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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur Leland Harrison, the retiring American Minister, accredited to the Swiss Confederation, held a reception at the American Legation in Berne. Amongst the 250 guests present, were Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, members of the Federal Council, and the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Bernese government and Dr. Bruggmann, Swiss Minister in Washington. [A.T.S.]

Dr. C. Kobelt, Swiss Defence Minister, fractured his shoulder and suffered other injuries when the military plane in which he was flying over the St. Gotthard mountain region was compelled to make a forced landing. He was taken to the military hospital at Andermatt.

The following Members of Parliament (National and States Council) have declined to put their names down as candidates for the next Parliamentary elections which will take place in the autumn of this year.

Norbert Bosset (St. Council) Avenches, Lib.; Henry Burrus (Nat. Council) Porrentruy, Cath. Cons.; Karl Muheim (Nat. Council) Altdorf; Jakob Meyer (Nat. Council) Murten, Cons. Pop. Party; Dr. Jos. Riedener (Nat. Council) St. Gallen, Cons. Christ. Party; Bernhard Widmer (Nat. Coun.) Zurich, Christ. Soc. Party; Prof. Pierre Aebi (Nat. Council) Fribourg, Cath. Cons. Party; Armand Melly (Nat. Council) Vaud, Liberal; J. Stutz (Nat. Council) Zug, Cons.; Jgnaz Burri (Nat. Council) Lucerne, Liberal; H. Berthoud (Nat. Council) Neuchâtel, Radical; Francesco Borella (Nat. Council) Ticino, Soc.; Edoardo Zeli (Nat. Council) Ticino, Soc.; Antoine Pugin, Geneva, Christ. Soc. Party; and H. Schnyder, (Nat. Council) Zurich, Indep. [A.T.S.]

Following negotiations between the Governments of South Africa and Australia on one hand and the Swiss Federal Council on the other, it has been decided

to establish diplomatic relations between the respective countries. [A.T.S.]

The traditional conference of Swiss Ministers, at present staying in our country, took place in Berne on the 12th of this month. The question of Swiss Foreign Policy was discussed. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne has officially denied that Dr. Carl, J. Burckhardt, Swiss Minister in Paris, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

Gottfried Isler from Wädenswil (Zurich) has been appointed Honorary Swiss Consul in Rotterdam, in succession to F. H. Martin Koch, who recently resigned the post which he had occupied since 1916.

The new Consul is the Manager of the Rotterdam branch of the "Schweizerischen Reederei A.G." Basle. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council is putting before the two chambers a proposal to erect Legations in the Indian Union, Pakistan and Siam. [A.T.S.]

### Cantonal

Dr. Ernst Dübi, late General Manager of the "von Roll'schen Eisenwerke" in Gerlafingen, has died at Hertenstein at the age of 64. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel (artillery), the last command he held was that of the artillery brigade II. [A.T.S.]

The late Dr. Waltisbühl, who at one time practised at Stäfa as a dentist, has left an amount of 32,000.— frs. to the District hospital in Männedorf. [A.T.S.]

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The traditional "Knabenschiessen" took place in Zurich from the 13—15th September. 5,300 young riflemen took part in the competition.

Leonard Guy (Zurich) was declared "Schützenkönig" scoring 34 points. Other results were: Paul Hofstetter (Zurich): 32 points; Ernst Zink, (Wallisellen): 32 points; Jean Eisenmann (Zurich): 31 points; Crosina Sergio (Zurich): 31 points. [A.T.S.]

The Gottfried Keller prize has been awarded to Fritz Ernst, Professor at the Federal Technical University in Zurich, by the "Martin Bodmer Stiftung" for his historical and literary essays. [A.T.S.]

The former chief of the "Schiessschulen" in Walenstadt, Colonel Gustave Däniker, has died in Zurich at the age of 51.

The deceased after having graduated at the French military school of St. Cyr, entered the General Staff of the Swiss army in 1936 and shortly afterwards was appointed as chief of the "Schiessschulen" in Walenstadt from which command he retired in 1942.

Zurich's population on August 30th last is officially stated to have been 372,059 inhabitants.

A project, costing 350,000,000.— frs., has been put before the cantonal government of Zurich for the enlargement of the principal railway station in Zurich.

The death is reported from Zurich of Dr. Rudolf Bindschedler, Chairman of the Board of the "Elektro Watt" (formerly Electro Bank) at the age of 65. The deceased was for twenty-five years (1919—1944) a member of the Board of the "Crédit Suisse." Dr. Bindschedler sat on the Board of a great many commercial and industrial concerns and rendered great services to our country when delegated on official missions by the Federal Council. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Markwalder, at one time surgeon-in-chief of the Municipal Hospital in Zurich, and author of a number of works on medical science, has died in Baden, near Zurich at the age of 81. [A.T.S.]

The well-known "Gasthof zum Löwen" in Münsingen (Berne) was partly destroyed by fire, the cause of which is not known. [A.T.S.]

A party of 200 English railway men have recently arrived in Berne, after a short stay in Eastern and Southern Switzerland. They were the guests of representatives of the Swiss Federal Railways and the Union of Swiss Railway Men at a Banquet, during which they expressed their admiration for the beauties of our country, and the achievements of the Swiss Federal Railways. [A.T.S.]

Henri Spieler, from Lausanne, a member of the S.A.C., section Jaman, was killed when ascending the Balmhorn (Berne). [A.T.S.]

Samuel Brawand, socialist, has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Berne. His candidature was not opposed; only 9 per cent. of the voters went to the poll. [A.T.S.]

Traugott Senn, the well-known painter of subjects of the "Seeländischen Mooses," has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The death is reported from Neuenstadt of Pastor Emile Perrenoud, at the age of 77. The deceased was a preacher for 24 years at St. Imier and a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

Professor Alois Hunkeler, from Altshofen, has been appointed residing canon at the "Domstift" in Solothurn, in succession to the late Mgr. Thomas Buholzer.

The new canon is at present rector of the "Mittelschule" in Beromünster, and formerly a Prefect at the College "Mariahilf" in Schwyz. [A.T.S.]

Oscar Bütler, from Auw (Aargau), formerly attorney at the National Bank in Berne, has been appointed Manager of the "Ersparniskasse" in Olten. [A.T.S.]

The appointment is reported of Otto Leuzinger as chief of the Swiss Rhine Mission, in succession to Maurice Locher, who has resigned his post. [A.T.S.]

General Guisan, late commander of the Swiss army during the last war, brought an action in the Basle Courts against the editor of the "Arbeiter Zeitung" in Basle for defamation of character.

In an article published in that paper, General Guisan was stated to have been involved in a recent scandal concerning deliveries of army material and consequently had had to resign from his post.

These accusations were found to be groundless, and the editor of the "Arbeiter Zeitung" tendered his apologies to the General, who did not insist on damages being paid. The verdict is to be published in the Swiss Press and the costs of the action and publication will have to be borne by the "Arbeiter Zeitung." [A.T.S.]

Professor Otto Schürch, aged 51, from Sursee, at present Director of the cantonal hospital in Winterthur, has been appointed Professor of surgery at the University of Basle, and head of the surgical clinic at the Bürgerspital in Basle, in succession to Professor Henschen, who recently retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

Reckless driving, unfortunately so prominent in Switzerland, has caused the death of two girls, Ruth Schilling, aged 11 and Heidi Wegmann, aged 13.

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A jeep, containing two Neuchâtelois and driven at an excessive speed round a corner on the road from Büsingen to Schaffhausen, mounted the footpath and knocked down the two girls. The driver and his passenger have been arrested. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death is reported from Schaffhausen of Dr. Hans Waltisbühl, aged 86, who, some years ago bequeathed an amount of 75,000.— frs. to the town of Schaffhausen for the erection of a dental clinic and children's nursery. [A.T.S.]

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The "Kantonale Heil und Pflegeanstalt" St. Pirminsberg, near Pfäfers, has celebrated its centenary. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

National-Councillor Dr. Eduard Scherrer, formerly "Stadtammann" and Member of Parliament, has died in St. Gall.

The deceased was for many years one of the most prominent personalities of the canton of St. Gall. On the completion of his studies, he first occupied the post of State Prosecutor. In 1891 he entered the government of the canton of St. Gall to which he belonged until 1902. Subsequently, he was elected to the post of "Gemeindeammann" of the town of St. Gall. From 1918-1930, he was the first "Stadtammann" of the united town of St. Gall. For many years, Dr. Scherrer was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall over which he presided in 1916. He was a Member of Parliament (National Council) from 1911-1919, and belonged to the Boards of many commercial and industrial concerns. In the army, he reached the rank of colonel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The death has occurred in Rorschach of Professor William Schneebeli, at the age of 73. The deceased occupied the post of drawing master in Brugg, Biel, Neuenstadt, St. Gallen and Rorschach for many years. He was well-known as an illustrator of numerous books; in Rapperswil died colonel Gustav A. Montandon, who by profession was an engineer. He was at one time a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne. He was 69 years of age. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eric Zimmermann, advocate in Aarau has unanimously been elected "Stadtammann" of the town of Aarau. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. August Bärlocher, editor of the "Aargauer Volksblattes" has celebrated his 60th anniversary. He has been editor of the paper for the last 30 years. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Sanatorium of Piotta (Ticino) has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. The celebrations which were held were attended by Federal Councillor Celio, the Bishop of Lugano, Mgr. Jelmini and the founder of the institution who in their addresses stressed the necessity of combating, with increased intensity, tubercular diseases. [A.T.S.]

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The death is reported from Chesières (Vaud) of R. Schwob, a former Chairman of the Board of the Tavannes Watch Company, at the age of 72.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Charles Privet, from Lausanne, was killed when ascending the Liusin in the Dents du Midi group (2,786 m.). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A Miss Anger, from Lausanne, met with a serious accident when climbing the Oldenhorn (Valais), she had to be taken to hospital in Sitten, suffering from concussion and two broken legs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The police in Geneva managed to lay hands on the author of a number of fires which have lately broken out in that town, in the person of a fourteen years old boy.

When questioned about the motives of his crime, he retorted that he liked to watch the arrival of the fire brigade. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Marius Maillard, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, since 1923, has entered Parliament (National Council) in succession to the late Professor Oltramare. Maillard is a member of the socialist party. [A.T.S.]

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### Army

Early this month, the French General de Lattre de Tassigny arrived in Thun, in a military avion, for a week's inspection tour. On his arrival, he was greeted by Colonel of Division Rihner and Colonel de Muralt, Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation in Paris.

During his stay the General has inspected schools of recruits at Thun, Berne, Neuchâtel and Aarau. Further visits were paid to the grenadier school in Losone (Ticino) and mountain artillery units at Sitten (Valais).

The French Ambassador gave a dinner at the French Embassy in his honour at which Federal-Councillor Kobelt, Head of the Federal Military Dept., and a number of high Swiss army officers attended. The government of the canton of Vaud entertained the distinguished visitor at a Luncheon at which General Guisan attended. [A.T.S.]

Colonel of Division Eduard Jordi, from Wyssachen, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Colonel Jordi entered the Instruction corps in 1913; in the year 1930 he joined the General Staff with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Eight years later he was appointed "Waffenchef" of the cavalry in succession to Colonel of Division Ladhart. In 1938 he was promoted to Colonel of Division. [A.T.S.]

Lieutenant-General H. J. Kruls, Chief of the Dutch General Staff, has arrived in Berne on a short visit. He paid a courtesy visit to the Chief of the Federal Military Department, Federal Councillor Kobelt. Later on, he was the guest of the latter at a Banquet in Zurich, several high Swiss army officers were present. [A.T.S.]

Colonel of Brigade, Roger Masson, has tendered his resignation for reasons of health. Colonel Masson was for 30 years in the service of the Confederation, first as an Instructor and later as Chief of section of the General Staff. He rendered great services during the last war as head of the military news service. [A.T.S.]

During artillery shooting practice at Güttsch, near Andermatt, a gun barrel exploded, injuring more or less severely eight soldiers, who were transferred to the hospital in Andermatt. An investigation into the cause of the mishap has been ordered. [A.T.S.]

### Traffic

From August 21st to 29th a number of Swissair pilots, wireless operators and navigators, together with officers of the Navigation and other departments and representatives of the Swiss Air Ministry, the Radio Suisse S.A. and the chief of the Geneva Aeronautical Meteorological Observatory carried out a so-called survey flight to the American continent with a view to preparing Swissair crews for subsequent flights on the North Atlantic route. The various flying routes were covered by landing approaches being made to as many as possible of the various detour airfields; training in range flying, astro-navigation and radio-telephony was carried out and the various meteorological services were studied. The flight was made in the Douglas DC-4 machine HB-ILO.

The route followed led from Geneva to Shannon (Eire), Prestwick (Scotland), Reykjavik (Iceland),

Goose Bay (Labrador), Stephenville (Newfoundland), Moncton (Canada), Washington (U.S.A.), Boston (U.S.A.), Halifax (New Scotland), Sidney (New Scotland), Gander (Newfoundland), Iagens Azores, Santa Maria (Azores) and back to Geneva. On the Reykjavik-Goose Bay lap the southernmost point of Greenland was flown over for observation purposes.

The distance covered on the flight to Washington was 5,531 miles, which distance was flown in an effective flying time of 28 hours 25 minutes. The return flight, over a distance of 4,794 miles, occupied 22 hours 32 minutes. The total distance covered in this practice flight was 10,325 miles and the total flying time 51 hours 7 minutes. In judging the mean cruising speed of 186 miles per hour it should be borne in mind that, for training purposes, several landing approaches were made at various airfields. Of the 10,325 miles flown, approximately 6,850 were over the open sea. The longest stretch was the last, from the Azores direct to Geneva, a distance of 1,812 miles which was flown in 8 hours 26 minutes.

In command of the flight was Captain Franz Zimmermann, Navigational Chief of Swissair. Acting under his orders were Captains Otto Heitmanek and Anton von Tscharner, radio operators Werner Wegman and Paul Auberson and the American navigator Robert E. Pittis, with three junior Swissair pilots, who are at present taking an air navigators' course at Geneva under Pittis' direction.

The general opinion of the Swissair Air Captains was that this flight was, even for the experienced

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pilots, necessary for the extension of their knowledge. The flight amply fulfilled its purpose and produced results which will, without any doubt, be put to positive use in carrying out further Swissair Atlantic flights.

\* \* \*

For the first time, after an interval of twelve years, an Italian Passenger liner, belonging to the "Transadriatica" and coming from Venice, has landed at the Aerodrome of Dübendorf. [A.T.S.]

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On Friday, September 5th, the "Auslandschweizerstag" began in Berne. Federal-Councillor Petitpierre, extended to the delegates the greetings of the Swiss Government. In his address, he mentioned that during and immediately after the war 471 Swiss nationals were killed and 172 injured. There were 230 killed in Germany; 146 in France; 23 in Italy, 22 in Great Britain; 8 in Austria; 6 in Poland; and 36 in other countries. In addition 70 Swiss lost their lives through various causes. (Imprisonment in concentration camps, etc.).

Altogether 74,426 Swiss have returned to the mother country, during and after the war, or 15 per cent. of all Swiss living abroad. Those, who have returned came from the following countries: Germany 25,673; Austria 1,799; France 16,743; Italy 3,833; Poland 793; other European countries 10,084; and non-European countries 4,282.

Dr. R. Jezler, of the Federal Justice and Police Dept. in Berne, speaking on the question of Dual Nationality, was of the opinion that Dual Nationality should not be abolished without weighty reasons, but

that the right of depriving Swiss of their nationality in certain cases should be considered.

Federal Chancellor, Dr. Leimgruber, referred to the proposal of the London Swiss Delegation, that Swiss nationals abroad should be able to secure representation in the Swiss Parliament; in his *exposé* he said that according to the present constitution no such representation was possible, but that it was well worth to study the question with a view of altering the respective constitutional laws.

The question of military tax was also discussed, and it is hoped that the London Delegates will fully report on the result of these deliberations.

The "Auslandschweizerstag" was concluded on Sunday the 7th at the War Memorial at Murten, on which occasion speeches were made by Dr. H. P. Zschokke, President of the "Auslandschweizerwerkes" of the N.S.H., Mr. A. F. Suter (London), and Federal-Councillor Kobelt.

At the Luncheon which followed the delegates were addressed by M. Glasson, on behalf of the cantonal government of Fribourg, Dr. Willenegger and Professor Michaud of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

Praesens-Film A.G., of Zurich, which has become known abroad through its Films "Marie-Louise" and the "Last Chance" has raised its share capital from Frs. 1,000,000 to Frs. 2,000,000. [A.T.S.]

Thousands of head of cattle, a large proportion of which are milking cows, have to be slaughtered in Switzerland as a result of the severe drought. Emergency feeding arrangements have to be resorted to, such as the transfer of cattle to other districts and feeding with pears ordinarily used for producing cider.

It is feared that the export of milk products, which has been resumed to some extent during the past few months, will have to be curtailed considerably.

Following an invitation from the Danish-Swiss Society in Copenhagen and the Military Scientific Society of Denmark, General Guisan is shortly leaving for Denmark, where he will give a series of lectures on the situation in Switzerland. General Guisan will be accompanied during his visit by Professor Dr. A. Mercer, President of the Swiss-Danish Society.

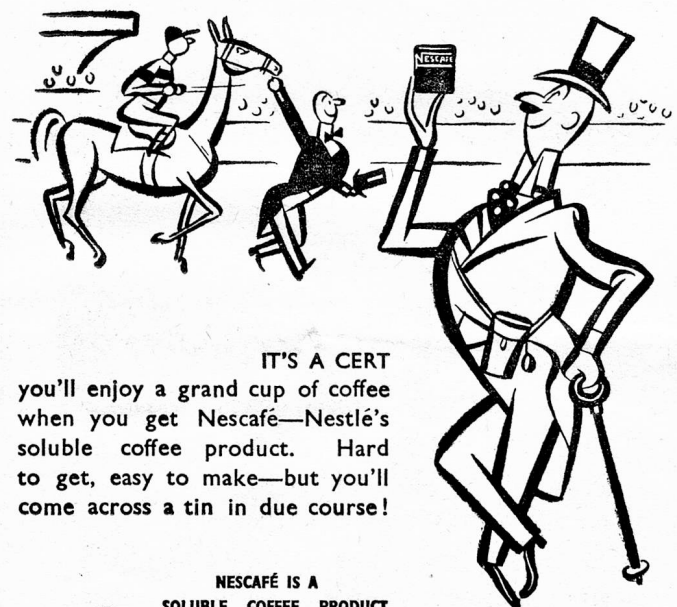
[A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Niggli, from Zofingen, has been appointed Professor of mineralogy at the University of Leyden (Holland). [A.T.S.]

Flight-Captain L. v. Tschärner, of the Swissair, on accomplishing his return flight from New York, has joined the distinguished band of "kilometer millionaires." [A.T.S.]

Owing to the persistent drought and heat which Switzerland has experienced, a number of forest fires have broken out in many parts of the country causing serious damage. The latest fire is reported from the forest of Prabé (Valais). [A.T.S.]

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