

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Dr. FELIX CALONDER. †

Federal

As briefly reported in our last issue, the death occurred in Zurich, on June 14th, of Dr. Felix Calonder, a former President of the Swiss Confederation and Federal Councillor, at the age of 89.

Dr. Calonder was well-known to some of the older members of the London Swiss Colony having resided, in the early twenties, for some months in this Metropolis. During his stay he took a great interest in the life of the Colony. Both the City Swiss Club and the Swiss Mercantile Society made him an Honorary Member.

He was born on December 7th, 1863 at Scuol-Schuls (Ct. Grisons) the son of Johann Calonder (Master Builder). He received his schooling in Trin and at the "Kantonschule" Chur, and afterwards studied *Juris Prudence* at the Universities of Munich, Paris and Berne. On having obtained the degree as a doctor of law, he established himself as a lawyer at Chur, where he soon made a name for himself.

At the early age of 28, Dr. Calonder was elected

a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and in 1900 entered Parliament. (States Council). He soon gained the reputation of a shrewd and clever parliamentarian, and on June 12th, he was elected by the two Federal Chambers a member of the Swiss Government. He was, together with the late G. Motta, to a great extent responsible for the entry of Switzerland into the League of Nations.

In 1920, he resigned from the Federal Council, and two years later (1922) he was appointed by the League

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of Nations, President of the International Commission for Oberschlesien with seat at Kattowitz, where he remained for 15 years. This post he relinquished in 1937, and had since lived in retirement at Zurich.

The Federal Council having given the *Agrément* to the nomination of Monsieur Toru Hagiwaras, as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Japan, the latter has presented his credentials to Monsieur C. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly accredited Minister has held various diplomatic appointments in Paris, Shanghai, Tientsin, The Hague, and from 1940-1950 occupied different posts at the Japanese Foreign Office in Tokio, where he was born in 1906.

Cantonal

The late Canon, Dr. Victor von Ernst (Lucerne) has left a legacy amounting to 100,000 frs. for scholarships for the benefit of students at the theological faculty of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

On the 18th of June the 400,000th inhabitant of the town of Zurich was born at the cantonal clinic for women, his name is Dietrich Moser, son of Joseph and Gertrud Moser-Kundert of Oberurnen (Ct. Glarus) living in Zurich.

The Mayor of Zurich, Dr. Landolt, on behalf of the Municipal Council, presented the mother personally with a bouquet of flowers, and the boy with a golden jubilee coin. (In the year 1900, the town registered 150,000 inhabitants, in 1920, 200,000, in 1930, 250,000, in 1940, 334,000 and in 1950, 389,000.) [A.T.S.]

The Municipal Council of Zurich has awarded the "Kunstpreis der Stadt Zurich", amounting to 5,000 frs. to the painter Ernst Murgenthaler of Ursenbach. (Ct. Berne.) [A.T.S.]

Professor Ernst Reuter, "Oberbürgermeister" of Berlin, has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich; a reception was held in his honour during which the Mayor of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt, welcomed the distinguished visitor. [A.T.S.]

During the month of May, 866 (May, 1951: 818) traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Zurich. 17 persons were killed and 475 (May, 1951: 369) received injuries. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor Dr. Hans Oprecht, has resigned his post as President of the Swiss Socialist party. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the canton of Zug's entry into the Confederation, the "Spinnerei an der Lorze", Baar, has given an amount of 50,000.—frs. to the "Kindergartenverein" Baar, for the erection of a fourth "Kindergarten". [A.T.S.]

The government of the canton of Berne has awarded the following prizes for literature: Lucien Marsaux (Jura Bernois), 1,500.—frs.; Alfred Fankhauser, Berne, 1,200.—frs.; Hans Zbinden, Arnold Jaggi, 1,000.—frs. each. Further prizes were awarded to: Henry Devain, Robert Simon, Urs Oberlin and Paul Hofer. [A.T.S.]

The "Kantonalbank" Zug, has, on the occasion of the "Zuger Zentenaarfeier" made donations to

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various charitable institutions in the canton of Zug, amounting to 30,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The 1952 season of the Passion plays at Selzach opened on the 22nd of June in the presence of Federal Councillor Dr. Philip Etter and a large number of guests. [A.T.S.]

A Piper sports machine collided in a dense fog with a rock cliff above San Bernardino (Misox). The pilot, Johann Miller (aged 20) of Altenrhein and his passenger, Mlle. Elsa Henseler (aged 26) of Rorschach, were killed. [A.T.S.]

Army-Corps commander Prisi, since 1938, President of the "Pro Aero" foundation, has resigned from his post for reasons of health. He is succeeded by National-Councillor A. Seematter. (Berne.) [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, the University of Zurich has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Dr. Otto Binswanger, head of the "Nervenheilanstalt Bellevue", Kreuzlingen. [A.T.S.]

The firm "Kümerly & Frey", Geographical Publishers, in Bern, has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Walter Nägeli, President of the Federal Court in Lausanne, has celebrated his 40th jubilee as a lawyer. He entered into the service of the Federal Court in 1912, as secretary, and in 1933, was appointed a judge at the Tribunal. [A.T.S.]

The Royal Academy of Music, Brussels, has awarded the 1st prize for violin to M. M. François Pantillon of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Georg Stucki, a medical practitioner in La Tour de Peilz, and his five year old daughter were drowned when on a motor boat excursion on the lake of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

M. Albert Virieux, formerly General Secretary of the Geneva Electrical Tramway Company, has been elected Manager of this company. [A.T.S.]

The French Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Jean Chauvel, was officially received by the government of the canton of Valais at Sion. [A.T.S.]

:o:

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Otto Baumgartner, since 1912 Manager of the "Erziehungsanstalt Neuhof" Birr nr. Brugg. (Founded by Heinrich Pestalozzi) in Brugg, at the age of 66. He was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich.

Max Pulfer, a well-known writer on graphology, in Zurich, aged 63. The deceased has also written a number of novels and plays.

Gerhard Steck-von Erlach, in Berne, at the age of 73. He was for many years General Manager of the "Aluminiumindustrie in Neuhausen". During the official visit of Mr. Winston Churchill to Berne some years ago, he put his house at the disposal of the distinguished visitor.

Marius Léderrey, notary, and from 1934-1949, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and President of the Board of the Montreux-Oberland Railway in Montreux, aged 58.

Professor Thomas Brändle, for many years a teacher at the "Verkehrsschule" St. Gall, in St. Gall, at the age of 81.

Professor Jakob Jud, from 1922-1950 Professor of Philology at the University of Zurich, and an honorary citizen of the canton of Grisons and the commune of Schuls, in Zurich, aged 71.

Jaques Lamunière, a member of the Board of the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne" and the "Imprimeries réunis", in Lausanne at the age of 62.

Alfred André, from 1932-1942 President of the commune of Morges and from 1942-1950, a member of Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, aged 65.

Henri Rosset, from 1925-1937, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Rolle, at the age of 70.

Mr. Mühlethaler, Conservator of the Natural Historical Museum, Vevey, in Vevey, aged 57.

Georges Tardel, Manager of the "Ateliers de constructions mécaniques" Vevey, in Vevey.

Dr. med Eduard Renner, a medical practitioner and author of the book "Goldener Ring über Uri", in Altdorf, at the age of 61. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. Schorno of Lucerne; Mr. & Mrs. A. Schönbächler-Hufschmid of Glarus. Diamond wedding anniversary (60): Mr. & Mrs. R. Menzi of Filzbach and Mr. & Mrs. Schelling-Zollinger of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Wireless operator, Werner Wegmann of Swissair has flown 4 million kilometers. He entered into the service of the company in 1929. He is 47 years old. [A.T.S.]

Switzerland's three international airports handled a total of over 34,000 passengers during February. Zurich handled 20,214 passengers (16,991 in transit), Geneva 13,015 (11,113 in transit) and Basle 856 (177 in transit).

The Swiss Everest expedition which climbed to within a few hundred feet of the summit, will make a second attempt in October or November.

A representative of the Swiss Alpine Institute said that the entire team was safe and would rest until its autumn attempt. He added that the expedition proved the southern route was practicable, and they would follow it again.

Great Britain lead Switzerland 2-1 in the National Swallows races for the Anglo-Swiss Trophy at South-sea, organised by the Royal Albert Yacht Club.

Switzerland won the second race by 20½ points to 18½.

Alexander Taugwalder, 55-year-old Swiss Alpine guide—known to hundreds of British visitors as Alec—and a 34-year-old hotel manager, Adolf Schmutz, were brought back dead to Zermatt.

They had set out to tackle for the first time the East wall descent from the 14,500ft. Monte Rosa, and are believed to have been killed slipping on snow during the descent, one of the most hazardous ever attempted.

An avalanche carried the bodies to a point where rescue parties could reach them. Taugwalder had taken many British visitors safely up to the 14,740ft. Matterhorn. He made his last venture "to satisfy an ambition."

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PATRIOTISME ET NATIONALISME.

Il ne faut pas les confondre. Le patriotisme c'est l'amour du pays qui peuple nos souvenirs, où nos idées, nos goûts, notre sensibilité se sont formés et continuent de s'alimenter. Ce sont les liens invisibles et profonds qui nous attachent à lui, à sa personnalité physique et morale, à ses paysages, à ses traditions, à ses cœurs.

Le patriotisme est un sentiment naturel. et morale, à ses patriotisme est un sentiment naturel. On peut le cultiver, l'entretenir: il n'en est pas moins spontané dans son essence. Et c'est aussi une force bienfaisante. Nous avons besoin pour comprendre le monde et la vie, de les saisir à travers des réalités concrètes qui nous touchent de près et nous émeuvent. Que représenterait, par exemple, pour un Suisse, l'idée de liberté, quel sens lui donnerait-il et quelles résonances aurait-elle en lui, s'il ne la concevait que d'une manière abstraite, au lieu de la voir sous des traits familiers, éclairée par toute l'histoire de son milieu natal? La connaissance et l'amour de la patrie nous mènent ainsi à la connaissance et à l'amour des valeurs universelles. C'est un chemin qui nous permet d'atteindre les hauteurs.

Seulement, pour qu'il en soit ainsi, il faut que le patriotisme garde sa mesure et sa pureté, qu'il ne soit ni faussé dans sa direction, ni poussé au delà des limites que la raison lui assigne. Il faut qu'il ne dégénère pas en nationalisme.

La différence n'est pas toujours facile à déterminer. Dans les cas extrêmes elle saute aux yeux. Quand le nationalisme devient ce culte barbare qu'ont illustré de récents exemples—d'une nation qui se divinise elle-même et prétend écarter tout ce qui ne contribue pas à sa propre exaltation, il est clair qu'il ne s'agit plus de patriotisme, mais d'une sorte d'idolâtrie, où l'esprit de clan, avec son fanatisme et son orgueil, se déchaîne comme un génie malfaisant. Mais a frontière est parfois moins évidente. Le patriotisme risque en effet de glisser vers l'égoïsme collectif. La patrie cesse alors de nous mettre en communication avec l'univers, de nous donner accès à ce

qui la dépasse; elle devient un petit univers, un monde qui se ferme et se replie sur lui-même. Cette déviation conduit au nationalisme.

Il me semble, en effet, que ce qui caractérise ce dernier, c'est principalement sa tendance à l'exclusivisme, sa propension à faire des intérêts particuliers du groupe national la loi suprême, sinon l'unique loi. Tandis que le patriotisme concilie l'amour du pays avec le sens de l'ordre universel et des devoirs qui en découlent, le nationalisme ne considère que la nation. Il voit en elle un ensemble parfait, un tout qui se suffit à lui-même.

Si l'on envisage le problème sous l'angle international, on reconnaîtra sans peine qu'il existe une différence capitale entre les effets du patriotisme et ceux du nationalisme.

C'est un fait que dans notre monde rapetissé par les progrès de la technique, la coopération des peuples est devenue indispensable et que cette coopération exige d'eux la conscience de leurs intérêts communs. Le patriotisme ne fait aucunement obstacle à cet impératif de la société moderne. Le nationalisme, en revanche, est franchement incompatible avec lui, car il étouffe précisément le sens des intérêts communs. Sous son action, les Etats tendent à s'enfermer dans une conception rigide de leur souveraineté, à ne voir les questions internationales que sous leur aspect strictement national, à traiter même comme une faiblesse, voire comme une trahison, l'esprit de conciliation et le sens de la mesure, sans lesquels tout effort collectif est voué d'avance à l'insuccès. *Maurice Bourquin*



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