

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur Rodolphe Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, has announced his resignation from the

Federal Government to take effect at the end of the current year.

President Rubattel was born in 1896 at Villarzel in the Broye valley. On completion of his school education he studied law at the University of Lausanne, where he obtained the degree of doctor of law. He then took up journalism as a profession, and in turn was Editor of the "Feuilles d'Avis de Montreux", "Tribune de Lausanne", "Feuilles d'Avis de Lausanne", and "La Revue".

In 1933, he entered the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud as a Radical, and eleven years later (1944) he became a member of the cantonal Government. He was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1948.

M. Philippe Etter, the Minister of the Interior and last year's President of the Swiss Confederation, told 700 ex-servicemen at Zoug that recent experiences had shown that the atomic bomb in itself was not capable of conquering a country and that the determined resistance of a small force was still decisive. He felt that it was more vital now than ever to keep up the will to resist. Fear and tension, he said, reigned in the world and all countries were re-arming. It would therefore be a fatal mistake to believe that the time to disarm had come.

The Federal Council has announced the following nominations:—

In place of Monsieur Peter Anton Feldscher, Swiss Minister in Vienna, who has reached retiring age, Monsieur Reinhard Hohl, at present Minister in Tokio, has been assigned to be his successor.

Monsieur Alexandre Girardet, Swiss Minister in Denmark, who has also reached retiring age, will be replaced by Minister Camille Gorgé, formerly Swiss Minister in Moscow.

Minister Feldscher was born in 1889 in Masein (Ct. Grisons). After having studied law at the Universities of Zurich and Leipzig, he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1917, where he occupied various posts. In 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and a year later (1942) was sent to Berlin as Head of the Division for Foreign Interests with the rank of Minister. In 1946, Monsieur Feldscher was nominated Minister in Vienna.

\* \* \*

Minister Reinhard Hohl was born in 1893, and is a citizen of Heiden (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh). He studied *juris prudence* at the Universities of Zurich, Berne and Geneva. Having obtained the degree of doctor of law, he entered the Swiss Foreign Office in 1919. There he has occupied various posts, amongst them Head of the Department of Legal, Financial and Traffic Affairs. Promoted in 1941, to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and in 1948 to Minister, in which year he was sent to Prague. Four years later (1952) he was transferred to Tokio.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Alexandre Girardet was born in 1889 at Prilly (Ct. Vaud). He studied law at the University of Lausanne, where he obtained his doctor's title. From 1914-1917, he practised as a Lawyer entering in 1917 into the Diplomatic Service. After having been sent to Warsaw, he went to Washington as representative of the International Red Cross. In 1927, he returned to Berne where he occupied a post at the Federal Economic Department. Two years later, he took up a post in a large commercial concern. In 1938, he again entered the Diplomatic Service, and was sent to London, as Counsellor of Legation in charge of commercial affairs. On leaving

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London he was nominated Swiss Minister in Prague. Since 1948, Monsieur Girardet has represented our country in Copenhagen.

Monsieur Camille Gorgé, a citizen of Moutier, was born in 1893. He studied law at the Universities of Leipzig and Geneva. In 1917, he took up a post at the Federal Economic Department, changing over in 1918 to the Federal Political Department.

From 1924-1927, he occupied a post as judicial advisor at the Japanese Foreign Office. On his return to the Swiss Foreign Office he worked in the section for International Organisations in which capacity he attended various International Conferences. From 1940-1946, Monsieur Gorgé was Swiss Minister in Tokio, thereafter he was Minister in Ankara for four years, and from 1950-1953, he represented the Confederation in Moscow.

Minister Karl Bruggmann, who is retiring from his post in Washington is a citizen of Oberhelfenschwil and Lichtensteig (Ct. St. Gall) and was born in 1889. On obtaining his degree of doctor of law from the University of Berne he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall and Geneva. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1917. A year later (1918) he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Petrograd and afterwards to the Legations in Brussels (1919) and Washington (1920). In 1924, he was sent to Paris where he stayed two years. After a stay at the Commercial Section of the Swiss Foreign Office, he went to the Swiss Legation in Prague, in the capacity of Chargé d'Affaires a.i. From 1935-1954, he has acted as Swiss Minister in Washington.

Further changes in the Swiss Diplomatic Service have just been announced by the Federal Council.

On reaching retiring age, Minister Carl Stucki, at present *en poste* at Athens is retiring, and will be replaced by Monsieur Feer, Swiss Minister in Brazil.

Minister Carl Stucki was born at St. Gall in 1889, and is a citizen of Linden (Ct. Berne). After having studied Philosophy at the Universities of Munich, Berlin and Zurich, he entered in 1919 into the service of the Federal Political Department. He was from 1925-1929 at the Swiss Legation in Vienna as Secretary of Legation. On his return to Berne (1929) he occupied various posts, amongst them Head of the Consular Service, and Chief of the personnel. In 1946, M. Stucki was appointed Swiss Minister in Greece.

Minister Eduard Feer, a citizen of Brugg and Aarau, was born in 1894 in Basle. He studied economics at the Universities of Munich and Zurich, and entered the service of the Federal Economic Department in 1917, changing later on to the Federal Political Department. In 1925, M. Feer was appointed Commercial Attaché at the Swiss Legation in Berlin, and in 1931, was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. Five years later (1936) he was transferred to Washington where he remained until 1945, when he was nominated Swiss Minister to the Argentine and Paraguay. Since 1950, M. Feer has held the post as Swiss Minister in Brazil.

Dr. h. c. Eugène Péquignot, General Secretary of the Federal Economic Department has tendered his resignation.

Born in 1889 at Saignelégier, he studied law at the Universities in Berne and Paris. In 1913, he entered into the Federal administration where he remained for 41 years.

The Swiss Consul in Algiers has informed the Federal authorities that no Swiss citizens were injured in the recent earthquake at Orléansville.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in August, 1954, 17.19 million passengers or 358,000 more than during the same period in 1953. Receipts: 32.37 million francs. (August, 1953: 31.70 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.85 million tons transported, 304,000 tons more than in August, 1953. Receipts: 34.93 million francs. (August, 1953: 28.19 million francs).

Customs receipts for the month of September, 1954, totalled 57.8 million francs, or 3.7 million francs more than in September, 1953.

Receipts for the first nine months of the current year amount to 375 million francs which is 36.2 million francs more than during the same period in 1953.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Lucien Guillaume, at present Secretary at the Swiss Legation in Budapest, to the post of Swiss Consul in Tunis, in succession to M. Jean Martig.

M. Guillaume was born in Berne in 1908, and is a citizen of Neuchâtel. He studied law at the Universities of Berne and Neuchâtel. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1946, and was sent to Budapest in 1949, with the rank of Secretary of Legation.

The following Foreign Diplomats have presented their credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation:

Monsieur Alonso Alvarez de Toledo y Mencos, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Spain.

Monsieur Béla Némety, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Hungary.

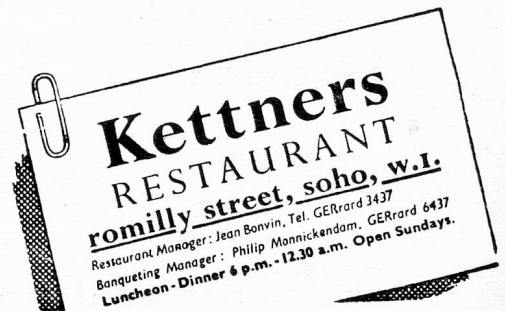
#### Cantonal

Burglars who broke into a Jeweller's shop at 40, Schaffhauserstrasse, Zurich, stole goods valued at 12,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Richard Widmer-Cavalotti, Manager of the "Nährmittelfabrik A. Sennhauser, A.G.", Zurich,

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lost his life on a mountaineering excursion in the Bernese Oberland. [A.T.S.]

During the three weeks in which the exhibition for "Landwirtschaft, Forstwirtschaft und Gartenbau" in Lucerne was open, 1,200,000 persons went through the turnstiles. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Cantonal and University hospital in Berne, known as "Inselspital" has celebrated its 600th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at a shoe and boot manufacturing factory at Porrentruy caused damage amounting to 600,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The 25 million francs loan issued by the Government of the canton of Fribourg at 2.75 per cent has been fully subscribed. [A.T.S.]

The Professor J. Werder Prize for 1953 and 1954, has been awarded to Dr. Jean Deshusses of Geneva, and Dr. Hans Hadorn of Basle. [A.T.S.]

The late Paul Jud of Wil (Ct. St. Gall) has left 35,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions in the town of Wil. [A.T.S.]

According to figures just published by the Federal Statistical Bureau, the population of the canton of Grisons, on December 1st, 1950, numbered 137,000 inhabitants. Chur: 19,382, inhabitants, Oschiavo: 4,034, Ilanz: 1,590, Thusis: 1,616, Donat/Ems: 2,694, Samedan: 1,685, St. Moritz: 2,558, Roveredo: 1,846, Davos: 10,433, Klosters: 2,978, Arosa: 2,600, Maien-

feld: 1,586, Schiers: 2,312, Disentis: 2,330, and Sonsvix: 1,674. [A.T.S.]

A legacy amounting to 120,000.—frs. was left to the Evangelical church community of Bischofszell-Hauptwil by the late Mlle. Anna Wehrlin who recently died at Bischofszell (Ct. Thurgau) at the age of 81. [A.T.S.]

This year's "Comptoir" in Lausanne was visited by 720,000 visitors. [A.T.S.]

The young pianiste Mlle. Fernande Kaiser of Geneva, has been awarded 1st prize at the International Music Competition in Geneva. There were 400 competitors. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Martin Naef, a former States-Councillor, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, and from 1927-1931 a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 85.

Otto Businger, a former "Stadtingenieur" and "Baudirektor" of Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 86.

Pater Deman, Professor of Theology at the University of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 56.

Mlle. Elise Favre-Borel, in Le Locle, aged 100.

Dr. Karl Biedermann-Hug, formerly Secretary at the Federal Railway Department, in Berne at the age of 89.

Paul Siegrist, proprietor of the Hotel Schiff, Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen, aged 59.

Markus Schuler, for 30 years a member of the

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"Glarner Landrat", and from 1920-1935, a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Glarus, in Glarus, at the age of 98.

Edouard Schiess, Professor of commercial science at the University of Lausanne, at Lausanne, aged 69. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
The undermentioned anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press:

Professor, Dr. Hans Meierhofer (80) of Zurich. Author of a great number of works on Botany, Zoology and Biology.

Professor, Dr. August Rollier (80) of Saint-Aubin (Ct. Neuchâtel). Eminent specialist on tubercular diseases, and author of a number of scientific works. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Lausanne.

Professor, Dr. Friedrich Tobler (75) of Trogen (Ct. Appenzell) an authority on "Faserforschung", and for 20 years Professor of Botany at the University of Dresden and Director of the Botanical Gardens.

Charles Gassmann (75) of Bienne. Senior partner of the Printing Works Chs. & W. Gassmann, and Publisher of the "Journal du Jura" and the "Bieler Tagblatt".

Mme. Anna Richli (70) of Lucerne, author of many novels, amongst them "Mein ist der Tag", "Jugendwende", "Das Unwägbar", "Gefangene ihres Schicksals", etc.

Carl Steuer (70) of Basle. Senior partner of the Textile firm Steuer & Co., Basle, and a former member of the Chamber of Commerce, Basle. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
The Grand Council of the canton of Zurich voted 93-58 against giving the women the right to vote. The council has promised however, to examine independently other proposals for female suffrage. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. George Guye-Lambelet of Les Verrières, Mr. and Mrs. G. Grimm-Weber of Küsnacht (Zurich).

Mr. and Mrs. Eugène Bonnard-Steinmann of Aigle, have celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
Hungary, World Cup finalists, beat Switzerland 3-0 before a crowd of 93,000 in Budapest. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
The Swiss Government accused a pilot and his co-pilot of homicide through negligence and abandonment in a plane crash in the English Channel on June 19, when three British passengers died. The papers of the crash inquiry have been handed to the criminal court.

\* \* \*  
A 50-year-old Swiss Post Office official has been charged in Berne with stealing coins amounting to £7,000 from telephone boxes over the last 10 years. He says he took only £750. "I was saving it to buy a house and I have only enough money to buy a car."

\* \* \*  
Miss Jeanette Altwegg, former British, Olympic and world figure skating champion, was married in the English Church, Zurich, to Marc Wirz, a Swiss engineer. Miss Altwegg is 23 and Mr. Wirz 24.

Miss Altwegg was given away by her father and her brother, Christopher, was best man. Miss Altwegg will live at Berne, where her husband works.

A school at Winterthur has decided to revise its arithmetic books after complaints that the problems in them were so difficult that even the pupils' parents could not understand them.

\* \* \*  
The last two Swiss priests left in China — believed to be the only foreign missionaries with comparative freedom in Peking — have been expelled by the Communists.

They belong to the Society of the Missions of Bethlehem. \* \* \*

### New Basic Allowance.

Recently the Treasury of H.M. Government released the long expected and excellent news of the increased basic travel allowance. For the year commencing 1st November, 1954, the following amounts will be granted:

Adults	... ..	£100
Children	... ..	£70
Additional car allowance for Motorists		£35
Additional allowance for Motor-cyclists		£15

Travel expenses, i.e. tickets, sleepers, seats, meals, etc. (where bookable in advance) for the journey can be paid for in Sterling outside the basic allowance.

This concession now applies to General Season Tickets, Regional and Local Season Tickets, Winter-sports Season Tickets for Funiculars and Skilifts, etc.

On the other hand Motorists and Motor-cyclists must pay in Swiss francs for all local excursions by other means of transport (rail, steamer, etc.), or, if they wish to buy their tickets in England, produce a V-Form, i.e. the cost is deducted from their Basic Allowance.

\* \* \*  
It has been announced from the Vatican that, for the first time in 427 years, the canton of Uri will have an officer with the Swiss Guards at the Vatican in Rome. The new officer is Captain Alois Stalder, of Schattdorf, a village near Altdorf, the capital of the canton.

\* \* \*  
Fifty years ago, on August 18th, 1904, to be precise, the first train from Montreux arrived at Château d'Oex, and was welcomed by the authorities of the canton of Vaud and the whole of the population of this charming valley of the Pays d'Enhaut,

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which was now connected to the shores of the Lake of Geneva by a line of great scenic beauty.

Château d'Oex soon became a very popular tourist resort. In December 1904, the track was extended to Gstaad, and in the following summer to Zweisimmen and the Bernese Oberland.

A committee has just been formed in Geneva to confer its patronage on the International Academy of Classical Dancing, which was recently founded in this town and will be directed by Boris Kniassef. Courses began on September 1st, with classes for children, beginners, advanced pupils and professionals. The programme includes character dancing, folk, modern and classical dancing; the school is situated at 4, Rue de Monthoux.

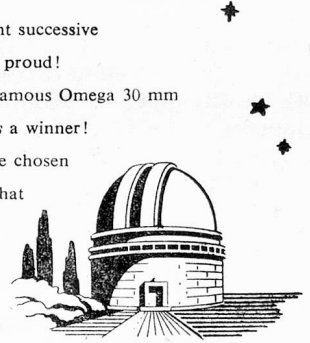
The Lausanne Dancing Academy, which was started more than two years ago, has succeeded in obtaining the collaboration of Serge Lifar, ballet master and coreographer of the Paris Opera Ballet, to patronize and organize the instruction of its school of classical dancing, the courses and lessons being given by Nicolas Zvereff of the Serge Diaghilev Ballets, and assistant to Serge Lifar. The school is situated at 7, Rue Caroline, Lausanne.

The organizing committee of the 64th Federal Gymnastics Festival, which will be held next year in Zurich, elected as its chairman Mr. Emile Landolt, president of the town. The Federal Society at present consists of 25 associations grouping 2,603 sections

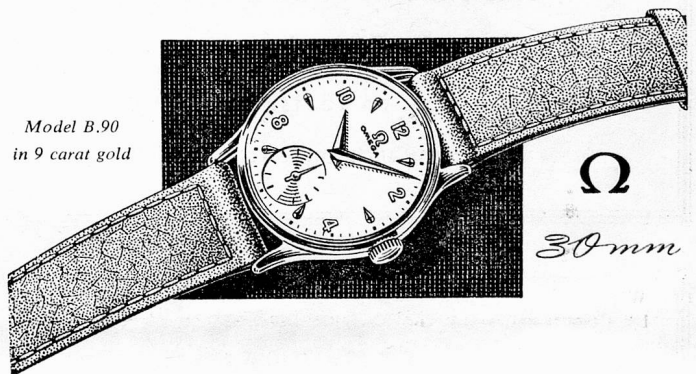
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and 229,297 members (226,341 in 1953); out of 134,425 active members, there are 32,989 women and 42,372 schoolchildren of both sexes. Several sections are particularly active in North and South America.

The 24th International Rally at Geneva (November 3-6). The Geneva section of the Swiss Automobile Club organizes this meeting which is numbered among the tourist trials valid for the European championships. Competitors will be able to choose between different itineraries, with starting points as follows: Kolding (Denmark), Nuremberg, Liège, Schaffhausen, Milan, Bordeaux, Geneva, Manchester and Barcelona. Contestants will assemble at Rheims, from where the itinerary will be the same for all as far as Geneva, with the organization of special tests (speed, reliability, hill climbing and "stalom").

"The Automobile Yearbook". A new periodical in French, English and German has just been published under this title, by Mr. Ami Guichard, head of the Imprimerie Centrale in Lausanne. The first number which contains 225 pages and is remarkably well illustrated, includes articles by many contributors of note, among them Mr. André Siegfried of the Académie Française; it is not intended exclusively for experts, but is aimed at a wider public of all those interested in motoring.

The Head Office of the Swiss Touring Club in Geneva has noticed that a number of foreign drivers and motor-cyclists do not seem to understand the

marking of level-crossings in Switzerland; they interpret the red lights simply as a warning sign, and not as a signal to stop, as is actually the case. Several accidents have occurred as a result of this and the Swiss Touring Club, very commendably, has circulated to all travel agencies and transport concerns as well as tourist propaganda organizations, an illustrated leaflet giving all the relevant details.

### NEW SWISS MINISTER APPOINTED.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Armin Daeniker, Swiss Minister in London, in succession to Monsieur Henry de Torrenté.

Monsieur Daeniker, who was born in Zurich in 1898, began his diplomatic career in 1925, and occupied posts in Berne, Riga, Shanghai and Tokio before he was appointed in 1936, Chargé d'Affaires in Teheran, and, in 1948, in Delhi. He has been Swiss Minister in Stockholm since 1952 and was recently head of the Swiss Delegation on the international committee for the repatriation of prisoners of war in Korea.

### CENTENARY OF JEREMIAS GOTTHELF (1797-1854).

An N.S.H. Lecture.

On the occasion of the centenary of the death of our eminent Swiss novelist and short story writer, Jeremias Gotthelf, the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group, has been invited by the official Swiss cultural Institute PRO HELVETIA to organise a gathering for a lecture by Dr. H. M. Waidson, lecturer in German at the University of Hull, who has recently published a book in English on Gotthelf. In order to attract also an English audience the N.S.H. is glad to have the cooperation of the Anglo-Swiss Society in holding this lecture on November 1st at Londonderry House (details see advertisement). Other interested circles at the various universities, etc. are being invited. After the lecture some passages from Gotthelf will be read in German by Dr. Guido Frei (Rundfunk-Studio Zürich) and in English by Miss Selma Vaz Dias. The lecture will of course be in English. In the interval coffee and biscuits are available at 1/-. All Swiss and English friends are cordially invited to attend this event of homage to a great Swiss writer. Admission free of charge.

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