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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Last month the President of the Austrian Republic, Dr. Adolf Schaerf, paid an official visit to the Swiss Confederation. On stepping on to Swiss soil, he was greeted at St. Margrethen by M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, and a delegation of the Government of the canton of St. Gall, headed by "Landammann" Dr. Roemer. A military band played the Austrian and the Swiss national anthems, after which the President, accompanied by M. Petitpierre, inspected the Guard of Honour.

The President and his suite then boarded the special train *en route* to the Swiss capital. At Kehrsatz the distinguished guests were received by Dr. Thomas Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Chancellor Oser, and the President of the Government of the canton of Berne, who conducted them to the "Lohn", where they resided during their three-day visit. After a private luncheon the President, accompanied by the Vice-President of the Confederation, M. Chaudet, and high Government officials, drove in open carriages to the Palais Fédéral. Large crowds watched the procession, which wended its way through the gaily decorated streets of the capital.

On its arrival at the Palais Fédéral a military band played the Austrian national anthem, and after inspecting the Guard of Honour Dr. Schaerf entered the building of the Federal Parliament, where he was received by the members of the Federal Council *in corpore*.

Dr. Holenstein, in his address of welcome, stressed the friendly relations which exist between the two countries, saying that the visit of the head of a neighbouring State is greatly appreciated by both the Swiss Government and the entire population.

Dr. Schaerf in his reply thanked the Federal Council for the friendly reception accorded him, and referred to the long-standing and happy good relations

which have been maintained even in the darkest hours of his country.

The first day of the visit terminated with a State Banquet at the Palace Hotel at which were present all the members of the Federal Council, as well as the President of the National Council, R. Bratschi, army-corps commander Annasohn, Chief of the General Staff, H. Huber, President of the Government of the canton of Berne, Dr. Freimüller, Mayor of the town of Berne, Monsieur J. Coreth, the Austrian Ambassador, and Dr. R. Hohl, Swiss Ambassador in Vienna.

On the second day Dr. Schaerf, in the company of Federal Councillor Dr. Streuli, paid a visit to the works of the Omega Watch Company in Bienne. In the evening President Schaerf gave a dinner to the members of the Federal Council at the Palace Hotel in Berne. Apart from the members of the Government there were present the Austrian Ambassador and his collaborators, Federal Chancellor Dr. Oser, Divisional Colonel Kuenze — who throughout the visit acted as aide-de-camp to the President — Minister de Rham, Dr. Hohl, Swiss Ambassador in Vienna, Mr. Huber, President of the Government of the canton of Berne, Dr. Freimüller, Mayor of the town of Berne, and a number of high officials. After dinner the Austrian President gave a reception at which five hundred persons attended.

On the third and last day of the visit, Dr. Schaerf, accompanied by Federal Councillor Dr. Feldmann, went to the Jungfrauoch, and later in the afternoon he took leave of Dr. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, in Interlaken, travelling by special train to Buchs.

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The Swiss and Italian Governments have concluded an agreement relating to the construction of a transalpine road tunnel beneath the Great St. Bernard Pass.

* * *

The foreign diplomats accredited to the Swiss Confederation in Berne offered the traditional dinner to the members of the Federal Council, at which all members of the Government attended. There were also present Dr. C. Oser, Federal Chancellor, Dr. W. Stauffer, President of the Federal Supreme Court, Army-corps commander Annasohn, Chief of the General Staff, Mr. Huber, President of the Government of the canton Berne, Dr. H. Gschwind, General Manager of the P.T.T. administration, Dr. R. Motta, Deputy President of the Swiss National Bank, as well as a number of high Government officials, all with their ladies.

The following diplomats have presented their letters of credence to Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne: Sir William Horace Montagu-Pollock, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Great Britain, Monsieur Sri Rama Prasad Manandhar, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Nepal, and Monsieur Tomas de Castro, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Philippines.

Cantonal

The "Jugendbuch" prize for 1958, which is annually presented by the Swiss Teachers' Association for children's books, has been awarded to Anna Keller, of Basle. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Emil Baumann (77), Sub-Manager of the "Chocolate Tobler, A.G." Berne, has celebrated his 60th service jubilee. He entered the firm in 1898 as an apprentice. [A.T.S.]

The medical faculty of the University of Kiel (Germany), has honoured Professor Jakob Klaesi, *ordinarius* for psychiatry at the University of Berne, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

The "Konservatorium" in Berne, formerly known as the "Orchesterschule", has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

A competitor at the 23rd Saentis Ski Race, owing to bad visibility, ran into a group of spectators. The skier and two onlookers were badly injured; one of the latter, Christine Doerig (13), of Weissbad, died from her injuries. The race was abandoned. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Chemical Firm, "J. R. Geigy, A.G." of Basle, has celebrated its 200th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Dr. phil. B. Mani, editor of the "Neuen Bündner Zeitung", has relinquished his post on reaching retiring age. He is succeeded by Dr. Etienne Schnöller, formerly chief editor of the papers "Nation" and "Wochenzeitung". [A.T.S.]

The commune of Scherzingen (Ct. Thurgau) has honoured Mr. August Rütishauser with honorary citizenship for his many services rendered to the community. He is a pioneer of winegrowing, and also was at one time commander of the 7th frontier brigade. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Pirino Tatti, Mayor of the town of Bellinzona, has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to the late Aleardo Pini. [A.T.S.]

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A fire which broke out at a furniture warehouse in Vevey caused damage estimated at 300,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

The Neuchâtel Observatory has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

M. Albert Dussoix (47) has been elected Mayor of the town of Geneva for 1958/59. [A.T.S.]

The Geographical Society of Geneva has celebrated its centenary. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Salomon Schoenberg, formerly Professor of Medicine at the University of Basle, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town, in Basle, at the age of 79.

Konrad Wyss, a prominent trade union official, in Zurich, aged 81.

Henri Stucki, a former Manager of the "Schweiz. Bankverein" Basle, in Basle, at the age of 72.

Emil Schibli, author, in Bienne, aged 67.

Paul Dickmann, from 1943 to 1951 "Bauernsekretär" of the canton of Thurgau, and from 1944

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to 1956 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau, in Rohren, aged 67.

Mme. Hedwig Frei, sculptress, and "Zentral-Präsident" of the Swiss painters and sculptors association, in Basle, at the age of 52.

Joseph Beuret-Frantz, author and journalist, in Berne, aged 80.

Major Gottfried Kupferschmied, for many years "Waffenkontrollleur" of the 2nd Division, in Berne, at the age of 89.

Rudolf Geering-Christ, printer and antiquary, in Basle, aged 87.

Oscar Tobler, a former "Bezirksammann", in St. Gall, at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Walter von Wartburg (70), of Basle, Professor of Philology at the University of Basle.

Dr. Henry Detraz (80), of Vevey, formerly Director of the "Aluminium-Industrie, A.G." Neuhausen, and President of the "Energie electric du Simplon". Dr. Detraz is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Basle.

Carl Gutknecht (80), of Basle, the well-known sculptor.

Helen Dahm (80), of Oetwil (Ct. Zurich), eminent still-life painter.

Dr. med. Philipp Sarasin (70), of Basle, well-known psychiatrist, and President of the "Schweiz. Gesellschaft für Psychoanalyse".

René Morax (85), of Morges, Founder of the "Théâtre du Jorat", and a leading personality in the dramatic sphere of Western Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Seven persons were injured, some of them seriously, when two motor-cars collided at the Seestrasse in Kuesnacht-Goldbach. It is reported that the driver of one of the cars fell asleep.

Two persons suffered serious injuries, and Walter Ott (23) was killed, when a motor-car driven at excessive speed skidded on the road between Russikon and Hittnau (Ct. Zurich).

A motor-cyclist, Friedrich Faist (28), of Waldshut, was killed in a collision between his motor-cycle and a car. The driver of the car did not stop after the accident, but was later arrested by the police.

A jeep driven by a soldier, Joerg Kugler (21), of Kreuzlingen, collided with a motor-car in Rorschach; the driver of the jeep was killed.

A motor-cyclist, Bernard Christinat (17), of Geneva, was killed in a collision with a lorry in the Rue de Lyon, Geneva.

Mr. Adolf Stadelmann (45), of Ebikon, father of four children, was run over by a car when crossing the road and was killed. [A.T.S.]

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Three persons were killed and one seriously injured when a motor-car driven by a woman, while overtaking another car between Kirchberg and Oeschberg (Ct. Berne), skidded and crashed into a tree. Those killed were: Gerhard Gfeller (17), Bruno Haenni (18) and Gaston Moser (18), all of Berne. The woman driver was taken to the hospital at Burgdorf.

A motor-car collided with a train at a level-crossing between Studen and Bütigen (Ct. Berne). The driver of the car, Eduard Aeberhard (38), and Oscar Grandjean, both of Bienne, were killed. The son of the driver, Markus Aeberhard, was taken to hospital.

Between Thun and Hilterfingen a motor-car crashed into a tree. The driver of the car was seriously injured, and his passengers, Ida Gmuer and Rudolf Keocke, both of Winterthur, were killed.

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LEGACIES.

The late Fräulein Emmy Roth of Schwyz has left legacies of 20,000.—francs each to the "Krankenhaus" Schwyz, and the "Armenfürsorge" Teufen (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.). [A.T.S.]



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VARIOUS.

The Salvation Army in Switzerland has celebrated its 75th jubilee; its evangelical mission — which at one time suffered much opposition and ridicule — started at Geneva. To-day it numbers 120 corps and 140 "outposts", and maintains 42 social institutions.

The organisation publishes two papers, "Der Kriegerstuf" and "Der junge Soldat", in German and French, with a circulation of 54,000 copies. Commissioner Henri L. Becquet is the head of the Salvation Army in Switzerland.

* * *

According to statistics published by the Swiss Federal Railways, the receipts at the following railway stations for 1957 were: Zurich, 49 million francs, Berne, 19.2 million francs, Basle, 18.8 million francs, Geneva, 16.1 million francs, Lausanne, 14.7 million francs, Lucerne, 10.1 million francs, Winterthur, 7.3 million francs, Bienne, 6.3 million francs, St. Gall, 6.3 million francs, and Neuchâtel, 4.1 million francs.

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A number of Commercial Attachés, representing thirteen countries accredited to the Swiss Confederation, have visited various watch-manufacturing concerns. [A.T.S.]

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The first "specimens" of ultra-modern Swiss Federal Railways' first and second class carriages are now being tried out in the regular high-speed express trains on the Zurich-Geneva line.

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The 13th International Festival of Music at Montreux will take place under the designation "Septembre Musical" from 5th September to 9th October 1958. The following orchestras and choirs are scheduled to participate: Symphony Orchestra and Choir of the Bavarian Broadcasting Company, Munich; Orchestre National, Paris; and Symphony Orchestra and Choir of Radio Northern Germany, Hamburg. The list of the soloists includes, among others, such celebrities as Alexander Brailowsky, Robert Casadesu, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Clara Haskil, Nathan Milstein, Arthur Rubinstein, and Isaac Stern. Further details are contained in a special folder obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458, Strand, London, W.C.2.

CRONACA NOSTRANA.

Nella seduta di giovedì 22 maggio scorso, del Gran Consiglio del Cantone Ticino, discutendosi l'entrata in materia sulla *nuova legge scolastica*, il Direttore del Dip° della Pubblica Educazione, on. Brenno Galli, ha fatto una chiara esposizione degli scopi, della funzione e dei programmi dei singoli ordini di scuola. Al capitolo che concerne l'ordinamento dei Ginnasi, l'on. Galli ha detto come sia tempo ormai di sdrammatizzare la questione, che per aspetti polemici è salita ad intensità ingiustificata. La riforma del 1942 fu una cosa pianamente discussa in buona fede con l'intento di cercare una via migliore. Ma l'esperienza non è stata conforme alle aspettative, la delusione è evidente, totale, anche se un gruppo di docenti che ieri disse no — o viceversa, ora dice sì — o viceversa. Non si tratta mutando, né di valorizzare l'uno né di svalutare l'altro istituto. Ha ammesso appena che su certi piani teorici o di comodo una prima liceo che riassume le quinte ginnasio può essere da taluni preferita. Ma occorre badare ai programmi e soprattutto avvertire che se il Liceo di quattro anni e la magistrale di quattro anni fossero veramente determinate dall'a necessità di aggiungere sapere, non un anno all'inizio — la quinta ginnasio — occorrerebbe aggiungergli — ma un anno alla fine, per uscirne più dotti a venti anni e non un anno prima. Del resto non devono essere perduti di vista il programma della maturità federale e le esperienze degli altri per recare anche più definitivi argomenti ad una tesi, che ancora illustra cavando il nucleo di un dibattito che per molti si è fatto noiosa rimescolatura di superficiali e non capite frasi altrui.

RACCOLTE DI QUA E DI LA'.

BELLINZONA — In sostituzione del compianto avv. Alcardo Pini al Consiglio Nazionale veniva a suo tempo proclamato dal Consiglio di Stato il primo subentrante nella lista del Partito liberale-radical, l'on. Giovan Battista Rusca, sindaco di Locarno. Ma l'on. Rusca non ha voluto assumere il mandato ed ha rassegnato le sue dimissioni. Gli succede il sindaco di Bellinzona, on. dott. Pierino Tatti, primo subentrante nella lista, che ha dichiarato di accettare la carica e che pertanto rappresenterà il Ticino al Consiglio Nazionale per l'attuale legislatura.

LUCERNA — La comunità d'azione "Pro San Gottardo" ha organizzato il 21 maggio scorso una giornata informativa presieduta dal cons. di stato Franz Arnold di Flüelen. Il capo del Dip° dell'Interno, on. Etter, ha ricordato l'importanza grande della strada del S. Gottardo per la Svizzera e l'Europa. Dal 1935 a oggi sono stati spesi per la grande arteria del traffico nord-sud 50 milioni di Fr., di cui 35 a carico della Confederazione, ma ciò non basta. La Commissione nazionale della pianificazione stradale prevede di spendere altri 106 milioni per allargare e migliorare la strada da Altdorf a Castione. Il bilancio per il S. Gottardo che comprende anche le strade d'accesso è di 313 milioni di Fr. Prima di cominciare i lavori, ha concluso l'on. Etter, bisogna naturalmente aspettare la decisione del popolo che il 6 luglio prossimo dovrà pronunciarsi sull'articolo



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