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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has nominated Mr. Arthur Wegmüller to the post of Swiss Consul in Zagreb in succession to Mr. G. Perrin, who has resigned.

Consul Wegmüller was born in 1906, and hails from Vechigen (Ct. Berne). He has occupied posts at Dijon, Helsinki, Warsaw, Sofia and Berne.

Mr. Harry Thomson Andrews, South African Ambassador, has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

Mr. Andrews in 1935 represented his country at the League of Nations. He was formerly Minister in Washington and representative at the United Nations Council. Since 1949, he has been Ambassador in Paris, which post he still occupies, in conjunction with his appointment in Berne.

The Swiss Government has asked Parliament to appropriate 100 million francs for the purchase of 100 Centurion tanks.

The Swiss army already has several hundred tanks of French and Czechoslovak manufacture, but has only a few Centurions. The question of re-equipping and modernising the army has been discussed for many months by military experts.

The Federal Council has nominated Dr. Karl Huber to the post of General Secretary of the Federal Economic Department, in succession to Dr. h.c. Péquignot who has vacated his post on reaching retiring age.

Dr. Huber, a citizen of Häggenschwil (Ct. St. Gall) studied law at the University of Berne, where he obtained his doctorate. He entered into the service of the Federal Economic Department in 1941, where he has held various posts.

Miss F. E. Willis, the American Ambassador, paid an official visit to the town of Schaffhausen and to the Georg Fischer A.G.

Customs receipts for the month of October, 1954, totalled 65.8 million francs, which exceeds the sum collected during the same period in 1953, by 2 million francs.

For the first ten months of the current year, the receipts totalled 422.7 million francs, which exceeds last year's figures by 38.2 million francs.

### Cantonal

Colonel R. Saladin, for 17 years District commander (Kreiskommandant) of Basle, has resigned his post.

[A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the Hotel du Lac in Rapperswil (Ct. St. Gall), caused damage amounting to over 200,000.—francs.

[A.T.S.]

National-Councillor A. Schirmer (Baden) has been nominated an Honorary Member of the "Deutsche Medizinische Gesellschaft für Balneologie, Bioklimatologie und Physikalische Therapie".

[A.T.S.]

The strength of the various parties of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, after the recent elections is as follows: Radicals, 32 seats (no change); National Democrats, 16 seats (no change); Christian Socialists, 17 seats (one gain); Communists, 16 seats (8 loss); Socialists, 12 seats (no change); Léon Nicole's Party, 7 seats (new).

[A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Henri Fehr, formerly rector of the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 85.

Josef Heimgartner, at one time Editor-in-Chief of the family magazine "Alte und Neue Welt", published at Einsiedeln, in Zurich, aged 61.

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Dr. Othmar Scheiwiler von Waldkirch, Professor of Theology at the "Stiftsschule" Einsiedeln, at the age of 70.

Alexandre Gicot, lawyer and notary, and since 1945, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Landeron, aged 51.

Maurice Barraud, one of the best-known Swiss painters, in Geneva, at the age of 65.

Pedro Grimaître, formerly Publisher of the paper "Le Franc-Montagnard", in Saignelégier, at the age of 86. [A.T.S.]

The following Legacies are published in the Swiss Press:

The late Mme. Emma Zürer-Syfrig of Hausen am Albis (Ct. Zurich) has left various legacies amounting to 350,000.—frs.

Amongst the chief beneficiaries are: "Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft" of the district Affoltern (100,000.—frs.); "Schweizerische Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft" and the District Hospital Affoltern (each 50,000.—frs.); "Armenanstalt" Kappel, "Stiftung für das Alter" and the "Fürsorge" Fund of the personnel of the firm "Weisbrod-Zürer Söhne" (10,000.—frs. each).

Mme. Hanna Frieda Schmid-Vögelin of Talwil, who recently died has left 10,000.—frs. each to the "Personalfonds" of the "Schauspielhaus" and Municipal Theatre, Zurich.

Louise and Emil Strub of Basle have made donations amounting to 30,000.—frs. to the Cantonal Hospital of Basle-County.

The late Director John Schönberg of Zug has left a legacy of 10,000.—frs. for helping blind people in the canton of Zug. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are announced in the Swiss Press:

Dr. h.c. Ganz (80) of St. Niklausen nr. Lucerne, eminent industrialist, and art collector. He is an Honorary Member of the "Kunstgesellschaft" Lucerne.

Dr. Ernst Jenny (80) of Basle, a former teacher at the "Humanistischen Gymnasium", Basle, and for many years Publisher of the "Basler Jahrbuch".

Ed. Wegmann (70) of Basle, formerly technical and commercial Manager of the "National Zeitung", Basle. [A.T.S.]

Traffic accidents in Switzerland have lately been on the increase, costing the lives of many motorists and pedestrians.

In Zollikofen (Ct. Berne) two motor-cars collided. The driver of one car, Aladar Kalman, Merchant, of Berne, was killed and his daughter seriously injured. The driver of the other car and his passengers were injured and had to be taken to hospital.

A motor-car containing four men collided with a telephone pole at the village of Marbach (Ct. St. Gall). Edouard Kehl and Adolf Looser, optician, were killed instantaneously, whilst a third one received serious injuries.

A pedestrian, Mlle. Josephine Stamm (66) of Wallisellen, on crossing the road at the "Ueberlandstrasse" Zurich was run over and killed.

Fritz Erismann (63), motor transport contractor of Schönenwerd, was run over by a cyclist and received fatal injuries. [A.T.S.]

The following have celebrated their diamond-wedding (60) anniversary in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. R. Dietrich-Notz, of Zurich.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Stadler-Heiniger of Luchsingen (Ct. Glarus) have celebrated their iron wedding (65) anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The Ninth International Hospital Congress will be held in Lucerne, from May 29-June 3, 1955, under the chairmanship of Dr. Otto Binswanger, President *ad interim* of the International Hospital Federation and President of the Swiss Hospital Association. The congress will be opened by Dr. Etter, Swiss Federal Councillor.

The largest theatre in Switzerland, the Théâtre de Beaulieu, in Lausanne, was opened on November 19,



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Ernest Ansermet conducted the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Seating accommodation is provided for 1,900 people, each of whom will get a perfect view of the stage.

Zurich is to consider banning motor traffic from some roads on Sundays so that people may go for a quiet walk.

Adrian Wettach, otherwise Grock, the greatest of clowns, gave his last performance at Hamburg in the circus which he helped to form there since the war.

Grock proposes to retire to his Mediterranean villa and to his house in his native Switzerland.

At the opening of the sale at Morges of the relics of Paderewski, Mr. Lichvitz, a lawyer, acting on behalf of the Warsaw Conservatory of Music, opposed the sale of the musician's manuscripts, which, he said, should be returned to Warsaw. Pending a decision, the 10 manuscripts concerned have been withdrawn.

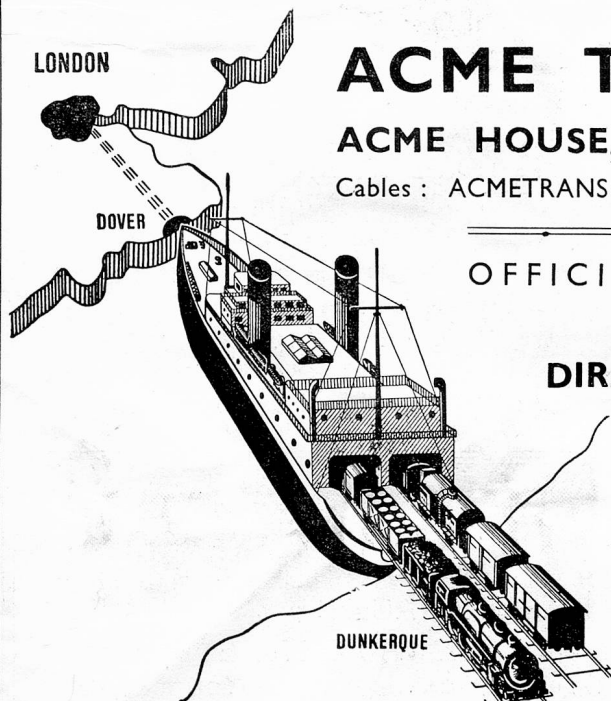
Moscow Dynamo football team beat a combined side from Lausanne and Zurich by four goals to none. The Russians dominated the game from the start and, after taking the lead in the first half, scored two more goals in as many minutes at the start of the second. Their fourth came in the thirty-fifth minute of the second half. Namedov and Salnikov each scored twice for the Russians.

The Swiss pair, Jean Roth and Walter Bucher, won the international Frankfurt six-day cycle race, finishing one lap ahead of the Italo-German combina-

tion of Ferdinando Terruzzi and Theo Intra, who had led for two days.

It is well-known that traffic passing through the Gothard Tunnel between Goeschenen (northern side) and Airolo (southern side) is heavy. The Federal Railways transported in both directions 8,525 two to eight-seater cars in 1938, 22,838 in 1948, 30,965 in 1950, 46,115 in 1951, 46,250 in 1952, 44,198 in 1953 and 41,000 so far this year. The number of cars passing from Airolo to Goeschenen on Easter Monday alone this year exceeded 2,000. Normally about forty cars can be transported in a hour in each direction on a train consisting of flat wagons, that is to say a total of 480 cars in twelve hours. At peak periods such as bank holidays, etc., extra wagons can be added to enable a train to carry 65 cars and it is possible to put on a second train so as to transport 130 cars in the hour, giving a total of eighteen trains and 1,170 cars in twelve hours.

Large scale alterations are in progress at Airolo station with a view to making a special track for trains carrying motor vehicles and platforms to enable the rapid loading and unloading of cars without holding up the regular traffic. Similar alterations are envisaged for Goeschenen. Once these alterations have been made and the Gothard tunnel has been subdivided into four signalling sections (there are two at the present moment) it will be possible to run each hour, in both directions, two to three trains each carrying 68 cars (136 to 203 vehicles in all) which makes, in twelve hours, 25 to 32 trains and a total of 1,700 to 2,176 cars.



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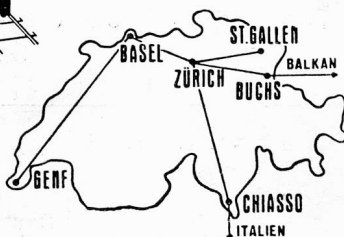
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