Anglo-Swiss news

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supporter of these measures. It has on several occasions been the first country to offer its monetary assistance and was instrumental in the introduction of certain measures of co-operation between the central banks of the free world.

"May I say that it is not the Gnomes of Zurich who weaken a particular currency, but it is the action of those citizens of the country concerned in a crisis, who start to sell their own currency. I should like to quote what a British official in the Foreign Office wrote on 25th January 1967: *"I suspect that quite often when there are movements against Sterling, the people who do the moving are to be found not in Zurich, but in the City of London"*. A currency has one thing in common with a lady whose reputation you damage the moment you raise doubts about it."

Dr. Halbheer concluded by saying that banking belonged to those fields of Swiss business which made it possible for Switzerland to offset the great disadvantages with which its economy is faced in so many respects, lack of raw materials, shortage in natural resources and no access to the sea. It should also be kept in mind that Switzerland never held for herself the funds that came in from abroad, but always made them available to foreign countries. Thus, Switzerland—through its banks—contributing to the international accumulation of capital and its re-investment on a world-wide scale, funds which otherwise might have disappeared, hoarded away or become invested simply in gold. The speaker said:

"Switzerland, therefore, as an international finance centre fulfills valuable functions for its own people, as well as for world economy. The fact, that Swiss banks will from time to time be drawn into the sphere of international tensions is not reason enough to question the standing Swiss banks enjoy as an industry which is vital to the country's prosperity."

RECENT APPOINTMENTS IN SWITZERLAND

The Swiss Association for the Protection of Nature has elected its new president, W. A. Plattner, who replaces National Councillor J. Baechtold in this function.

Prof. J. P. Blaser replaces Prof. M. Fierz as Swiss delegate to CERN. Both professors teach physics at the Zurich Polytechnicum (E.T.H.).

The Swiss Society of Restaurant Owners has a new President, 41 year-old Pierre Morens, who is the first man from Valais to preside

Paul Gottrer has been appointed "diplomatic assistant" in the division of the Political Department concerned with relationships with international organisations.

The Swiss Caritas organisation loses its President, Dr. Fritz Spieler, who retires after leading it for 15 years.

The mixed "Press and Political Commission", a professional association of editors, journalists and newspaper publishers, has a new President in Dr. Theodor Gut, National Councillor, who replaces the Bernese journalist Max Nef.

Monsieur Jean Richard, first Secretary at the Swiss Embassy in Brussels, has been appointed Ambassador in Senegal. He succeeds to Dr. Pascal Frochaux, who takes up his post as Ambassador to Poland. M. Hanjoerg Hess, the present Ambassador to Peru, has been appointed to the post of Ambassador to Israel. He takes the place of M. Jean de Stoutz, who replaces Dr. Lindt in Moscow. Prior to his Israeli assignment, M. de Stoutz was First Secretary in the Embassy here, and is well known to our community.

The Federal Railways have a new commercial boss, Mr. Samuel Edmond Berthouf of Couvet, Neuchâtel, who succeeds the retiring Mr. Edouard Fallet.

Mr. Raymond Schneider, director of the Central Swiss Meteorological Office has been voted President of the European Meteorological Services.

Mr. Jean Claude Biot has been appointed new head of the Agricultural Department in Bern.

Mr. H. C. Corthésy, Second Vice-President of Nestlé, succeeds Dr. Max Petipierre as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Rudolph Rometsch has been appointed head of the Control Section of the International Atomic Energy Authority in Vienna, charged with ensuring that treaties drawn between the great powers to stop the spread of nuclear weapons are observed. He thus becomes the world's first "nuclear police chief".

Mr. Claude Ketterer succeeds Mrs. Lise Girardin as Mayor of Geneva.

The Federal Council has decided a number of high-level transfers in the armed forces: Divisional Commander Hans Wildbolz, of the planning department of the General-Staff succeeds retiring Divisional Commander Colonel Hans Eichin as head of Mechanised Division 4. Brigadier Fritz Wick, head of a Frontier Brigade, is promoted to the rank of Divisional Commander, succeeding Colonel Hans von Sprecher as head of Mountain Division 12. Brigadier Georg Reichlin of the Training Department of the General Staff succeeds Divisional Commander Colonel Harald de Courten as head of Mountain Division 9, and is promoted to the same rank. Colonel Harald de Courten becomes head of Artillery, in succession of Divisional Commander Colonel Max Pétry who retires, having attained the age-limit.

(A.T.S.)

ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

The International Centre of the Swiss Watchmaking Industry (CFH) was asked by the National Association of Goldsmiths, one of the most important professional associations for watchmaking and jewellery in Great Britain, to give a week of lectures and seminars in Glasgow, Manchester and Nottingham. This is the first phase of a programme of continuous instruction to be given to British watch dealers with the help of CFH. (OSEC)

The International Rentokil Group (Rentokil Laboratories at Felcourt near East Grinstead in Sussex) have opened a branch in Geneva, and they are operating their pest control services in Switzerland.

A number of Britishers took part in the General Guisan Memorial March at his birthplace of Mézières (Vaud) in June. 9000 people participated, including some from France and Germany.

Seven students and two teachers from Kingston College of Art visited Switzerland for five days and went to a number of textile centres. They were the winners of a competition arranged by Swiss textile manufacturers.

The British Travel Association opened a "Come to Britain Agency" in Zurich. Last year, 111,000 Swiss visited Great Britain.

Fourteen handicapped girls had a dream come true when they were told they could have a holiday in Switzerland. They spent 10 days at Seelisberg. The girls are between 12 and 17 and are all in wheelchairs.

The Monteverdi Concessionaires Ltd. is the name of a company who will market the high-performance Swiss car designed and constructed by Mr. Peter Monteverdi. The 155 m.p.h. four-seater will cost £10,450, including purchase tax.

(By Courtesy of A.T.S., OSEC and "Weekly Tribune" Geneva)

MESSAGE FROM BERNE

Do you want a Pestalozzi Almanach?

Together with the message to the Swiss Abroad from the President of the Confederation, the Director of the *Auslandschweizersekretariat* (Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne) has reminded us that the Pestalozzi Almanach will again be available in German (for boys *or* girls @ Fr. 4.40), in French (for boys *and* girls same price), and in Italian (Fr. 2.30), plus postage. These are considerable reductions from the normal sale price. Please order not later than 15th September.

Mr. Ney also expresses his hope that many Swiss from abroad will not only attend the Assembly at Montreux at the end of August, but will visit the Secretariat in Berne. He and the staff will always be happy to receive visitors.