

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Clemente Rezzonico, Swiss Minister in New Delhi, has also been accredited to Colombo (Ceylon), but will reside in New Delhi.

Dr. Hans Keller, Counsellor of Legation, in the capacity of Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim*, will be in charge of the Legation in Colombo.

The new Chargé d'Affaires hails from Hagenbach (Ct. Berne); he entered the diplomatic service in 1943, and successively held posts at the Swiss Legations in Prague, Moscow and Ankara.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed a Swiss delegation to take part at the UNESCO conference, which will be held at New Delhi from November 5th to December 5th, 1956. It comprises the following members: Pierre Bourgeois, Director of the Federal Library, Bernard Barbey, permanent delegate of UNESCO, Ernest Boerlin, National Councillor, Mlle. Anne-Marie Du Bois, of the University of Geneva, Pietro Pellegrini, Vice-President of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, Professor C. Regamey of the Universities of Fribourg and Lausanne, E. Riehner, Vice-President of the Pro Helvetie foundation.

* * *

An agreement has been initiated between Switzerland and Norway aimed at eliminating double income taxation, capital taxation and death duties.

The agreement will be signed in Oslo in the near future, and then submitted to the Swiss and Norwegian Parliaments for ratification.

* * *

By 130 votes to 30, the Swiss Parliament has decided in favour of a speed limit of 50 km. (31 m.p.h.) in towns, villages and built up areas. A proposal for a speed limit in the open country has been deferred until the December session.

* * *

The Swiss Federal railways carried during August, 1956, 16.9 million passengers, or 300,000 fewer

than in August, 1955. Receipts: 31.4 million francs. (August, 1955: 31.9 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.24 million tons, or 256,000 tons more than in the same period in 1955. Receipts: 42 million francs. (August, 1955: 41.4 million francs.)

* * *

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Markus Feldmann, and Monsieur Max Petitpierre have received the following diplomats at the Palais Fédéral in Berne when they presented their credentials: Monsieur Willem Christiaan Naude, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Union of South Africa, and Monsieur Abdel Shafi el Lablan, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Egypt.

* * *

The American Ambassador in Berne, Miss Frances Willis has paid a visit to a number of watch manufacturing concerns at Grenchen and Pieterlen. She was accompanied by States-Councillor de Coulon, General Manager of "Ebauche" S.A., and Paul Renggli, President of "Asuag".

Cantonal

The Japanese Prime Minister, M. Hatoyama has arrived in Zurich with a suite of 30 persons on a two days stay. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The electors of Berne in a plebiscite have rejected by 15,229 votes to 10,269, the plan to reconstruct the main passenger station on a site adjacent to the Laupenstrasse, west of the present station and near

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 23rd, 1956, together with remittance for 7/6.

the goods station. The advantage of the latter would have been to give considerably more room for expansion, whereas extension on the present site is difficult and costly because of the limitations imposed by the Bahnhofplatz on one side, and the high ground on the other already supported by a lofty retaining wall. Subject to an adequate contribution by the city, therefore, the reconstruction, essential to meet growing traffic demands and now fully planned, will take place on the present site. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A passenger on the "Sesseli Lift" Beatenberg-Niederhorn was injured when one of the cables jumped the rollers. He was thrown out of his seat, and fell to a depth of five metres. He was taken to the hospital at Interlaken. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Alfred Corpataux, "Chef de service" of the railways of the canton of Fribourg, has celebrated his 50th service jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Pestalozzi children village at Trogen (Ct. Appenzell I.Rh.) has celebrated the 10th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two persons were killed when a motor-cyclist and his passenger collided with a wall at the Mels station (Ct. St. Gall). The names of the victims are Johann Willi (37) and Oswald Willi (17) both of Mels. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The OLMA exhibition in St. Gall was opened on Thursday, October 11th. Federal Councillor Dr. H. Streuli attended the opening as representative of the Federal Council. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The premises of the firm of Stenz & Co., furniture makers, in Benken (Ct. St. Gall) were completely destroyed by fire. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Hugo Meyer, since 1933 "Stadtammann" of the town of Olten, has tendered his resignation to take effect on January 31st, 1957. He is vacating his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Masco L. Pessi (Bellinzona) has been appointed Director of the "Società ferrovie regionali ticinesi" in succession to the late Ernesto Meyer. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Grand Hotel de Vevey", Vevey, is going to be demolished shortly. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Monsieur Otto Treyvaoud, editor-in-chief of the "Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne", has been made a member of the French Légion d'Honneur. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Burglars entered the premises of a Jeweller's establishment in Geneva and stole goods to the value of 30,000.— frs. The same firm was burgled only a month previously. [A.T.S.]

The cantonal hospital of Geneva celebrated on October 1st the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Arthur Rohn, an expert in the building of bridges and dams, and a former rector of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 79.

He was born at Geneva, and after attending the technical secondary school at his native town went to the Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich where he took the diploma of building engineer. Having had some years of practical experience with the bridge building division of the Jura-Simplon Railway and with a foundry at Sterkrade, in the Rhineland, he was appointed professor of building statics and bridge building at Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. He was able to visit engineering projects in south Russia, the United States and Canada, and in 1919 in recognition of his technical knowledge and his talents as a teacher he was appointed dean of the department of civil engineering at Zurich, becoming rector of the college in 1923. He was the author of numerous theoretical and practical treatises on his subject, and he designed and superintended the construction of several bridges himself, including some moving



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bridges of complicated structure. He also introduced and patented innovations in machinery for hoisting ships. He was one of the engineers who went to Ireland to study the Shannon power scheme and give advice on the proposed construction.

Dr. med. Georges Patry, for many years a member of the International Red Cross Committee. He was at one time in charge of the army medical corps of the 1st division with the rank of Colonel, in Celigny, aged 75.

Marcel de Carlini, for a long period collaborator at "Radio Geneva", and author, in Geneva, at the age of 55.

Mrs. Amanda Troendle-Engel, drawing mistress, in Solothurn, aged 95.

Emil Duenner, Journalist and collaborator for over 50 years of various Liberal papers, in St. Gall, at the age of 80.

Jos. Sauter-Klee, Publisher, in Basle, aged 66.

Albert Koller, since 1947 editor of the "Appenzeler Volksfreund" and formerly "Ratschreiber" of the canton Appenzell I.Rh., in Appenzell, at the age of 53.

Rudolf Haegni, Zurich dialect author, in Zurich, aged 68.

Josef Holdener, for 43 years a teacher at the secondary school of Arth, in Arth at the age of 69.

Dr. Josef Lenzlinger, a former States Prosecutor of the canton of St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 68.

Mme. Jeanne-Adrienne Perrochet-Junod, painter and sculptor, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 78.

Isaac Revillod, formerly rector of the *Gymnasium*, Montreux, in Montreux, aged 86. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES.

The late Victor Schira, a contractor of Montreux has left his entire fortune amounting to 400,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions, amongst them 50,000.— frs. to the Vaudois Institute for cancer research, 50,000.— frs. to the Vaudois T.B. Ligue, 35,000.— frs. for the children of Montreux, 35,000.— frs. for the holiday children's Fund of the R.C. community, 50,000.— frs. for the Children crèche of Montreux, 25,000.— frs. to the hospital at Montreux, 15,000.— frs. to the "Pro Infirmis" of Lausanne, 10,000.— frs. to the Home for old people, Montreux, and 10,000.— frs. to the school board of Montreux. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Stuedli-Kobel of Affoltern a. Albis, Mr. & Mrs. H. Geiger-Kesselring of Sirmach, Mr. & Mrs. M. Ott-Bisang of Glarus, Mr. & Mrs. F. Walcher-Oertli of Glarus. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Alexander Pfister (80) of Riehen, for many years a teacher of German language and history at the "Maedchengymnasium" Basle, and author of historical works of his native canton of Grisons. [A.T.S.]

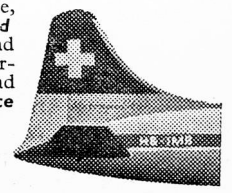


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THE WORLD

Paul Kunz (70) of Thun. He was in 1911 appointed editor of the "Oberländer Tagblatt". From 1919-1926, and from 1939-1952, he held the office of Mayor of the town of Thun. Kunz was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne for 15 years, and sat for 7 years in the National Council as a Liberal. [A.T.S.]

* * *
VARIOUS.

Swiss insurance companies have decided to levy a supplementary war risk premium of 0.25 per cent. as from September 24. As a result, the new premiums against war risks will, until further notice, amount to 0.35 per cent. for Egypt, as well as for ships destined for Indonesia, Hongkong, Thailand, and other countries *via* the Suez Canal.

The new premiums for that part of China extending north from Canton up to and including Manchuria, Port Arthur, and Dairen, *via* the Suez, will amount to 0.45 per cent. For all other transport *via* the Suez Canal the premium will be 0.2875 per cent.

* * *
An 1,800 ft. tower, nearly twice as high as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, is to be built for the 1964 Swiss National Exhibition at Lausanne.

* * *
Switzerland displayed the surprise item at the 43rd Paris Motor Show which opened its doors early this month, namely a plastic four seater saloon called the "Soletta", powered by a 748c.c. flat twin engine underneath the back seat. It has a maximum speed of 66 m.p.h. and does 60 miles to the gallon. Designer is Willy Salzmänn.

* * *
A model railway lay-out, claimed to be the biggest in the world, is attracting thousands of people to a little house specially built near Zurich Zoo.

The lay-out is a miniature of the whole region of the Bernese Alps, including the Berne-Lotschberg-Simplon tunnel, and nearly 500 yards of track over which 15 trains can circulate at once.

Among the 42 famous summits represented is the mighty Jungfrau, with the mountain railway climbing its flank. The model also includes many of the aerial cableways of the region and steamships on the Lake of Brienz.

Some 20 miles of wiring lead to a central control panel for the lay-out, which measures some 25 yards by 15. Various sky effects also can be obtained electrically on a backcloth.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In order to save both money and time the Publishers would be much obliged if subscribers who are in arrears with their subscription would kindly send their remittance as soon as possible.

Specimen copies of the "Swiss Observer" will be gladly sent to addresses, supplied to our office, of likely subscribers.

CITY NEWS.

The Lunch-hour Meetings which the Swiss Church are now holding every Friday between 12.20 and 12.50 p.m. at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, Lombard Street, have met with a gratifying response, and many Swiss working in the City welcome and support them. Handbills containing the full Winter programme are

now available and we also refer to the announcements appearing regularly in the "Swiss Observer" under "Forthcoming Events". Short addresses in French and German are given alternately and we invite to them all our compatriots working in and around the City. *M.*

CARONI DAM.

In conjunction with their Associate Company, Acrow Venezuela S.A. in Caracas, Acrow Engineers (Export) Limited have secured the contract for the steel formwork for the Dam, Power Station and ancillary works on the Caroni River between Caracas and Maracaibo.

The contract was placed as a dollar export from this country by the well-known French contracting firm Campenon Bernhard S.A. of Paris, who are carrying out this project through their Venezuelan associates.

ALBERT FERBER RECITAL.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to a Piano Recital of our compatriot Albert Ferber, on Saturday, November 24th at 7.30 p.m., at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.1.

Albert Ferber, who has just returned from a 3½ months tour in South America, where he had a brilliant success, needs hardly any introduction as by his excellent playing at many Wigmore Hall recitals he has made a name for himself in the music sphere of this country. The programme will include Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Schumann and Debussy.

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