

The new federal councillor

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ANGLO-SWISS NEWS

At the end of October, five British journalists flew to Switzerland in a D.C.-9 at the invitation of Swissair. For three days they travelled through the Grisons, visiting various holiday resorts. The aim of the invitation was to prove that even on £50 travel allowance, Switzerland was an excellent holiday place for British tourists.

The Council of the Swiss Protestant Church Federation sent a message to the British Embassy in Berne, expressing sympathy with all those affected by the Aberfan disaster.

Early in November, the former British Prime Minister Mr. Harold Macmillan visited Nyon. The local authorities and tourist organisation arranged a special reception in honour of the British Statesman.

Orell-Fuessli in Zurich have published the book by Geoffrey Bocca "Die Frau, die Königin werden wollte", the life of the Duchess of Windsor.

Winterthur, like Zurich, Schaffhausen and Baden, is to have a "Radio-Hyde-Park Corner" where passers-by are invited to air their views for transmission by Swiss wireless.

At the end of November, the Federal Council announced that the Swiss credits to strengthen sterling amounted to 519m. Swiss francs.

Like Municipal Presidents of other EFTA countries, National Councillor Dr. R. Tschäppät, Mayor of Berne, and his wife were invited to London on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's Show. On his return, Dr. Tschäppät gave a Press interview.

In accordance with the present trend towards international co-operation, the English Electric Company Ltd. and the Swiss firm of Sulzer Bros. Co. Ltd. have signed an agreement in the field of diesel traction, according to which the two firms agree to co-operate in the development of the high-power Sulzer LVA 24 diesel railway engine, at present developing 4,000 h.p. In addition the English Electric Company has been granted the exclusive right to manufacture and sell this type of engine in the United Kingdom for both home requirements and export.

Mr. Edward Heath, Leader of the Opposition, paid a visit to Zurich early in December. He spoke to the Swiss-British Society and gave a talk at the *Aula* of the University on "Britain and Europe". The British Ambassador and the former Federal Councillor Dr. F. T. Wahlen were present.

The British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce gave a regional luncheon party in Geneva, at which the British Ambassador to Switzerland, Sir Robert Isaacson, and Sir John E. Coulson, Secretary-General of EFTA, were the main guests.

The British film "Khartoum" was shown at a special performance in aid of the Florence flood victims on 14th December in Zurich. The show was under the patronage of the British and Italian Ambassadors, the *Regierungspraesident* of the Canton of Zurich and the Municipal President. The Regimental Band, First Battalion Norfolk and Suffolk Royal Anglian Regiment, caused great excitement by their performance before and after the film. A reception followed at the Guildhouse "Meise".

On 9th December, the Swiss Winston Churchill Foundation was formed. National Councillor W. Bretscher is Chairman of the Council, and among the members are the former Federal Councillors Streuli and Petitpierre and Dr. A. Daeniker, former Ambassador in London.

From 23rd to 26th December, twenty-nine members of the Kodak Theatre Group, London, sang English

Christmas Carols in various places in Switzerland. The programme had been arranged by the Foundation "Pro Helvetia" in conjunction with the Swiss National Tourist Office.

Finally, ratification documents were exchanged between Switzerland and Great Britain concerning the double-taxation agreement of 1954, the amendment having been signed in London on 14th June 1966.

(Mainly by courtesy of Agence
Télégraphique Suisse.)

THE NEW FEDERAL COUNCILLOR

Dr. Nello Celio was born on 12th February 1914 at Quinto (Leventina). His father died when he was one year old, and his mother, a teacher, brought him up. He went to school at Airolo and in Bellinzona, where he received the diploma of commerce in 1932. He studied law in Basle and Berne and graduated *summa cum laude* in 1937.

After working at a lawyer's at Faido, he opened his own practice in 1939. Two years later, he became Secretary to the Cantonal Department of the Interior. In 1945, he advanced to Attorney of the Sopraceneri, and at the age of 32, he was elected into the Council of State where he remained until 1959. Building and road construction and the development of water power were his special concerns.

He then opened his own successful practice in Lugano, together with National Councillor Dr. Brenno Galli. In 1960, he was elected into the Municipal Council and three years later into the Federal Parliament. He presided over the Liberal-Radical Party of the Ticino and from 1960 to 1964, the Liberal-Democratic Party.

He is married and has two children.

The new Federal Councillor speaks French, German and "Schwyzertütsch" fluently, as well as his native Italian. He announced that he would speak French in Parliament.

He is the sixth Ticinese Federal Councillor since 1848. His reception in his home Canton was overwhelming. The special train carrying him through Lucerne, Uri and the Ticino, was given a tremendous welcome. The Presidents of the two Chambers and last year's Federal President Dr. Hans Schaffner accompanied him.

[A.T.S.]

SWISS SUCCESS IN ILLUMINATION TECHNIQUE

An American firm, affiliated to a holding company in Geneva, has just been commissioned to manufacture and install the lighting equipment for the municipal stadium at San Diego, California. The lighting which will make possible the retransmission of night games by colour television, will be provided by 1,166 projectors, comprising 366 5,000-watt incandescent lamps, giving a total illumination of 115,000 lumens, and 800 1,000-watt metal vapour lamps, providing a luminosity of 90,000 lumens. San Diego stadium will be the first in the world to be equipped with lighting of this kind. All the plans were made in Geneva by another firm, a subsidiary of the same holding company. It should be mentioned that these same firms have already supplied the lighting for St. Peter's Cathedral in Geneva, the fountain in the lake there and Charmilles stadium, also in Geneva, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Kemal Atatürk mausoleum in Ankara as well as the main bridges in New York.

[O.S.E.C.]