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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

The Federal Council has changed the Vice-Consulate at Tangier into a Consulate and has appointed Mr. Ernst Kurt to the rank of Consul.

The new Consul is a citizen of Roggwil (Ct. Berne), born in 1905. He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office) in 1936. His previous posts were at Barcelona, Caracas and Madrid.

* * *

The Swiss Legation in Colombia has been raised to the status of an Embassy. Monsieur André Parodi, at present Swiss Minister at Bogota, has been nominated as Ambassador.

* * *

The following diplomats have presented their credentials to Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne: Monsieur Ernst-Guenter Mohr, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of West Germany, and Monsieur Mullath Kadingi Volloodi, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of India.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of May 1958 total 82.7 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 60.7 million francs, or 0.5 million francs more than during the same period in 1957.

During the first five months of the current year the receipts amount to 286.5 million francs (January to May 1957: 296.6 million francs).

* * *

The Berne section of the Swiss-American Society for cultural relations gave a reception at the castle of Oberhofen (Lake of Thoune) in honour of the American Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Henry Taylor. The reception was attended by a large number of members of the Society and the municipal authorities of Berne.

Mr. Stettler, Director of the Historical Museum in Berne, gave an outline of the history of the castle.

Cantonal

Burglars entered the premises of the jewellery establishment "Gübelin Soehne" in Lucerne and decamped with goods to the value of 100,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

21-year-old Fridolin Meyer, employed at the railway station Alpnach-Dorf, and his fiancée, Raymonde Büchler (18), of Hochdorf, lost their lives while on an excursion on the Pilatus. [A.T.S.]

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, 1st August, 1958
6.45 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

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The well-known advertising concern "Mosse Annoncen, A.G." Zurich has celebrated its 75th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The Restaurant "Walhaus" at the Gerschnialp near Engelberg has been totally destroyed by fire. [A.T.S.]

Mr. J. Humbert-Droz, for many years Central Secretary of the Swiss Socialist Party, has resigned from his post. [A.T.S.]

A 78-year-old woman was attacked by a masked man in her home at Dietikon (Zurich). After robbing her of the sum of 660.— francs he decamped in a taxi.

The gangster, aged 17, was later arrested by the police. The woman, who was hit with a broomstick, suffered severe shock. [A.T.S.]

The cashier of the commune of Interlaken has been arrested and charged with embezzlement. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1957 of the "Bürgerspital" Basle show a deficit of 8.9 million francs. [A.T.S.]

The 50 million francs loan at 4½ per cent of the "Grande Dixence S.A." was heavily over-subscribed and allocations had to be considerably reduced. [A.T.S.]

A canoe collided with a pillar of the military bridge on the Reuss near Eggenwil (Ct. Aargau). The occupant, Hans Urech (19), designer, of Brugg, was drowned. [A.T.S.]

Two workmen employed by the electric power station of the Maggia valley (Ct. Ticino) lost their lives, and two received severe injuries, when an explosion occurred. Those killed were Pio Baggiolini (50) and Aurelio Piazza (30), both of Brissago. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1957 180,000 persons visited the Chateau Chillon on the Lake of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

A child, Marline Audetat, of La Côte-aux-Fees (Ct. Neuchâtel), when trying to board a moving train at the railway station of Neuchâtel, fell under the train; her legs were crushed. A collection made for her in the canton of Neuchâtel and the rest of Switzerland brought in the amount of 126,314.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Elisa Jacot-Nicoud, of La Chaux-de-Fonds, has celebrated her hundredth birthday. On this occasion, she was presented by the cantonal authorities with the traditional easy-chair. [A.T.S.]

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Pierre Jaccoud (53), a lawyer in Geneva, has been arrested in connection with the murder in May of this year of Charles Zumbach at Plan-les-Ouates (Geneva). He is also charged with attempting to murder Zumbach's wife. [A.T.S.]

A monument, executed by the sculptor H. Koenig, to the memory of the Bernese painter Ferdinand Hodler was unveiled at Geneva in the presence of Mme. Magnenat-Hodler (the daughter of the painter), M. A. Dussoix (Mayor of the town of Geneva), and a great number of well-known personalities. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Giuseppe de Micheli, manager of a forwarding agency in Chiasso, in Milan, as the result of a motoring accident.

Dr. Leo Mann, lawyer, in Pratteln, at the age of 69. The deceased was from 1927 to 1945, and since 1953, a member of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-Country, from 1935 to 1951 a member of the National Council, and from 1945 to 1950 a member of the cantonal Government.

Dr. h.c. Franz Staempfli, in Grindelwald. He was Attorney-General from 1916 to 1949. The University of Berne honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

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Victor Kaesermann, for twenty-nine years a member of the Board of the "Tribune de Lausanne", in Lausanne, aged 73.

Daniel Haud-Bovy, in Geneva. The deceased was for twelve years rector of the "Ecole des beaux-arts", and for ten years Director of the "Musée d'art et histoire" Geneva. The University of Geneva bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

ARMY.

A military jeep occupied by two officers and a non-commissioned officer crashed in a wood near Rances. One officer, Robert Ferrazino (41), head of the News Department of Radio Geneva, was killed, and the other officer and the non-commissioned officer received serious injuries and had to be taken to the hospital at Yverdon. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Eugen Wyler (70), of Berne, author, and Honorary President of the International Mayors Union.

Ernst Fischer von Kaenel (80), of Münsingen (Ct. Berne), President of the Board of the "A.G. Buchdruckerei B. Fischer" Münsingen, and at one time President of the commune of Münsingen. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Weckenmann-Degen, of Basle. [A.T.S.]

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-cycle driven by André Philippe, of Geneva, collided with a motor-car at the Route-de-Chaucy in Geneva. The driver of the motor-cycle was seriously injured and his daughter, Renée Claire, who was a passenger, was killed.

A cyclist, Léon Dupré (56), of Villargiroud, father of six children, collided with a motor-car near Orsonnens and received fatal injuries.

23-year-old motor-cyclist Werner Holenweger, of Lauffohr, when overtaking two cars on the road between Baden and Turgi, ran into a fence and was killed. [A.T.S.]

VARIOUS.

The 1958 collection made in Switzerland for the purpose of helping refugees produced 875,193.—francs. The Federal Council has recently sanctioned a credit of 819,000.—francs for the same purpose. The beneficiaries of the two funds are mainly political refugees of Austria, Italy and Greece.

The Philharmonic Orchestra of Philadelphia is awarding annually a prize for the most successful work of a contemporary composer. This year's prize has been posthumously awarded to the Swiss composer, Arthur Honegger, for his "Symphonie No. 2 für Streicher". [A.T.S.]

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