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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

Professor Urs Hochstrasser has been appointed cultural Attaché to the Swiss Embassy in Washington. He was born in 1926 and is a citizen of Zurich and Gisikon, and studied mathematics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he received his doctorate.

From 1951 to 1952 Professor Hochstrasser was assistant at the University of California in Los Angeles, and from 1952 to 1954 he occupied a post with the "Flug- und Fahrzeugwerken A-G." Altenrhein. A year later (1955) he entered the service of the "National Bureau of Standards" of the University of Washington. In 1957 Professor Hochstrasser was "associate" Professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Carlos Herrera, the newly appointed Ambassador and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of the Argentine, has presented his credentials to Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

\* \* \*

Customs receipts for the month of September 1958 total 83.7 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 57.1 million francs, or 3.9 million francs more than during the same period in 1957.

During the first nine months of the current year the receipts amount to 524.8 million francs (January to September 1957: 524.0 million francs).

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government has asked the Federal Chambers for authorisation to grant the republic of Turkey a credit of 1.5 million dollars.

\* \* \*

### Cantonal

The paper "Bote der Urschweiz", published in Schwyz, has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation, on which occasion a special number containing forty-eight pages has been issued. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Katharina Stuessi-Zweifel, of Linthal, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Glarus, has died at the cantonal hospital Glarus at the age of 101. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The medical faculty of the University of Heidelberg has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on Dr. h.c. Hans Zulliger, of Ittigen (Ct. Berne).

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Frau Frieda Wenger (46), of Berne, was drowned near Brissago, when her sailing yacht overturned.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Erziehungsanstalt" Regensberg (Ct. Zurich) for mentally deficient children, has celebrated its 75th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Frau Wwe. M. Kern-Keachis, of Basle, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Italian Ministry of Education has honoured Professor Dr. Rito Roedel, *ordinarius* for Italian literature and language at the Commercial University St. Gall, with the golden "Verdienstmedaille" of the republic of Italy, in recognition of his work on Italian culture. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Life Insurance Company, "La Suisse", of Lausanne, has celebrated its centenary. The company was founded in 1858 by the mathematician, William Rey, of Lausanne — who became its first manager — with an insurance capital of 1,200,000.— francs. To-day the company has issued over 150,000 policies, and the insurance capital amounts to 632,120,430.— francs.

## 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 21st, 1958, together with remittance for 10/-.

The celebration of this event was held at the municipal theatre in Lausanne, in the presence of General Guisan, representatives of the federal and cantonal authorities, the municipal council *in corpore*, delegates from the Federal Insurance Tribunal, insurance companies, banks, universities, etc.

M. Raymond Devrient, President of the Board of "La Suisse", welcomed the numerous guests — amongst them Federal Councillor Chaudet — and referred in his address to the history of the company. Federal Councillor Chaudet delivered the greetings of the Swiss Government. The festivities concluded with a reception at the foyer of the theatre, and a banquet at the castle of Chillon. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eugen Rohr has been elected "Stadtammann", of Brugg. [A.T.S.]

A new political party under the name "Nouvelle gauche socialiste" has been founded at La Chaux-de-Fonds. Its President is Professor M. R. Perrenoud, Professor at the commercial school, Le Locle. [A.T.S.]

One of the oldest Swiss daily newspapers, the "Feuille d'Avis de Neuchâtel" published in Neuchâtel, has celebrated the 220th anniversary of its foundation. The paper was founded in 1738 by François-Louis Lichtenham. To celebrate this event a special number has been issued. The present publisher, M. Marc Wolfrath, mentions in an editorial that at the time of the foundation of the paper the town of Neuchâtel numbered 3,600 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

M. Georges Scyboz, of Morlon, until recently clerk of the Cantonal Tribunal Fribourg, has been elected as secretary to the Federal Supreme Court, Lausanne, in succession to Dr. jur. Jean Castella, who has relinquished his post. [A.T.S.]

The "Schweiz. Metall- und Uhrenarbeiter Verband" has elected Mr. Ernst Wüthrich (53), of Gwatt, as its President, in succession to the late National Councillor Arthur Steiner. [A.T.S.]

The Polish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Jozef Kosutski, paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Geneva. He was greeted on behalf of the canton and the town of Geneva by M. Jean Dutoit, President of the Cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

The eight million francs loan at 4 per cent, of the "S.A. des Ateliers de Sécheron" Geneva, has been heavily over-subscribed, and allocations had to be considerably reduced. [A.T.S.]

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The Geneva "Reederei" Arosa Line have sold their vessel "Arosa Sky" to the Italian "Costa Line" for 37 million francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. med. Franz Rumpf, medical practitioner, a keen collaborator of the Swiss Red Cross, in Basle, at the age of 66.

Pierre Parwex, consulting engineer, in Sitten, aged 66. The deceased was a great supporter of Swiss Tourism. The road over the Forclaz and the new bridge at St. Maurice were built after his plans.

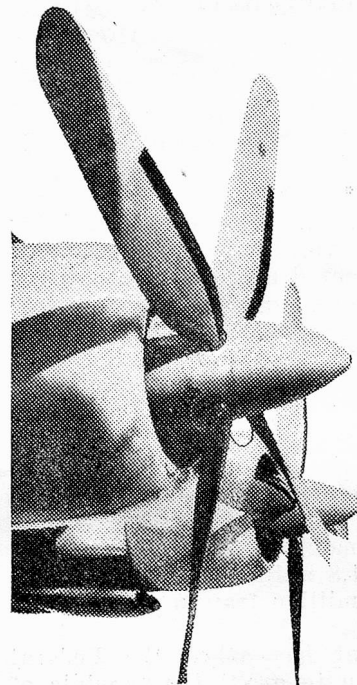
Dr. Jean-Charles Scholder, a former Professor of Medicine at the University of Lausanne, in Fleurier, at the age of 67.

Emil Joho, since 1937 head of the "Schweiz. Beratungsstelle für Unfallverhütung", and from 1934 to 1946 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, in Berne, aged 59.

Andreossi Murezzan, for many years Mayor of St. Moritz, and President of the St. Moritz Ski, Ice Hockey, and Tennis Club, St. Moritz, in St. Moritz, at the age of 61.

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Hans Brunner, composer of chamber music, in Basle, aged 61.

Albert Burmeister, a former teacher at the college of Payerne, and from 1903 to 1956 editor of the paper "Journal de Payerne", in Payerne, at the age of 84.

Men Rauch, founder and editor of the paper "Gasetta Ladina", and afterwards co-editor of the paper "Foegle Ladin", in Schuls, aged 70. The deceased was well known as a writer; for his work he was awarded the "Schiller Prize".

Eugène Coulon, industrialist, and a member of the board of a number of important commercial concerns of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Bevaix, at the age of 84.

Edouard Junod, a teacher at the "Séminaire de français moderne" Geneva, in Geneva, aged 73.

Leonz Kaeslin, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 97.

Mirto Lombardi, Vice-Director of the "Nordostschweizerischen Kraftwerke", and formerly General Secretary of the Swiss Federal Railways, in Baden, aged 57. The deceased held the rank of Colonel in the army.

Hermann Burkhard-Spillmann, for many years a prominent personality in the hotel profession of the town of Lucerne, at the age of 83.

Colonel Edouard de Tschanner, until 1918 a member of the Instructors Corps, and for seven years President of the commune of Lavigny, in Lavigny, aged 81.

Gottfried Kleiner, Vice-President of the administration of the "Migros-Genossenschaftsbundes", and from 1943 to 1947 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 62.  
[A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Gustav Steiner (80), of Basle, pedagogue, historian and author; publisher of the "Birkhäuser Klassiker" (Gottfried Keller and C. F. Meyer) and editor of the "Basler Jahrbuch".

Dr. Hermann Buechi (70), of Basle, historian and economist. The "Jubilar" was from 1931 to 1943 on the editorial staff of the "Basler Nachrichten".

Dr. J. J. Schwendener (70), of Buchs (St. Gall), since 1925 "Gemeindeammann" of Buchs, and from 1944 to 1951 a member of the National Council.

Dr. jur. Rudolf Planta (70), of Rietberg nr. Rodels (Domleschg), from 1941 to 1950 a member of the Government of the canton of Grisons. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1939 to 1941.

Rudolf Wittmer (80), of Basle, for many years manager of the "Basler Kantonalbank".

Dr. Henri Faes (80), of Lausanne, from 1920 to 1944 manager of the "Eidg. Weinbau-Versuchsanstalt" Lausanne, and President of the Swiss Alpine Club from 1926 to 1928.

Paul Burkhard (70), of Richterswil, eminent sculptor. [A.T.S.]

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#### ARMY.

Captain H. U. Weber, of the "Kriegstechnischen Abteilung" Berne, parachuted from a Hunter plane near Unter-Homberg (Ct. Berne) owing to engine trouble. He landed safely, and the plane crashed at Schwendibach sustaining damage.

A military lorry carrying ammunition collided with a military jeep on the road between Praz-de-Fort and Prayon (Ct. Valais) and fell down a 30-metre slope. The driver of the lorry, recruit Samuel Duporex (20), a chauffeur, of Geneva, and recruit

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Alfred Weber (20), a student, of Neuchâtel, lost their lives. Recruits Zuber, Biquerez, Soliard, Gentil and Roy received injuries and were taken to the hospital at Martigny. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

In memory of the recently deceased Professor Dr. Alfred Gysi, of Zurich, his widow has donated the amount of 210,000.— francs to various public utility organisations. [A.T.S.]

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#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Michel-Michel, of Courtedoux; Mr. and Mrs. A. Waelti-Suter, of Bienne; Mr. and Mrs. F. Schneeberger-Rosse, of Court; Mr. and Mrs. A. Gilliéron, of Vevey; Mr. and Mrs. A. Weber-Burger, of Menziken; Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt-Roy, of of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

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#### TRAFFIC AND MOTORING ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car driven by Severin Dufing (36), of Berne, collided with a stationary car at the Bühlstrasse in Berne; the driver was killed, and his passenger was seriously injured.

M. Daniel (39), an insurance inspector, of Geneva, was killed when his car skidded and collided with a tree at the Quai Wilson, Geneva.

A motor-cyclist, Henri Noirjean (30), a farmer, of Dampfreux, collided with a motor-car on the road between Lugnez and Montignez and was killed.

Mr. Hermann Gerber (22), locksmith, of Bliggenswil nr. Bauma, crashed into a stationary car in Wetzikon and received fatal injuries.

A cyclist, Jean Daniel Graf (15), of Berne, collided with a tractor on the road between Gisikon and Inwil (Ct. Lucerne) and was killed.

Two motor-cyclists were involved in a collision at the village of Knonau (Ct. Zurich). One of them, Hans Glarner, a mechanic, of Hausen am Albis, father of four children, was killed.

A motor-car crashed through the railings of a bridge at Aruffens near Romont and fell on to the railway line. The driver, Marcel Schroeter (46), a civil servant, of Berne, and his wife, Rina Schroeter, received fatal injuries.

A motor-cyclist collided with a motor-car near Bodio (Ct. Ticino) and was killed. The name of the victim was Fumagelli (32), of Pollegio.

Four persons were seriously injured when a motor-car ran into a train on the Biel - Täuffelen - Ins route. They were taken to the cantonal hospital at Bienne.

\* \* \*

On crossing the road in Marbach (Ct. St. Gall) Mrs. Klara Burchia-Gori (70), of Marbach, was run over by a car and killed. [A.T.S.]

#### VARIOUS.

The Swiss socialist party has adopted a resolution that any parliamentary decision on the arming of Swiss soldiers with atomic weapons must be put before the country in a national referendum. [A.T.S.]

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Now that the Swiss and Italian Governments have reached agreement on the proposed road tunnel under the Great St. Bernard pass work has begun on the mouth of the tunnel at the Italian end, near Saint Rhémy. Work is expected to begin on the Swiss side before the winter.

\* \* \*

During the first nine months of the current year hail storms have caused serious damage to agricultural land in Switzerland. The "Schweiz. Hagelversicherungs Gesellschaft" has dealt with altogether 19,447 claims, paying out the total amount of 8.3 million francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

At the end of August 1958, 363,391 registered foreigners were employed in Switzerland (225,884 men and 137,507 women). [A.T.S.]

#### SWISS KILLED IN ENGLAND.

A serious motoring accident occurred on the Brighton road near Uckfield early this month, when a Swiss-registered motor-car driven by Mr. Robert Naef, consulting engineer, of Zurich, collided with a lorry. The car driver, his sister, Mrs. Henschen-Naef, wife of the Basle surgeon, Ernst F. Burckhardt, architect, of Küsnacht nr. Zurich, were killed outright. The wife of the driver, Mrs. Naef, and Mrs. E. Burckhardt received serious injuries and were taken to hospital.

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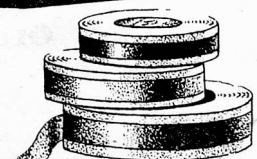
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