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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

Dr. Arnold Sonderegger, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary, and Envoy Extraordinary to Indonesia, in succession to Minister Otto Seifert, who will be transferred to another post.

Minister Sonderegger was born in 1898 at Alstätten (Ct. St. Gall). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Fribourg and Heidelberg, and entered into the services of the Federal Political Department in 1928. He has held appointments at the Swiss Consulates in Manchester, Lyons and Bombay. In 1943, whilst at Bombay, he was promoted to the rank of Consul General.

* * *

The Federal Council has transferred Dr. Franz Kappeler, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Beirut, to the Union of South Africa in the same capacity, in succession to Minister Jean de Rham, who will shortly be assigned to another post.

Minister Kappeler was born in 1898, and is a citizen of Frauenfeld. He studied law at the University of Berne where he obtained his doctorate. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1926. Ten years later, 1936, Dr. Kappeler was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Berlin, where he was promoted in 1939, to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1949, he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Lebanon, Irak and Syria, and a year later acted in these countries as Minister Plenipotentiary, as well as in Jordan.

* * *

Dr. Adalbert Koch has been promoted to the rank of Consul General, and will act in this capacity at the Consulate General in Stuttgart.

He was born in 1902 at Basle, and is a citizen of Nuglar (Canton Solothurn). He studied political science at the University of Basle, obtaining there his doctorate. In 1932, Dr. Koch entered the Federal Economic Department, and was transferred to the Federal Political Department in 1946, at the same

time he was sent to the Swiss Consulate General in Shanghai. Since 1953, Adalbert Koch had occupied the post of Chargé d'Affaires, ad int. in Bangkok.

* * *

The Federal Council has nominated Mr. Robert Eindiguer, to be Swiss Honorary Consul at Panama, in succession to the late Mr. H. R. Blau.

He was born at Lausanne in 1910, and is a citizen of St. Prex (Ct. Vaud). Mr. Eindiguer has been in the service of Nestlé's for the last 25 years, and is Manager of their Panama branch.

Dr. Johannes Coreth, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Austria, has presented his credentials to Dr. Markus Feldmann, and M. Max Petitpierre, Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

Customs receipts for the month of January, 1956, totalled 61.7 million francs, or 7 million francs more than in January, 1955.

Cantonal

The Mayor of West Berlin, Professor, Dr. Otto Suhr, has paid a visit to the town of Zurich. Dr. Landolt, Mayor of Zurich, has announced that Dr. Suhr will be the guest of the town. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Christian Streiff-Ritter, President of the Superior Court of the canton of Glarus, for the last 20 years, has tendered his resignation for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

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The accounts for 1955, of the canton of Zug, close with a credit balance of 78,760.—frs. [A.T.S.]

WEMBLEY TOWN HALL

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Dr. h.c. G. Wenk, who has since 1936 represented the canton of Basle-Country in the States Council, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health.

[A.T.S.]

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A large fire which broke out at a depository in the Nadelberg district of Basle, caused damage amounting to two million francs.

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The accounts of the canton of Aargau for 1955, close with a credit balance of 1,831,437.—frs.

* * *

Mr. Mario Soldini, has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Ticino, and Mr. Canevascini, Vice-President.

* * *

On the occasion of her 100th birthday, Mme. Berthe Lorimier, was presented with the traditional easy chair by the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel.

* * *

The late Mr. Leopold Reifferscheidt of Meran (Italy) has legated a part of his property in Geneva to charitable institutions; according to arrangements made with the estate, premises to the value of 3,250,000 Lire have been handed over to the municipal authorities.

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Abbé Henri Bulet, formerly a priest for 40 years at Château d'Oex, in Lully, at the age of 81.

Jean Schütz, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, aged 103.

Mme. C. F. Ramuz-Cellier, the widow of the well-known Swiss writer C. F. Ramuz, in Lausanne, at the age of 85.

Dr. Gian Rudolf Mohr, a former Editor of the "Engadiner Post" and "Freien Rätier", Mayor of the town of Chur from 1935-1951, and formerly a member of the Grand Council of the canton Grisons, and Member of Parliament (National Council), in Chur, at the age of 71.

Dr. Philippe de Vargas, Professor of Theology at University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 67.

Dr. med. Felix Mercanton, medical practitioner and philanthropist, in Montreux, at the age of 89.

Jakob Ernst Sonderegger, portrait painter, in Berne, aged 74.

Oscar Güttinger, engineer, formerly technical manager, and a member of the Board of the "Aufzüge- und Elektromotorenfabrik Schindler & Co., A.G.", Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 73.

Dr. Carl Günther, since 1943, Director of the Teachers Seminary of the canton of Basle, in Basle, aged 65.

Gottlieb Wenger, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Berne, in Berne, at the age of 101.

Mme. Franzisca Hersche-Fässler, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Appenzell, in Appenzell, aged 100.

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. h.c. Charles Steiger (70) of Zurich, President of the Board of the "Ueberseehandel, A.G.", Zurich. Dr. Steiger was at one time a delegate of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in China. The University of

Zurich honoured him in 1949, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. He is an honorary member of the Rotary Clubs of Zurich and Winterthur.

Professor, Dr. h.c. Hans Bernoulli (80) of Bâle, an eminent architect, and at one time a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle Town. In 1947, he was honoured by the University of Basle, with the title of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Max A. Kunz (80) of Zurich, formerly honorary Swiss Consul in Baden (Germany), and for 40 years, until 1939, a member of the staff of the "Badischen Anilinwerken" in Ludwigshafen, and later on assistant to the Chief of the section for "Chemie und Pharmazentica" at the Federal Economic Office in Berne. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, honoured Dr. Kunz, in 1946, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Karl Bickel (70) of Walenstadt, painter and etcher.

Albert Malche (80) of Geneva, a former member of the States Council (Ständerat), and Professor at the University of Geneva.

[A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Mlle. Anna Bengueret, school teacher of Murten, has left an amount of 108,500.—francs to various charitable institutions.

The well-known Lucerne painter, Caspar Hermann, who died in 1955, has left ten of his pictures to the municipality of Lucerne.

Jakob Hugentobler-Heer, farmer of Amlikon, who passed away in 1945, has left 40,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions.

[A.T.S.]

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BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1955: Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft, Zurich: 9 per cent (1954: 8%); Schweizerische Spar- und Kreditbank, St. Gall: 5.143 per cent (1954: 4.5%); Banque de l'Etat Fribourg: 4 per cent (1954: 4%); Hypothekarkasse des Kantons Bern: 4½ per cent (1954: 4½%); Schweizerische Hypothekenbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent (1954: 5%); Schweiz. Volksbank, Berne: 5 per cent (1954: 5%).

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sturzenegger-Lutz of Reute (Ct. Appenzell, A.Rh.); Mr. & Mrs. H. Spörri-Gloor of Zurich-Altstetten, Mr. & Mrs. W. Schönenberger-

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Widler of Hosenruck (Ct. Thurgau); Mr. & Mrs. F. Lüthi, of Winterthur, Töss.

Mr. & Mrs. Briggen-Montandon of Grenchen have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65).
[A.T.S.]

* * *

Switzerland's Alpine fortifications are to be strengthened and frontier troop units reinforced as part of an army reorganisation designed to meet modern needs, the War Minister, M. Paul Chandet, announced in Berne.

M. Chandet said the reorganisation was a compromise between two theories of the best way to meet the military needs of the atomic age. One theory favoured concentrating on the Alpine fortifications, and the other on a high degree of army mechanisation.

* * *

Thirty-four Swiss peasants were fined sums up to £12 10s. for their part in riots over apricot prices at Saxon in August, 1953.

* * *

The discovery around Zürich of 23 unauthorized broadcasting stations does not seem to assume such gravity as the first news ascribed to it. The stations were worked by amateurs who had not registered and amused themselves in broadcasting music and talks, generally of a low level, on various frequencies in the short and ultra-short wave bands.

The consequence was that these unofficial broadcasts often jammed the Swiss Beromunster station and television, and interfered with the wireless security service of the Zürich airport at Kloten.

Swiss agriculture is becoming increasingly motorised. The number of tractors now totals 26,384, about 2,000 more than a year ago, but there are still some 120,000 horses working on Swiss farms.

* * *

The Big Four Conference held in Geneva last July cost the Swiss authorities about £25,000 according to accounts just published.

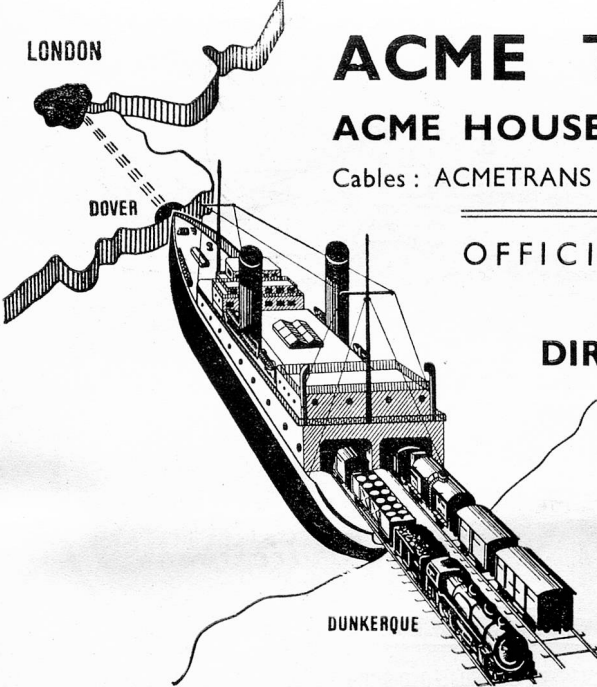
The Foreign Ministers' Conference which followed the "Summit" meeting cost Switzerland £9,000.

The conference on Korea and Indo-China, from April to July, 1954, cost the Swiss authorities about £58,000.

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The 50th Anniversary of the Simplon Tunnel.

The 50th anniversary of the Simplon Tunnel will be commemorated this coming May by Swiss and Italian federal and provincial authorities, as well as the Swiss Federal Railways and the Italian State Railways. A festive opening ceremony is to be held at the "Comptoir Suisse" in Lausanne on May 17th, to be followed by the inauguration of an exhibition dedicated to the Simplon. Italy has scheduled its official celebration for May 18th. On May 19th the President of the Italian Republic, Mr. Giovanni Gronchi, and the Swiss President, Dr. M. Feldmann, will meet at Domodossola. The official festivities will culminate in a celebration and banquet at the Stockalper Palace in Brig, in the upper Rhone Valley, in the presence of the two heads of state. Attractions for visitors to the Simplon region include organised tours, reductions on railway fares for school excursions and several folklore performances.



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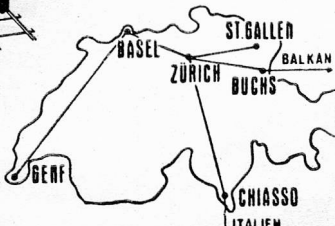
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