-Hurter of Zurich, Mme. Josephine Martinelli of Siders (Ct. Valais), and Jacques Keller, master-tailor of Herisau. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

Considerable amounts reaching several millions of francs have been collected and remitted so far to the victims of the catastrophe at Fréjus (France). [A.T.S.]

* * *

One of the outstanding events at Gstaad will be the 15th International Ski Jumping Competition for the Montgomery Cup on February 7th, in the presence of Fieldmarshal Montgomery himself.

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A cold buffet supper (costs 5/- without drinks) will be served at 6.45 p.m. after which M. Reverdin will recall (in French) some events of his pastoral work among the Swiss Colony.

Those wishing to join the supper party should advise the Warden of the Swiss Hostel for Girls (PRImrose 6856) not later than noon, January 19th 1960.

The Yehudi Menuhin Festival 1960 will take place from August 8th to 18th at Gstaad. The provisional programme contains five concerts. Apart from Yehudi Menuhin himself, the following artists will participate:— the two sisters of Menuhin (Piano), Benjamin Britten (Piano and Cembalo), Maurice Gendron (Violoncello), Peter Pears (Tenor), Ed. de Stout, conducting the Zurich Chamber Orchestra.

* * *

Gstaad will soon have its own Golf Course. Plans are well advanced for the lay-out of a 9-hole course, the erection of a club house and the construction of a connecting road. The course should be ready by 1961 and may later be enlarged to 18 holes.

* * *

Movable information booths sponsored by the Touring Club, the Zurich Tourist Office, the city police and several petrol and tobacco companies have recently been established. They are positioned at the four principal points of entry for motor traffic. Labelled "City Information", the booths are staffed by specially trained students during the summer holiday period. They book hotel rooms, give information on camp sites, excursions, events and even night-life and are expected to be to the motorist what the official Information Office at the Zurich Main Station is to the railway traveller.

* * *

The Ticino has always been well-known for its mild climate, as a result of which it has so far not been connected with Winter Sports. However, since the completion of the aerial cable-way Locarno-Alp Cardada and the connecting skilift to a height of 5,576 ft., it is now possible to enjoy ski-ing in half an hour's distance from the wind-sheltered shores of Lake Maggiore with its sub-tropical climate.

* * *

At the upper fringe of the Languard Forest, overlooking Pontresina from an altitude of over 6,000 ft. above sea-level, stands the quaint little mountain church of Santa Maria which in recent months has been carefully renovated and equipped with special protective devices against frost, snow and humidity. It has been known for some time that this Marian chapel contained art works some of which were discovered only a few decades ago. It has now been established that the murals include priceless frescoes of the early 12th century and 19 paintings depicting the Mary Magdalene legend and dating back to the second half of the 15th century.

* * *

The world famous Swiss Hotel school at Lausanne which each year has to subject the ever increasing number of applicants to a more selective screening, will be attended by a total of 280 students this coming Winter term. The three main departments are Service, Cuisine and Secretariat. Twenty-seven countries will be represented at the school, with Switzerland (104 students), Germany (35), the Netherlands (35), France (26), the United Kingdom (18) and Spain (12) holding the six top ranks.



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