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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Nadim Dêméchié has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Lebanon.

The newly appointed Minister was in 1944, Commercial Attaché in London, in 1947, Consul General at Ottawa, and afterwards Chargé d'Affaires at Cairo, with the rank of Minister.

A Swiss Consular Agency has been opened in Konakry (French Guinea) under the direction of M. André Albrecht, Consular Agent. The agency is subordinated to the Swiss Consulate at Dakar.

Mr. A. Wirz, Head of the "Eidg. Zentralstelle für Arbeitsbeschaffung", Berne, has vacated his post on reaching retiring age, he is succeeded by Dr. R. Bommeli.

Customs receipts for the month of September, 1955, amounted to 67.2 million francs, or 6.7 million francs more than in September, 1954.

During the first nine months of the current year the receipts amounted to 428.5 million francs, which is 53.5 million francs more than during the same period in 1954.

Cantonal

National-Councillor Arnold Wagner (Conservative), who recently retired from the Government of the canton Nidwalden, has announced that he will not be a candidate at the next Parliamentary elections. [A.T.S.]

The Italian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Maurilio Coppeni, was the guest of the Government of the canton of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Guido Riva, formerly head surgeon at the Ziegler hospital in Berne, has been appointed in the

same capacity at the Tiefenan hospital, Berne. Dr. Riva is "Privatdozent" at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident occurred in Obermurgenthal (Ct. Aargau) costing the lives of three persons. A car driven by Fritz Hängärtner (aged 39) of Uster (Ct. Zurich) collided with a lorry, the driver, his wife (aged 37) and his two years old daughter were killed. [A.T.S.]

Traffic accidents during the month of September, 1955, in the canton of Basle-Town, numbered 157; 116 persons were injured. [A.T.S.]

The heirs of the recently deceased Dr. Fritz Sturzenegger, a former member of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen, have left to the canton of Schaffhausen a considerable number of pictures by the late painter Hans Sturzenegger (1875-1943), who was a pupil of Hans Thoma, one of the most eminent painters of his time. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident occurred near Hunzenschwil, (Ct. Aargau) when two cars were involved in a head on collision. Camille Andrey, hotel employee of Zurich was killed, and his wife and four years old son were seriously injured. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Spartaco Zeli, Judge at the Appeal Court of the canton of Ticino, has resigned from his post. He will open a practice as a lawyer in Bellinzona. [A.T.S.]

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 25th, 1955, together with remittance for 6/-.

Flight-corporal Ralph Sennhauser (aged 25) of Zurich was killed when his machine crashed near Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Two men entered a jewellery establishment in the Via Nassa in Lugano and attacked the proprietor aged 70; they then decamped with an amount of 1,000.—frs., and a number of watches. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the Delegates Meeting of the Swiss Alpine Club, which took place at Neuchâtel, Mr. Robert Wenck (Basle) was elected Central President for 1956-58. Dr. Wilhelm Jost (Berne) and Dr. Kreis (Chur) were elected as honorary members. [A.T.S.]

An official visit was paid to the Government of the canton of Valais, by the Belgian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Pierre Attilio Forthomme. He was welcomed on behalf of the cantonal authorities, by Mr. Schnyder, President of the Government of the canton of Valais. [A.T.S.]

Klemens Williner (Visp), clerk of the court Sitten (Ct. Valais), has been arrested and charged with embezzling an amount of 80,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Pagan, examining Magistrate of the Canton of Geneva, stated that there were no grounds for charges in connection with the crash of a Swissair airliner off Folkestone last year with the loss of three British lives.

The plane ran short of petrol and force-landed in the Channel. M. Pagan said investigations had shown the plane was not refuelled in Geneva before leaving for London, but this could not be ascribed to a fault by the crew, and the crew could not be accused of abandoning persons in danger of death after the crash.

* * *
DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Andreas Laely, former States Councillor, at Davos, at the age of 92. The deceased, a former teacher, changed over to Journalism, and was for several years Editor of the "Davoser Zeitung", and from 1920-1936 political Editor of the "Freien Rätier", Chur. Laely was from 1901-1908, "Landammann" of Davos, and from 1909-1917, a member of the Government of the canton of Grisons. He sat in Parliament (States Council) from 1913-1935.

Dr. Alfred Rudolf, from 1928-1946, a member of the Government of the canton of Berne, in Berne, aged 79.

Emile Bleuer, for many years President of the "Union des branches annexes de l'horlogerie", in Bienne, at the age of 61.

Eduard Hitz, "Kantonsförster", and for 25 years Editor of the paper of the "Schweizerischen Unterförsterverbandes" in Schaffhausen, aged 65, owing to an accident.

Dr. Carl Pernoux, a former teacher of Latin and French at the "Realgymnasium", Basle, in Basle at the age of 71.

Dr. Fritz Steiner, formerly Director of the "Eidg. Amtes für Verkehr", in Berne, aged 70.

Richard Boyet-Grisel, Journalist, and from 1906-1913, General Secretary of the Swiss Press Association, in Berne, at the age of 77.

Professor Charles Knapp, Professor of Law at the University of Neuchâtel, and at one time Swiss Consul at Mulhouse, in Neuchâtel, aged 53.

Eugen Knie, Principal Manager of the Swiss National Circus Knie for the last 15 years, in Rapperswil (St. Gall) at the age of 65. The deceased was the last of the five brothers who brought this establishment to fame.

Major Hermann Nabholz, from 1925-1930, President of AVIA (Gesellschaft Schweizer Fliegeroffiziere) in Berne, at the age of 68. The deceased had flown with Walter Mittelholzer to Africa in 1932.

Division-Colonel Rudolf Probst, in Berne at the age of 68. He held the following commands in the Swiss Army: the 17th Mountain Infantry Regiment, "Waffenchef" of Infantry, and Chief of Staff of the 3rd Army Corps. Colonel Probst was Military Attaché in Stockholm from 1946-1951. [A.T.S.]

* * *
ANNIVERSARIES.

Francesco Rusca (80) of Chiasso, for 20 years a Member of Parliament (National Council), and formerly President of the Board of the Swiss Co-operative Society, founder of the Chiasso section of the "Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Vereins". The "Jubilar" rendered great service to our country during the first world war in connection with the supply of food.

Dr. Phil Fritz Gysin (60) of Zurich, Director of the "Schweizerischen Landesmuseum", Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *
LEGACIES.

The late Fritz Heiniger-Bloch, of Münchenstein, administrator of the "Bürgschaftsgenossenschaft"

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Basle-Country, has left an amount of 20,000.—frs. to the community of Münchenstein for the poor.

[A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Zellweger-Daumüller of Au (Ct. St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

Zürich has at last fallen into line with most of other cantons of the Swiss Confederation by reducing the age of admission to cinemas from 18 to 16 years. The higher limit has been honoured more in the breach than in the observance, but even so the decision to lower it was not taken by the cantonal council without much opposition.

Many arguments were advanced in favour of the lower age limit. A girl, it was pointed out, could marry at 17 but could not attend a cinema.

* * *

The Swiss Government has been questioned in Parliament about the Swiss national park in the Engadine, where it has been proposed to create an artificial lake and a hydro-electric power plant. The scheme involves the harnessing of the Spoel river and would benefit a number of communes.

The scheme was strongly opposed, first on the ground that the national park, created in 1909, should not be spoilt and secondly that any damming work would harm both the animal and plant life in it.

The Government replied that the question was not settled, but that the communes were seeking some compromise with the electric company. Once agree-

ment had been reached the question of the concession (which can only be granted by the Government) would be examined.

* * *

The city of Basle will celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of its foundation in 1957.

Munatius Plancus, one of Caesar's lieutenants, laid the first stone of what was to become one of Switzerland's most prosperous trading centres and one of the great Rhine ports.

In connection with the 2,000th birthday celebrations, special open air shows are being planned in the amphitheatre of Augustus, near Basle. Relays of runners will come from Gaeta, Italy, where Munatius Plancus is buried, with a special message.

* * *

The Swiss Government have been asked to ban the eating of frogs in Switzerland by the Swiss Society for the Protection of Animals.

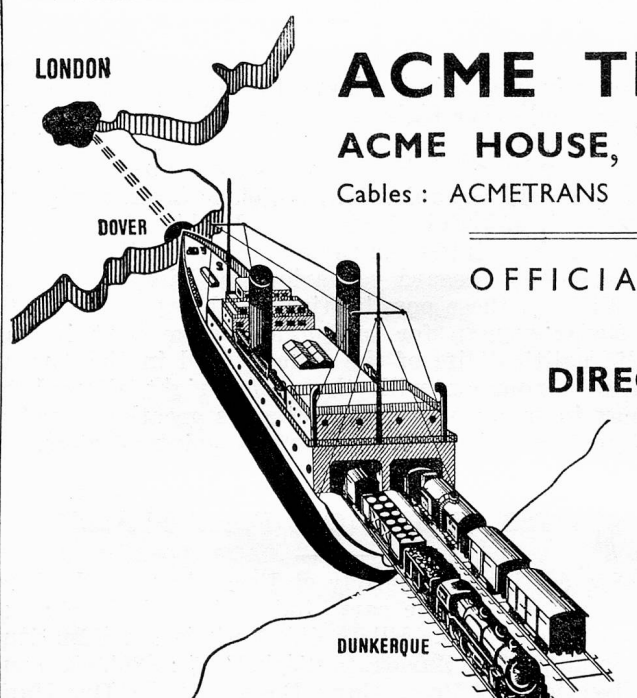
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The Swiss postal authorities are to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the United Nations with a special series of six service stamps for mail from the United Nations at Geneva.

The stamps will be on sale from October 24 as a commemorative stamp not for the ordinary postal service.

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Switzerland's only skyscraper has been finished in Chaux-de-Fonds, the centre of the watchmaking industry. It has 21 floors and contains 90 flats and office suites. There is a night club on the top floor.



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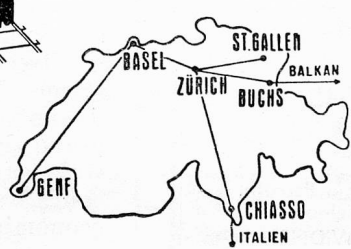
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