

Recent events

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RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Diplomatic

The Federal Council has made the following appointments:

- Ambassador J. de Rham, Rome, also in Malta;
 Counsellor of Embassy Dr. Th. Schmidlin, Ambassador to Malaysia;
 Ambassador A. Parodi, in Cairo, also to the Republic of Somalia with whom Switzerland has taken up diplomatic relations.
 Monsieur Pierre Barbey, former Chief of Neutral Commission in Korea, as Consul-General in Montreal;
 Counsellor E. Suter, Madrid, as Advisor to the President of Rwanda in succession to Ambassador M. Heimo who, as was already announced earlier, was appointed Ambassador to India.
 Consul A. Berla, Turin, as Consul-General in Barcelona in succession to Consul P. von May;
 Monsieur H. Zueblin as Consul in Turin.

International

- Mr. E. Anrig (Sargans), President of the Swiss Food Retailers was elected President of the international organisation.
 Dr. G. Schuerch, Finance Director of Berne and former President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, has been given leave of absence in order to take up a mission on behalf of the International Red Cross in Lagos.
 Ambassador A. Lindt has been chosen Commissioner-General of the Red Cross in Nigeria.
 Dr. Franz Schmitz, General Manager of "Zurich" Insurance, has been elected President of the European Insurance Organisation.
 Prof. Dr. R. Wenner, Liestal, has been made President of the International Union of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians.
 Prof. E. Frauchiger, Berne, has become President of the Research Council of the World Federation of Neurologists.
 Prof. U. Hochstrasser, Berne, has been elected Head of the European Atomic Energy Society.
 National Councillor A. Chavanne, Geneva, was elected President of the 31st Session of the International Conference on Education.

National

- H.H. the Pope appointed Mgr. Giuseppe Martinoli, Lugano, as Apostolic Administrator of the Canton of Ticino. He will have the title of Bishop of Lugano, since the Ticino has been separated from the Basle Bishopric. The consecration took place in Lugano on 15th September, by the Papal Nuntio in Berne.
 On 6th October, the only *Weihbischof* in Switzerland, Mgr. P. Mamie, was consecrated in Fribourg by Cardinal Journet.
 Dr. J. Candolfi, *Pfarr-Dekan* at St. Immer, took up his appointment as Vicar-General for the French-speaking part of the Basle Bishopric, on 1st October.
 The R.C. Priest of Naters, Paul Grichting, has been appointed Chaplain by the Pope to the Swiss Guard in Rome.
 The new President of the St. Gall University Council is Dr. A. Hummler, *Stadtammann* of St. Gall.
 Dr. J. E. Haefeli, Basle, was elected President of the Central Federation of *Arbeitgeberorganisationen* in succession to Dr. H. C. A. Dubois, Arbon, who retired after 25 years.

[A.T.S.]

RECENT EVENTS

Switzerland's Town and Country Planning Association, celebrating its 25th anniversary, has been praised by a Government Minister for winning round public opinion to the idea of planning on local, regional and national levels.

The praise came from the Interior Minister, Federal Councillor Tschudi, speaking in Biel, where the Association held meetings to mark its anniversary.

Mr. Tschudi emphasised that in the Government's outline of its programme for the present legislative period, town and country planning and land legislation were regarded as important tasks.

He also pointed out that of Switzerland's 3,000 or so Communes — or local authorities — 1,335 had already introduced building regulations and nearly 600 more were preparing them. More than 800 Communes had adopted zoning plans and another 500 or so were discussing such plans.

Mr. Tschudi noted an increasing acceptance of the idea that certain problems could only be solved on a regional level, through agreements between local authorities. These problems included water supplies, waste disposal, and planning for tourist facilities.

But the Minister also said the Cantons must continue to have a wide degree of autonomy in the planning field.

"Pro Helvetia" organised a Swiss exhibition on contemporary architecture in Leningrad (July/August), and a Swiss industrial exhibition was held in Peking, organised privately at the cost of a million Swiss francs, by Swiss Watchmakers' Federation and two Zurich firms Siber Hegner and Tettex.

1,500 delegates attended the 11th International Congress on Photogrammetry in Lausanne, and over 120 agricultural teachers from 54 countries met in Berne to improve their knowledge and exchange information. Among the guests were various representatives from international organisations. A number of study excursions were undertaken.

200 students from many parts of the world met in the Valais — they were members of the International Federation of Students of Economics.

Three Federal Councillors attended the Golden Jubilee of the Swiss National Circus Knie in Berne, together with diplomats and 250 artists and employees of the organisation.

Ambassador R. Bindschedler, head of the Swiss delegation at the Geneva Conference of non-nuclear States, addressed the delegates on 10th September. He asked the nuclear States that they should be prepared to make nuclear material available for peaceful use to the small nations, to renounce any future embargo on such deliveries and to open access to research results in nuclear science.

The Unspunnenfest (*v. issue of 26th July*) took place this summer. On 1st September, there was a Costume Festival at which 5,000 members took part. Amongst many folkloristic events were a pageant and special divine services, not to forget the picturesque procession.

At the opening of the Technical College of Windisch, Federal Councillor Schaffner called the *Lehranstalt* an exemplary achievement in co-operation between State and private industry.

Early in September, big Army manoeuvres took place in the Valais (Mountain Division 10), at which 7,000 men, 1,200 vehicles and 500 horses took part.

At the same time, Prof. Dr. W. Kaegi (Zurich) opened the 18th Congress by the Association for the Study of the World Refugees Problem.

The "Schweizerischer Forstverein" celebrated its 125th anniversary, at which Federal Councillor Tschudi gave an official address. This year, for the first time, diploma examinations were held at the new forestry college at Landquart (Grisons). 73% of Swiss forest is in public hands. There has been a marked decrease in financial return, and ways and means are being studied to increase this. The reduction of building activities and foreign competition in the wood market are blamed for the bad state. At the Foresters' Jubilee, the Government's representative also stressed that the woodland served other purposes besides commercial ones, such as avalanche protection and not least the beauty of the countryside. Since 1902, Swiss woods were under legal protection, and this had been increased in the new Nature and Homeland Laws.

In the middle of the second world war, in 1943, the Swiss Working Community of Mountain Farmers was founded, not as a charitable institution, but as an umbrella organisation for the promotion of mountain farming by self-help. At Grindelwald, this body celebrated its Silver Jubilee in September. Federal Councillor Wahlen, at the First Swiss Country Youth Assembly at Zollikofen, addressed the participants on "Town and Country in our Troublesome Times". He praised the ever-existing and fruitful tension between town and country and hoped that it would not degenerate into the tension between producer and consumer.

Federal Councillor Gnaegi delivered the official address at the inauguration of the new *Geniewaffenplatz* Bremgarten (Aargau).

The National Band of the Canadian Armed Forces gave a concert on the Bundesplatz in Berne, during their European tour.

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