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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 Manuel Prado, President of the republic of Peru, accompanied by his wife and daughter, and his Foreign Minister paid a two days official visit to Switzerland. They travelled by special train from Geneva, and on arrival in Berne were driven to the Palais Fédéral where they were greeted by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation. After inspection of the Guard of Honour, during which a military band played the Peruvian National Hymn, the distinguished guests were conducted to the Salon of the Federal Council where they were introduced to the Federal Councillors.

Monsieur Petitpierre in his address of welcome stressed the friendly relations which exist between the two countries, and said that the authorities, as well as industrial, financial and commercial bodies were watching with interest the endeavours of Peru to make the best use of the many possibilities the country offers. Having in mind the building of power stations and irrigation works particularly in the Cordilleras, M. Petitpierre said that Switzerland would be prepared to collaborate either by sending machinery, engineers and technicians, or by encouraging private capital for investments.

President Prado in his reply thanked the Federal Council for the friendly reception accorded to him, praising Switzerland for its democratic and social institutions and its hospitality. He said that he appreciated the words of the President of the Confederation in relation to economic collaboration which would be welcome. Monsieur Prado mentioned that the Peruvian Government had issued laws for the furtherance of industry, which would go a long way to safeguard foreign investors.

The first day of the visit terminated with a State Banquet at the Bellevue Palace Hotel offered by the Federal Council. On the second day, the Peruvian President was received at the Town Hall by Dr.

Giovanoli, President of the Government of the canton of Berne, and after the inspection of the historic building, a luncheon followed, offered by the Federal Council at the "Schweizerhof", at which Federal Councillor Wahlen presided. This luncheon was principally attended by representatives of Industry, Commerce and Finance. The ladies, accompanied by the wives of Federal Councillors Petitpierre and Bourgnicht paid a visit to the cathedral of Fribourg where they were greeted by Bishop Mgr. Charrière. After listening to an organ recital, they left for luncheon at Morât.

In the evening President Prado gave a dinner at the Hotel Bellevue Palace in honour of the Federal Council.

The Peruvian President and his suite left Berne at the conclusion of their official visit for Geneva, where the cantonal and municipal authorities offered a dinner in their honour.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Egbert von Graffenried, at present Swiss Ambassador to the Lebanon, and Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Iraq, Jordan and Syria, to the post of Ambassador to Sweden, in succession to Monsieur Max Graessli.

Ambassador von Graffenried was born in Berne in 1909, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1934. After having occupied posts in Shanghai and New York, he returned to Berne, where he held a position at the Commercial Division of the Political Department.

CITY SWISS CLUB

"SOIREE FAMILIALE" & PIANO RECITAL

BY

MISS ANNETTE WEISSBROD

ON

THURSDAY, April 7th 1960, 6.30 for 7 p.m.

AT THE

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R. E. GUT

Hon. Secretary

In 1943 he was appointed Commercial Attaché at the then Swiss Legation in London, and three years later (1946) was promoted to 1st Counsellor of Legation. Dr. von Graffenried returned to the Swiss Foreign Office in 1950, and in 1954 received the rank of Minister, in which capacity he acted as Deputy to the Head of the Division for Political Affairs. From August 1955 until March 1956, he was Head of the Swiss Delegation of the Neutral International Commission in Korea. In 1956, he was transferred to the republic of Lebanon, where two years later (1958) he received ambassadorial rank.

The accounts for 1959 of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone administration close with a credit balance of 56.5 million francs.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.1 million passengers in the month of January 1960, or 1 million less than in January 1959. Receipts: 26 million francs.

Goods traffic is returned at 1.95 million tons or 240,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 39.4 million francs (Jan. 1959: 34.2 million francs).

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, has sent a telegram of condolence to Mohamed V, King of Morocco, on the occasion of the recent earthquake disaster.

Cantonal

Two tram-cars collided at the Susenberg stop in Zurich. Five passengers were slightly hurt. The damage caused amounts to 15,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Krebs of Winterthur, at present "Forstmeister" of VIIIth district, has been appointed "Oberforstmeister" of the canton of Zurich, in succession to Dr. Grossmann, who has vacated his post for age reasons. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Glarus close with a credit balance of 96,375.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Two men smashed the window of a gunsmith's shop at the Kramgasse in Berne stealing a number of fire-arms, after which they decamped in a stolen motor-car. Later on they collided with another car. On running from the car, they were confronted with a policeman who took up the pursuit of the gangsters. He was fired at and slightly wounded, and had to be taken to hospital. Attracted by the noise several policemen arrived, who were in their turn fired at without, however, receiving any casualties. The stolen fire-arms were later on found abandoned. So far no arrests have been made. [A.T.S.]

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The Otto Naegeli Prize for the promotion of medical science amounting to 100,000.— francs, has been awarded to Professor Franz Leuthart of Zurich University for his work in physiological chemistry. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor Dr. Eugen Dietschi (Radical) has been elected a member of the States-Council with 16,419 votes, his opponent E. Herzog (Socialist) polled 15,204 votes. He succeeds Mr. H. P. Tschudi, who has entered the Federal Government.

The new States Councillor was born in Olten in 1896, and is a citizen of Lostorf, Olten and Basle. He studied national economy at the Universities of Zurich and Basle and in 1921 became editor of the "National Zeitung" Basle. Since 1929 he has been a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town over which he presided in 1940/41. In 1941, Dr. Dietschi was elected a member of the National Council over which he presided in 1958/59. At present he holds the office of Central President of the Swiss Liberal-Democratic Party. He is a Colonel in the Swiss Air Force.

Mr. Alfred Gasser (56), a member of the "Engeren Bürgerrates", and Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town is succeeding Dr. Dietschi in the National Council. [A.T.S.]



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Goods valued at 39,000.— francs were stolen from a Jewellers establishment in Basle. [A.T.S.]
* * *

The French Government has awarded the "Palme Académiques" to Professor Dr. Edgar Salin "Nationalökonom" of Basle. [A.T.S.]
* * *

Burglars who entered an unoccupied villa at Oberwil (Basle-Country) got away with jewellery, pictures, clothing, carpets etc. to the value of 15,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]
* * *

During the year 1959, 574 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Schaffhausen, 338 persons were injured of whom seven succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]
* * *

Dr. jur. Kurt Stauber (34) of Zurich has been appointed commander of the police-force of the canton of Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]
* * *

The accounts of the canton of Appenzell a. Rh. for 1959 show a credit balance of 5,215.— francs. [A.T.S.]
* * *

The commune of Wattwil (Ct. St. Gall) has received a donation of 50,000.— francs from the firm "Heberlein & Co. A.G." Wattwil on the occasion of the firm's 125th jubilee. [A.T.S.]
* * *

A twenty-two-year-old girl of Derendingen, on the way home from work was attacked by a cyclist who snatched her bag containing her wages and made off. The man was later on arrested by the police, he had

however already spent the money at the "Fastnacht". [A.T.S.]
* * *

On September 3rd and 4th 1960, the canton of Thurgau will celebrate the 500th anniversary of joining the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]
* * *

M. Jean Kratzer, notary and since 1937, Finance Director, has been elected Mayor of the town of Vevey with 49 votes, his opponent, M. Marcel Brawand (Socialist) received 46 votes. M. Kratzer is a member of the Liberal Party. [A.T.S.]
* * *

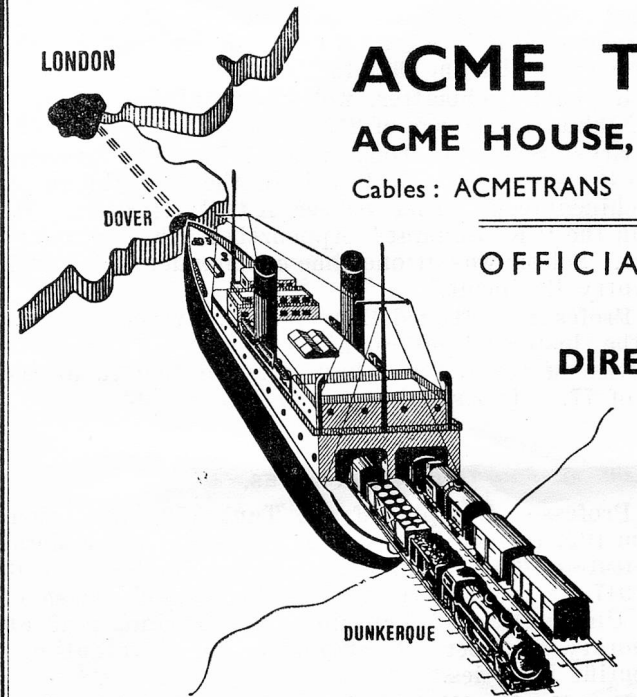
The men of Geneva in a referendum accorded their womenfolk the vote and the right to be elected to the Cantonal Parliament. The vote was 18,152 in favour and 14,593 against; this was 49 per cent of the all-male electorate.

Geneva thus becomes the third of the 25 Swiss cantons to grant the vote to women. Vaud and Neuchâtel granted it in February 1959. [A.T.S.]
* * *

The Rockefeller Foundation has made a donation to the ophthalmological clinic of the University of Geneva of 42,000.— francs [A.T.S.]
* * *

M. Francis Bolens, at present Vice-President of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce has been elected its President in succession to M. Albert Pictet. [A.T.S.]
* * *

The "Salon de l'Automobile" was opened at Geneva, on Thursday, March 10th by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]



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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Fritz Vital, from 1922 to 1940, secretary at the Department for Home Affairs, and until 1955 secretary of the Marcel Benoist Foundation, in Berne aged 86.

Friedrich Stierlin, from 1926 to 1955, Departmental secretary at the Federal Justice and Police Department, in Berne at the age of 70.

Professor Dr. Heinrich Hanselmann, in Ascona aged 74. The deceased was from 1916 to 1923, Central Secretary of "Pro Juventute", from 1924 to 1927, Head of the "Landeserziehungsheim" Albisbrunn, and from 1928 to 1950 Head of the "Heilpaedagogischen" seminary at the University of Zurich.

Robert Bourgeois, from 1920 to 1951, Director of the Municipal Transport Office Lausanne, in Lausanne aged 74.

Claude Schubiger, for thirty years chief editor of the weekly magazine "Radio-je vois tout", published in Lausanne, at the age of 53.

Klaus Peter Wieland, Swiss writer and journalist, in Munich aged 56.

Dr. h.c. Carl Bertschinger-Wyss, in Pfäffikon at the age of 79. The deceased was for many years manager of the "Gutswirtschaft" of the Maggi concern in Kemptal, and from 1913 to 1921 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich. Dr. Bertschinger sat in the National Council from 1917 to 1935. In the army he held the rank of a cavalry Colonel. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich bestowed on him the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in 1941.

Remigi Joller, in Lucerne aged 68. He was from 1934 to 1958 a member of the Government of the canton of Nidwalden, and occupied the post of "Landammann" seven times. Joller sat in the States Council from 1937 to 1947.

Raphael Lochmatter, well-known alpine guide, in St. Niklaus at the age of 84.

Ernst Scheer in Herisau aged 73. The deceased was President of the board of the "Stahlbau & Maschinenfabrik Ernst Scheer A.G.", Herisau. He sat in the "Kantonsrat" Appenzell A.Rh. for twenty years. Scheer was at one time commander of the 34th Infantry Regiment.

Professor Gottfried Bohnenblust, a former teacher at the historical-philosophical faculty of the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne, in Geneva at the age of 77. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. phil Franz Tank (70) of Zurich. From 1922 to 1960 Professor of Physics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and from 1943 to 1947 its rector. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Lausanne and Torino, and an Honorary Member of a number of International Scientific Societies.

Dr. K. H. Hintermeister (70) of Zurich, since 1929 "Verlagsdirektor" and from 1948 a member of the board of the "Tagesanzeiger" Zurich.

Carl Binder (80) of Berne, eminent sculptor, and at one time a friend of the French sculptors Rodin, Bartholome and Desbois, and the Swiss painter Ferdinand Hodler. [A.T.S.]

ARMY.

Divisional Colonel Primault, "Waffenchef" of the Swiss Air Force has paid a two days' visit to the Royal Air Force stationed at München-Gladbach.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Naef-Caffisch of St. Gall, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunger-Malaer of Flims-Waldhaus.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car collided with a lorry in Murgenthal (Ct. Aargau) causing the death of two persons, whilst a third one was seriously injured. The names of the dead are: Fritz Germann (36) factory worker of Vidy nr. Lausanne, and Jakob Weyermann (47) chauffeur of Bussigny.

A motor-car on the road from Gossau to Wil was involved in a head-on collision with a lorry. The driver of the motor-car, Walter Herzog (30) of Wölfinswil (Ct. Aargau) and his passenger, Miss Josephine Grubelnig (24) of Arbon were killed.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

The Federal Political Department in Berne instructed the Swiss Consul at Casablanca to go to Agadir to make enquires about the twenty-two members of the Swiss Colony. He has reported, that with the exception of a Swiss woman, who is still missing, no casualties have occurred. The Swiss Legation in Rabat, however reports that the Swiss Colony in Agadir has suffered heavy material damages, and as first aid has put an amount of 10,000.— francs at the disposal of the Colony. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The organisation committee of the Swiss National Exhibition which will take place in 1964 at Lausanne, has elected M. Albert Masnata, Director of the Office Suisse d'Expansion Commerciale (Schweizerische Zentrale für Handelsförderung) as its President. M. Ernest Dupraz, Director of the "Crédit Foncier Vaudois" has been appointed Honorary President of the Finance Committee, and M. F. Bragger, architect in Lausanne has been nominated President of the architectural commission [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss Government, the cantonal authorities, the Swiss Red Cross and private individuals and concerns have sent considerable amounts for the victims of the Agadir disaster. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 1st of August 1959 collection reached the amount of 1,652,988.— francs, which is 90,000.— francs more than in 1958. [A.T.S.]

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

SWISS OLD AGE AND INVALIDITY INSURANCE

On January 1st, 1960, the Swiss Invalidity Insurance has come into force. At the same time a number of changes have occurred concerning the Swiss Old Age and Survivors Insurance. For Swiss citizens living abroad the following regulations are of special interest:

The age limit for joining the scheme has been raised from 30 to 40 years.

Coupled with the introduction of the Invalidity Insurance another and last opportunity to join is given to those persons over 40 years old who were born after 30th November, 1895, in the case of men, and after 30th November, 1897, in the case of women. Application should be made before the 31st December, 1960 and will be retroactive to 1st January 1960. Upon request, the Embassy will send the necessary forms.

The contribution will consequently be one-tenth higher than heretofore and amount to 4.4% of the income.

The amounts of old age and survivors pensions remain the same as before if contributions were paid as from 1948 or from the age of 20, namely single old age pension minimum 900 and maximum 1,850 francs annually, old age pension for couple minimum 1,440 and maximum 2,960 francs a year.

On the other hand, as from 1960, such pensions will be reduced if the period of contribution has been incomplete. Instead of the minimum pension hitherto granted, irrespective of the years of contribution — all new claims for benefit will be based exclusively on the number of years during which contributions were paid.

As far as benefits under the Invalidity Insurance Scheme are concerned, such cases should be notified to the Embassy, whereupon applicants will receive further instructions.

The Embassy is at the disposal of interested persons for any additional information which may be required.

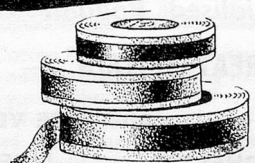
London, March 3rd, 1960.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE SWISS CLUB (SCHWEIZERBUND)

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