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NEWS AT RANDOM



Federal

The Austrian Federal Chancellor, Dr. A. Gorbach, arrived in Zurich on Wednesday, 14th February, on a three-day official visit to the Confederation. On his arrival he was greeted, on behalf of the Federal Council, by Minister Dr. R. Aman, Chef du Protocol. After a short interval the distinguished visitor and his suite continued their journey by special train to the Swiss capital, where they were welcomed at the station by Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen, Head of the Federal Political Department, and Dr. F. Weber, Federal Vice-Chancellor. The visitors were then taken to the Palace Hotel — their headquarters during their stay — and then followed a luncheon at the Austrian Embassy, after which the Chancellor and his suite were conducted to the Palais Fédéral to meet the President of the Swiss Confederation. After inspecting the Guard of Honour, Dr. Gorbach was taken by Federal Councillor Dr. F. T. Wahlen to the Foyer, where he was welcomed by M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, who expressed his pleasure at welcoming not only one of the Heads of a neighbouring country, but also a great friend of Switzerland. The speaker recalled former visits by Austrian Chancellors Figl (1948) and Raab (1956), and by Austrian Federal President Schaerf (1958). In his address of welcome, M. Chaudet stressed the friendly relations which exist between the two countries and referred to the new economic problems with which both countries are faced at present, and in the near future.

In his reply Dr. Gorbach thanked the President for the friendly reception accorded him. He referred to the long-standing and happy relations which have been maintained even in the darkest hours of his country, and expressed warm thanks for the hospitality Switzerland granted to thousands of Austrian children during and after the last war. He mentioned at some length the problems with which neutral countries are faced under present political conditions. On the conclusion of the reception, a discussion took place in the *salon* of the Federal Council, principally dealing with Integration problems, in which members of the Federal Council and high government officials participated.

The first day of the official visit of the Austrian Federal Chancellor ended with a dinner offered by the Federal Council at the Frischinghaus.

On the second day, Dr. Gorbach, accompanied by Federal Councillor W. Spuler, paid a visit to an important watch manufacturing concern in Bienne. In the evening, the Chancellor offered a dinner to the members of the Federal Council at the Palace Hotel, which was followed

by a reception at which five hundred persons were present.

On the third and last day of the official visit, the Austrian Chancellor and his suite left Berne for Baden to pay a visit to the engineering works of Brown-Boveri & Cie, A.G. On this visit they were accompanied by Federal Councillor Dr. F. Bourgknecht. From Baden they travelled to Zurich, where the cantonal government offered a dinner at the Rechberg. The president of the Zurich government, Mr. Franz Egger, in welcoming the guests, expressed his pleasure at being host to the Chancellor and his collaborators on this memorable occasion. The Austrian visitors left Zurich later in the evening for Vienna.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Alfred Fischli, at present Head of the Information and Press Service at the Federal Political Department, to the post of Swiss Minister to the Republic of Uruguay, in succession to Minister Merminod.

Minister Fischli was born in 1914, and is a citizen of St. Gall and Diessenhofen. On concluding his Law studies at the Universities of München, Lausanne and Berne, he entered the service of the Federal Justice and Police Department in 1940, and in 1946 he was transferred to the Political Department. He has held former appointments in Paris, Brussels and Helsinki.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of January 1962 total 125.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 92.5 million francs, or 17.6 million francs more than during the same period in 1961.

* * *

Monsieur Jons Schive, the newly appointed Norwegian Ambassador, has presented his credentials to M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Mr. F. T. Wahlen, Foreign Minister.

* * *

The Eugenio Foundation held its inaugural ceremony in the Swiss Parliament buildings in Berne. It also awarded its first prize — to the Nobel Foundation.

The new foundation was established in memory of Eugenio Balzan, an Italian journalist who died in Switzerland, by his daughter. Its aim is to help the most outstanding people working in the humanitarian, artistic, literary, and scientific fields.

The 1962 prize, of 1 million Swiss Francs (about £83,000), was awarded by the prize committee to the Nobel Foundation in accordance with the founder's wishes. Dr. Tisellius, President of the Nobel Foundation, was there to accept it.

President Gronchi of Italy was present at the ceremony. The Italian and Swiss Presidents are honorary presidents of the Balzan Foundation.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. jur. Jean Widmer to the post of Consul-General in Munich, in succession to Dr. August Ochsenbein.

The new Consul-General was born in 1910, and is a citizen of Brittnau (Ct. Aargau). He studied Law at the Universities of Freiburg, Paris and Munich. Entering the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1939, he has occupied successively posts in Berlin, Vichy, Paris, Den Haag, Ottawa and Havana.

Mr. Ernst Theiler, at present Consul-General in Amsterdam, has been nominated Consul-General in Chicago in succession to the late Consul-General Oscar Schneider. He entered the service of the Federal Political Department in 1933, and until 1946 was attached to the Consulate-General in New York. Other appointments he has held were at the Swiss Consulates in Wellington, Leopoldville, and New Orleans. Mr. Theiler, who was born in Hitzkirch (Ct. Lucerne) in 1902, was appointed Consul-General in Amsterdam in 1959. [A.T.S.]

Cantonal Goods valued at 20,000.— francs were stolen from a shop-window at a Jeweller's establishment in the Hirschengraben Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Two persons lost their lives when a motor-car crashed through a barrier at a level-crossing between Oerlingen and Marthalen and collided with a train. Those killed were Paul Moeckli (26), of Winterthur, and Ruth Blattner (27), typist, of Zell. [A.T.S.]

M. Ernest Juillerat, director — and at one time editor — of the paper "Le Jura", published in Porrentruy, has celebrated his 60th service jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The annual collection from Swiss Catholics for the benefit of the University of Fribourg attained the amount of 932,981.20.— frs. in 1961 (1960: 704,794.96.— frs.).

[A.T.S.]

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, Dr. phil. Pierre Bise, journalist and author, has donated his large and valuable library to the cantonal and university library Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Brugg (Ct. Aargau) has received an anonymous donation of 50,000.— frs. towards the cost of a projected home for old people. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Sennwald (Ct. St. Gall) has honoured former National Councillor J. Fenk with honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

Six skiers were swept to death by an avalanche in the ski-ing resort of Leysin. They were Bernard Gury (17), Gérard Guerdat (16), Alain Lechennel (16), Marcel Mertenat (31), Mme. Ninette Budry (30), and Jean-Claude Diserens (17), of Villeneuve. [A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. Alfred Fleisch (70), *Ordinarius* for Physiology at the University of Lausanne has tendered his resignation. In 1953 he was awarded the Marcel-Benoist Prize. [A.T.S.]

Amedeo Boffa, of Bellinzona, has celebrated his 40th jubilee as editor of the paper "Popolo et Liberta". For the last twenty years he has been a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. [A.T.S.]

The Canadian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Herbert F. Feaver, has paid a courtesy visit to the Geneva Government. [A.T.S.]

* * * DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Dr. jur. Hans Deutsch, of Pully, has donated to the Commune of Belmont sur Lausanne a plot of land to the value of 150,000.— frs. for the erection of a new secondary school.

The late Witwe Lina David-Eberle, of Walenstadt, has left 27,125.— frs. to various charitable institutions.

[A.T.S.]

* * * DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland: Dr. h. c. Friedrich Hess, architect, and from 1925 to 1957, Professor of Architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 75.

Professor Dr. Emil Abegg, since 1928 Professor of Philology at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 78.

Professor Antoine Velleman, lecturer at the University of Neuchâtel, and Director of the Lyceum Zuoz, in Geneva, aged 87.

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Mme. Jacot-Nicoud, the oldest woman inhabitant of the canton of Neuchâtel, in La Sagne, at the age of 103.

Dr. Herman Hauser, Director of CIBA, A.G., Basle, and a member of the Board of Durand-Huguenin, A.G., in Basle, aged 58.

Dr. Walter Eberle, from 1926 to 1961, "Schlachthofdirektor" Basle, in Basle, at the age of 66.

Konrad Baertsch, in Furna, aged 72. The deceased was from 1925 to 1947 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons. In 1948 he entered the cantonal government, of which he remained a member until 1956.

Dr. jur. Anton von Hettlingen, at one time a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz and president of the commune of Schwyz, in Schwyz, at the age of 76.

Werner Bula Kurz, well-known Bernese dialect writer, in Berne, aged 70.

Walter Ursprung, President of the Board of "Natural, A.G." Basle, and a member of the Board of Crowe & Co., A.G., Basle, in Basle, at the age of 71.

Carl Seelig, author and journalist (owing to an accident), in Zurich, aged 68.

Professor Dr. Leon Degoumois, a teacher at the *Gymnasium* Berne, and from 1958 to 1961 Professor of French Literature at the University of Berne, in Berne, at the age of 71.

Dr. Wilhelm Habel, formerly manager of the Municipal Gas Works of Geneva, in Geneva, aged 92.

[A.T.S.]

BANK DIVIDENDS

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1961: Schweizerischer Bankverein, Basle 10% (1960: 10%); Schweizerische Kredit Anstalt, Zurich, 10% (1960: -0%); Schweizerische Volksbank, Berne, 8%; Caisse Hypothécaire du canton de Fribourg, 5%; Bank A.G. für Vermögensverwaltung & Wertschriftenverkehr, Zurich, 8% (1960: 5%); Migros Bank, Zurich, 4% (1960: 4%); Eigenheim Bank, Basel, 5% (1960: 4%); Neuenburger Bank für Bodenkredit, Neuenburg, 5½%; Schweizerische Hypothekenbank, Solothurn, 6% (1960: 6%); Gewerbe-kasse, Baden, 6%. [A.T.S.]

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ANNIVERSARY

Alfred Nicole (80), of Geneva, for over thirty years a member of the Board of the publishing concern, Sonor, S.A., Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS

The accounts for 1961 of some of the cantons have just been published:

Zurich	credit balance	40.5 million frs.
St. Gall	" "	2.6 " "
Neuchâtel	" "	4.3 " "
Aargau	" "	1,369,000 frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Switzerland exported in January 1962, 2,958,400 watches to the value of 85.5 million frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Charles Lindbergh, who in 1927 made the first solo flight across the Atlantic, intends to settle down in Togny above Vevey. He has acquired a plot of land for building a chalet. [A.T.S.]

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