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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 Federal Council has appointed Dr. Erwin Bernath, at present Ambassador in Bangkok, to the post of Swiss Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Ambassador Bernath was born in 1911, and hails from Thayngen (Ct. Schaffhausen). He studied Law at the Universities of Geneva, Paris, Berlin and Zurich, obtaining his doctorate at Zurich University, after which he was *stagiaire* for a year at the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade in Lausanne.

In 1936 he entered the diplomatic service, occupying a post at the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) until 1939, when he was transferred to the Swiss Legation at San Sebastian and then to Madrid. In 1940 Dr. Bernath was appointed Attaché and subsequently Second Secretary of Legation in Tokyo. In 1946 he returned to the Political Department in Berne, where for the next four years he held an important position. In the meantime he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In January 1951, Dr. Bernath was appointed First Collaborator to the then Swiss Minister in London. Whilst *en poste* in London he took an active interest in the life of the Swiss Colony.

Towards the end of 1956 the Federal Council appointed him Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Kingdom of Thailand. When the Legation was changed to an Embassy he received Ambassadorial rank.

* * *

Dr. V. Umbricht, Director of the Federal Finance Administration, has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council, to take effect at the end of October 1960. Accepting the resignation, the Government expressed thanks for the services he has rendered.

Dr. Umbricht was born in Untersiggenthal (Ct. Aargau) in 1915. He studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Berne, Lausanne and Paris, and took

his Doctor's degree in International Law at the University of Berne. He won an International scholarship for a dissertation on "International Law".

Having acquired the patent as an advocate, and been made a member of the Bar, he acted from 1939 to 1941 as Recorder to the Tribunal of Baden. In 1941 Dr. Umbricht entered the diplomatic service, and within a few months was sent to Ankara, where he acted until March 1946 in the capacity of Commercial Attaché for the Middle East. In 1946 he was transferred to the then Swiss Legation in London with the rank of Second Secretary, being promoted three years later (1949) to First Secretary, and in 1950 to Counsellor of Legation, in which capacity he was in charge of financial and commercial affairs.

During his *séjour* in London he had taken part in numerous economic negotiations between Great Britain and Switzerland, and had also represented our country for a number of years on the International Wheat Council meetings, which were held at Geneva, Lisbon and Washington. In London, where he stayed for seven years, he had maintained a close contact with the Colony.

In 1935 Dr. Umbricht was appointed a member of the Management of the World Bank in Washington. His appointment as Director of the Federal Finance Administration took place in June 1956.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 19 million passengers during July 1960, or 600,000 fewer than in July 1959.

Goods traffic is returned as 2.71 million tons or 310,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 54.6 million francs (July 1959: 47.2 million francs).

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THE COMMITTEE

Monsieur Paul Grey, former British Ambassador in Prague, presented his Letters of Credence to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne, as Ambassador, in succession to Sir William Montagu-Pollock.

Monsieur Zeki Kuneralp, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, also presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

* * *

The traditional conference of the heads of the Swiss Diplomatic Envoys abroad took place in Berne under the presidency of M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister and President of the Confederation. Minister Dr. Weitnauer read a paper on "Die Wirtschaftspolitik der Schweiz im Hinblick auf die Integration Europa's und die damit verbundenen Probleme". Thirty Ambassadors and Ministers attended the conference.

* * *

Cantonal

The Criminal Court of the canton of Schwyz has been reconstituted; its President is Dr. jur. Adalbert (Gersau), and National Councillor Hans Fuchs (Willerzell) will act as Vice-President. For the first time a woman, in the person of Frau Margrit Annen-Merki, has been elected a member of the Juvenile Court. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Reiden (Ct. Lucerne) has bestowed honorary citizenship on Dr. Benno Gut, on the occasion of his promotion to "Abt-Primus" of the Benedictine Order. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The traditional "Knabenschieszen" took place in Zurich, 8,573 boys competing. Master Robert Waefer (15) was declared "Schützenkönig" with 34 points. The Swiss Army was represented by Army-Corps Commanders F. Nager and H. Thormann and Divisional Commanders E. Uhlmann and C. Fontana. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Bankers' Association held their 47th General Meeting at Interlaken, under the presidency of Dr. Charles de Loes (Geneva). Amongst the numerous guests who attended the meeting were Dr. Jean Bourgnicht, head of the Federal Finance and Customs Department, Dr. Streuli, former Federal Councillor, and Mr. Fritz Moser, Finance Director of the canton of Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

After a second ballot, M. Georges Scherrer (Socialist) was elected Mayor of the town of Delsberg, in succession to M. H. Parrat, with 872 votes. His opponent, Joseph Schaffter (Christian Socialist) polled 844 votes. [A.T.S.]

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The oldest inhabitant of Huttwil (Ct. Berne), Frau R. Lanz-Jordi, has entered her 102nd year. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Marcel Strub (44), Historical Art teacher at the College of St. Michael, Fribourg, has been elected conservator of the History Museum in Fribourg, in succession to Dr. Jean-Baptiste de Weck. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The canton of Thurgau has celebrated the 500th anniversary of its entrance into the Swiss Confederation. Solemn church services were held throughout the canton.

Federal Councillors Dr. Spühler and Ludwig von Moos attended the celebrations in Frauenfeld, the cantonal capital, on behalf of the Federal Government. Processions were held, and the performance of a "Festspiel" took place. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Ernest Lieb and Mr. Franz Fischer, both members of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen, and belonging to the Peasant and Bourgeois party, have intimated that they will not seek re-election at the governmental elections which will take place in October. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. med. Hans Roth, of Kasswil (Ct. Thurgau), has been elected Director and Head Surgeon of the Cantonal Hospital Münsterlingen in succession to Dr. A. Ritter, who has reached retiring age. [A.T.S.]



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M. Marcel Nicod, since 1937 Director of the Home for Youthful Delinquents in Orbe (Ct. Vaud), has resigned from his post. He was from 1921 to 1933 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The president of the commune of Yverdon, M. Jean Mayerat, who on travelling through France was arrested by the French police for uttering anti-French propaganda, has tendered his resignation. M. André Boulaz (Liberal) has been elected as his successor. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Oscar Lambelet-duGay, of St. Sulpice (Ct. Neuchâtel), for sixty years a watchmaker, has celebrated his 100th birthday, at Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

According to information given by the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, the population of the canton of Geneva at the end of July 1960 numbered 256,947.

The town of Geneva has 209,380 inhabitants, including 27,469 foreigners, of whom 6,768 are employed in the building trade. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Burglars entered the premises of a Geneva commercial concern. On ransacking the offices, they found the keys to a safe from which they took cash, cheques and jewellery amounting in all to the value of 30,000 francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A private aircraft of the Bücker type crashed near the village of Gomers (Ct. Valais). The pilot, Hans Erberhardt (53), chemist, of Visp, was killed. [A.T.S.]

The textile concern Heberlein & Co., A.G., of Wattwil, employing 1,500 people, has celebrated its 125th jubilee. To celebrate this event the management has made a donation of 200,000.— francs to the "Fürsorgefund" of the personnel. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Goods valued at over 20,000.— francs were stolen from the jeweller's establishment of Schwarz in the Rathausgasse in Aarau. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

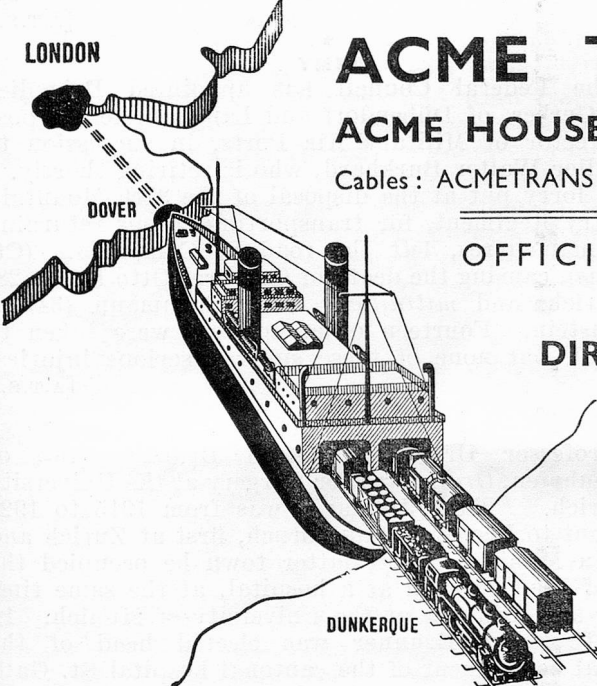
Jean-Pierre Férier, for fifteen years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, and for thirty-seven years a member of the Communal Council of Versoix, in Geneva, at the age of 81.

Isidore Sembinelli, from 1948 to 1959 Swiss Consul in Toronto, in Toronto. The deceased entered the Consular Service in 1922. In 1958 he was promoted to the rank of Consul-General.

Josef Maria auf der Maur-Strübi, a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 62.

Charles Louis Gagnebin, since 1954 Director of the "Diakonissen Heim" Saint Loup, in Saint Loup, at the age of 53.

Jacques Schmid, in Solothurn, aged 78. The deceased was at one time editor of the socialist papers "Volksrecht" and "Das Volk". From 1912 to 1930 he was a member of the "Kantonsrat" Solothurn. In 1931 Schmid entered the Government of the canton of Solothurn, of which he remained a member until



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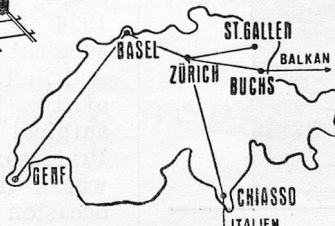
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1949. He occupied the post of "Landammann" in the years 1934, 1939, 1944, and 1949. In 1917 the deceased was elected a member of the National Council, in which he sat until 1955.

Professor Erwin Thomann, from 1932 to 1950 "Dozent für Eisenbahn-Strassen- und Tunnelbau" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 81.

Paul Miche, for many years a teacher at the *Conservatoire* of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 74.

Robert Mojonnet, from 1919 to 1958 hotelier in Montreux, in Montreux, at the age of 76. In 1946 he was President of the commune of Chatelard-Montreux, and from 1949 to 1953 he sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Mgr. Alphonse Gueniat, since 1930 a Canon at the cathedral of Solothurn, in Delsberg, aged 84.

Frau Anna Barbara Simmen, the oldest female inhabitant of the canton of Aargau, in Erlinsbach, at the age of 102.

Joseph Georges, well-known Valaisan mountain guide, in La Forclaz (Val d'Herens), aged 68.

Dr. Auguste Piguet, from 1900 to 1936 a teacher at the "Realschule" in Le Sentier, in Le Sentier, at the age of 86.

Professor Dr. phil. Louis Blangey-Weber, from 1938 to 1950 "Dozent" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, aged 81.

Mme. Regina Conti, well-known portrait and landscape painter, in Lugano, at the age of 70.

Otto Herren, for many years President of the commune of Riggisberg (Ct. Berne), and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, in Riggisberg, aged 52.

Florian Niederer, Assistant General Manager, Swiss National Tourist Office, in Küsnacht, aged 59.
[A.T.S.]

* * * ARMY

The Federal Council has appointed Brigadier Fritz Gerber, of Dübendorf and Langnau, to the post of Director of Military Air Ports, in succession to Brigadier Walter Burkhard, who is retiring shortly.

A lorry put at the disposal of the 37th Mountain Infantry Regiment, for transporting troops returning from manoeuvres, left the road at Compadials (Ct. Grisons), causing the death of Corporal Otto Lusti (28) of Zurich, and *mitrailleur* Emil Bachmann (34) of Freienstein. Fourteen other soldiers were taken to hospital, but none of these suffered serious injuries.
[A.T.S.]

* * * ANNIVERSARIES

Professor Dr. med. Alfred Brunner (70), of Diessenhofen, *Ordinarius* for Surgery at the University of Zurich. The "Jubilar" was from 1915 to 1923 assistant to Professor Sauerbruch, first at Zurich and then in Munich; in the latter town he occupied the post of head surgeon at a hospital, at the same time acting as a lecturer at the University of Munich. In 1926 Professor Brunner was elected head of the surgical department of the cantonal hospital St. Gall, and in 1941 he was appointed *Ordinarius* for Surgery at the University of Zurich, and Director of the surgical clinic of the cantonal hospital of Zurich. Professor Brunner is the author of a great number of works dealing with tubercular diseases. On the occasion of his 70th birthday the commune of Diessenhofen has honoured him with honorary citizenship.

Dr. Karl Sartorius (70), of Basle, from 1925 to 1935 Director, and then until 1959 a member, of the Board of the "Basler Nachrichten", President of the "Schweizerischen Zeitungsverleger Verbandes", and a member of the Board of the "Schweiz. Depeschagentur".

Professor Dr. Erich Schild (70), of Solothurn, a teacher of Music at the "Kantonsschule" Solothurn, and conductor of the "Caecilienverein" and "Männerchor" Solothurn.

Henri Favre-Leuba (95), of Geneva, noted civil engineer and technical adviser to the Swiss watch industry.

Alfred Bringolf (80), of Basle, well-known specialist on harbour construction.

Dr. Hugo Gschwind (60), of Therwil, President of the General Management of the Swiss Federal Railways. In 1936 he became a member of the Government of the canton of Basle-Country, and from 1939 to 1943 he sat in Parliament (National Council). He entered the General Management of the Swiss Federal Railways in 1949.

Konrad Baenninger (70), of Zurich, teacher and author. His best-known books are "Stille Soldaten" (1917) and "Die vier Brüder".

[A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACY

The late Emil Suhr, bank official, of Zurich, has left 10,000.—francs to his native town, Lichtensteig (Toggenburg), towards the cost of a new Evangelical church. [A.T.S.]

* * *

MOUNTAINEERING ACCIDENTS

Three young mountaineers, Victor Ghelma, Walter Willi and Fritz Boss, all of Meiringen, on the way from the Engstlensee to the Wender glacier (Bernese Oberland), got into difficulties and were trapped on the side of a steep rock. A rescue party consisting of fourteen mountain guides and six volunteers managed to get within hearing of the three men, but owing to thick fog and a snowstorm were unable to proceed further. The following day new efforts were made to rescue the mountaineers, which proved successful. They were taken to the hospital at Meiringen, suffering from frostbite.

A party of three mountaineers who had been missing for five days in the Biferten district (Grisons

Oberland) were found dead by a rescue party comprising nineteen men and headed by the well-known mountain guides Heinrich Caduff, of Brigels, and Valentin Levy, of Disentis. The climbers had fallen 600 feet over the "Südwand" of the Bifertenstock. For five days strenuous efforts, aided by a helicopter of the "Rettungsflugwacht", had been made to find the missing men. The names of the dead are Eugen Jauch (41), master painter, his son, Edwin Jauch (10), and Heinrich Spiess (49), all of Unterhittnau (Ct. Zurich).

Bruno Breitenmoser (19), of Steinegg-Appenzell, employed at a Zurich post office, lost his life whilst climbing the Bötzelkopf (Ct. Appenzell).

An eighteen-year-old student, Jacques Vuagniaux, of Rougemont, whilst traversing a *couloir* at the Rubly, slipped and fell to his death.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Between Schwanden and Mitloedi (Ct. Glarus), a motor-car driven at excessive speed crashed into a road marking stone, causing the death of two persons; a third had to be taken to hospital. Those killed were Franz Bahnik (46), landscape gardener, of Zurich, and Ernst Vetterli (37), landscape gardener, of Stäfa.

Due to careless overtaking on the road between Visp and Raron, two motor-cars were involved in a head-on collision, causing the death of Stefan Hofstetter (34), of Calgasch nr. Siders, and Julius Ruffiner (38), of Leuk.

Mrs. Emma Mollet (54), of Weifelden, received fatal injuries when she was knocked down by a motor-car which had skidded and mounted the pavement.

Mr. Alois Kistler-Hahn (65), farmer, of Reichenburg, whilst crossing the road in Reichenburg was run over and killed by a car.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. M. Lux-Pathen of Vevey, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hechler-König of Zurich, Mr. and Mrs. H. Zuber of Delsberg, Mr. and Mrs. H. Strutz-Heusser of Amriswil, Mr. and Mrs. J. Schürmann-Hertach of Baden, Mr. and Mrs. J. Oser-Kaiser of Reinach, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Puzzi-Mettier of Dalvazza nr. Küblis.

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* * *

To mop up surplus money, the Swiss National Bank is to place with the banks Treasury bonds to the value of 350 to 400 million Swiss francs. The bank says that reports that it intends to introduce a freely fluctuating dollar rate for financial payments to Switzerland are without foundation.

NEWS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

The Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker left on 28th September for Africa. Monsieur Daeniker has been appointed as official delegate to represent the Federal Council at the celebrations marking the independence of Nigeria. Subsequently he will visit some of the Swiss colonies in East Africa including those in Rhodesia, Tanganyika and Kenya. Monsieur and Madame Daeniker will return to London in December.

MORE SWISSAIR JET FLIGHTS TO MIDDLE EAST

From 11th September Swissair are operating Caravelle jet services to another four destinations in the Middle East — Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus and Teheran. The airline already had Caravelle flights to Ankara, Cairo, Istanbul and Tel Aviv.

From the above date Swissair Caravelles serve Beirut, Istanbul and Tel Aviv three times weekly, Ankara, Cairo and Teheran twice weekly, and Baghdad and Damascus once weekly. Additionally, services with propeller aircraft are flown to Beirut, Cairo, Dhahran and Kuwait.

Caravelle flights from London connect in Zurich with those to the Middle East; from London to Beirut, for example, Caravelles cut flying time by three hours, compared with previous equipment. In the case of Teheran, flying time is reduced by four and a half hours.

Other European destinations now served by Swissair Caravelles are Athens, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Geneva, Lisbon, Madrid, Stockholm and Vienna.

Basle will be included from 2nd October, when the daily afternoon Caravelle flight from London to Zurich will call there.

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