

News at random

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

Mes chers compatriotes,

Comme chaque année, les pensées des Suisses réunis sur le sol natal le soir du 1er août se porteront vers vous, Suisses de l'étranger, avec affection et reconnaissance. Affection, parce que l'éloignement ne saurait affaiblir les liens de la terre et du sang. Reconnaissance, parce que souvent vous avez choisi la part difficile et que vous avez su, à force de travail et de ténacité, mériter le bon accueil et, la plupart du temps, l'amitié des pays où vous êtes établis.

Vous servez, là où vous êtes, une cause qui nous est commune. Nous savons que nous pouvons compter sur vous pour maintenir et développer dans le meilleur esprit nos relations nécessaires avec l'étranger. Vous représentez au dehors l'idéal et les traditions qui ont fait à notre pays une place honorable dans l'histoire. Il vous appartient non moins qu'à nous de préserver cet héritage précieux du passé des influences destructrices qui s'exercent actuellement dans le monde.

A l'occasion de ce 1er août 1950, je suis heureux d'être l'interprète, auprès de tous les Suisses de l'étranger, des sentiments de cordialité et de gratitude qu'éprouvent à leur égard le Conseil fédéral et le peuple suisse. Je forme des vœux pour la prospérité de leurs colonies et de leurs institutions et pour que leur action collective et individuelle puisse se poursuivre dans la paix.

MAX PETITPIERRE,
Président de la Confédération.



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, has received in audience, M. Francis X. Swietlik, President of the American Polish War Relief Organisation. The latter expressed thanks to the Swiss people for the help given, during and after the last war to Polish fugitives and military internees.

M. Santiago Vera Ysquierdo, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Venezuela, has presented his credentials to M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The newly appointed Minister was formerly rector of the University of Caracas and has been since 1949, a Counsellor at the Embassy of Venezuela in Washington.

Professor Claim Weizmann, President of the State of Israeli, has arrived in Switzerland. He will spend a holiday somewhere on the lake of Lucerne. His visit is a private one.

Since the breaking off of diplomatic relations between the United States of America and Bulgaria, Switzerland has been entrusted with the American interests. Until recently the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia, M. Walter Hofer, has been in charge of this mission. In future, M. Alfred Rappard, Secretary of Legation, at present at the Federal Political Department in Berne, will assume this post.

The Federal Council has nominated M. Max Büchi, at present Swiss Consul at Cape Town to the post of Consul at Tananariva (Madagascar). Consul Büchi is a citizen of Ettenhausen (Ct. Thurgau), and was born in St. Gall in 1901. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1923, previous to his appointment to Cape Town he was attached to the Swiss Consulate at Besançon.

Customs receipts during the month of June, 1950, amounted to 47 million francs (June 1949: 42 million francs).

The receipts for the first six months of 1950, reached 249.8 million francs against 225 million francs for the same period in 1949.

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Cantonal

Hans Müller, aged 39, an employee of the munition works at Altdorf, lost his life when on a mountaineering excursion on the "Hohen Faulen" in the "Schächen" valley. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Albert, Josef Koch, aged 24, of Villmergen, living in Zurich, was killed when climbing the Salbitschyn. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Werner Andermatt, painter of Zug, has been elected Director of the "Kunstgewerbeschule" in Lucerne, in succession to the late Dr. Josef Mühle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Emil Baebler, Professor of military geographie at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and the University of Zurich, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel (General Staff). Dr. Baebler was at one time Commander of a Regiment and Brigade, and Chief of Staff of the 6th Division. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Mme. Berta Schneider-Benz, widow of the former "Staatskassiers" Albert Schneider, of Zurich, has left an amount of 43,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The well-known composer, Dr. Paul Hindemith, has been appointed Professor of musical science at the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The village of Moutier, which numbers 6,000 inhabitants, has been declared a town, this event will be officially celebrated by a "Volksfest" on September 9th. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The rural council of Vendlincourt (Jura), has bestowed honorary citizenship on Colonel Marius Corbat, Commander of the 1st Army-Corps. Colonel Corbat hails from Vendlincourt. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Paul Billieux, Mayor of the town of Porrentruy (Ct. Berne) and a former National Councillor, is shortly retiring from his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Theodor Kocher Institute" has been inaugurated in Berne, on which occasion a large number of

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University Professors, students and representatives of the cantonal authorities assembled at the "Aula" of the University of Berne.

Professor A. von Muralt, President of the administrative council of the Institute addressed the company, relating the history and aims of this newly created institution. Dr. M. Feldman, a member of the government of the canton of Berne, spoke about the theme "University and State", whilst Professor E. Bonjour, of the University of Basle, described the life of the late donator and eminent Bernese surgeon, Professor, Dr. Theodor Kocher, to whom the Nobel Prize was awarded. [A.T.S.]

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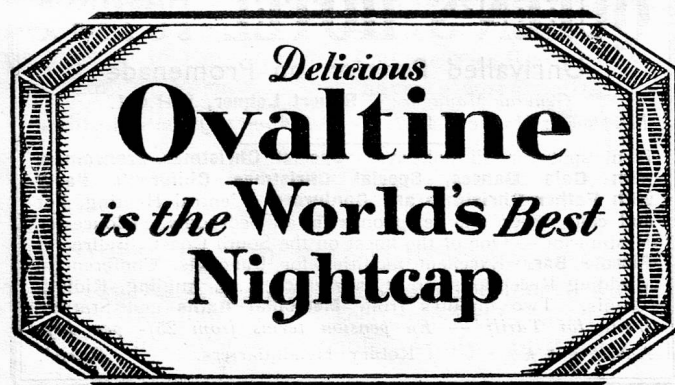
Ernest Schmid (Dieterswil), since 1941, representing the Peasant Party in the National Council, has resigned his seat in Parliament. He is succeeded by Alfred Hold, a farmer of Neuegg-Sumiswald (Ct. Berne), who was previously a member of the National Council. [A.T.S.]

* * *

W. Dietrich, engineer, has retired from his post as Director of the Technical School in Burgdorf. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mgr. J. E. Nunlist, former deacon of the "Dreifaltigkeitskirche" in Berne, has celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest, and Mgr. E. Simonett has concluded 25 years as a priest at the same church. A celebration was held at the "Dreifaltigkeitskirche" at which Federal-Councillor Dr. Etter and the Papal Nuncio were present. [A.T.S.]



In June, 1950, 529 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. 392 persons (June, 1949 : 286) were injured of whom eight (June 1949 : 5) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two young climbers of La Chaux-de-Fonds, P. A. Droz and J. Triponez, both aged 20, were killed while climbing the Zinal Rothorn. They were ascending along the difficult Rothorngrat when they were caught in a thunderstorm and struck by lightning. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Professor Gonzague de Reynold, has recently celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary at Crossier (Ct. Fribourg).

He studied at the Sorbonne (Paris) and later on was a lecturer at the University of Geneva. From 1915-1932, M. Gonzague de Reynold was Professor of French literature at the University of Berne, for the last 18 years he has been a Professor at the University of Fribourg. Amongst his many works published the following may be mentioned: "Cités et pays suisses"; "Histoire littérature de la Suisse romande au 18 ème siècle"; "Contes et légendes de la Suisse héroïque"; etc., etc. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Sorbonne and the University of Montreal. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Louis Chardonens, Professor of chemistry at the University of Fribourg, has been elected rector of the University for 1950/52. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Rudolf Wittmer, Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Basle, has been elected President of the Board

of the "Schweizerischen Reederei A.G., Basel", in succession to the late Mr. Bernhard Sarasin. [A.T.S.]

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Mr. W. Preiswerk-Tissot, has been nominated Vice-President of the Basle Chamber of Commerce, in succession to Mr. Adolf Vischer-Simonius, who has relinquished his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The town of Baden has bestowed on Dr. h.c. Max Schiesser, Vice-President of the Board of the A.G. Brown, Boveri & Co., honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

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During the month of June 1950, fifty traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Thurgau; 44 persons were injured of whom two succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

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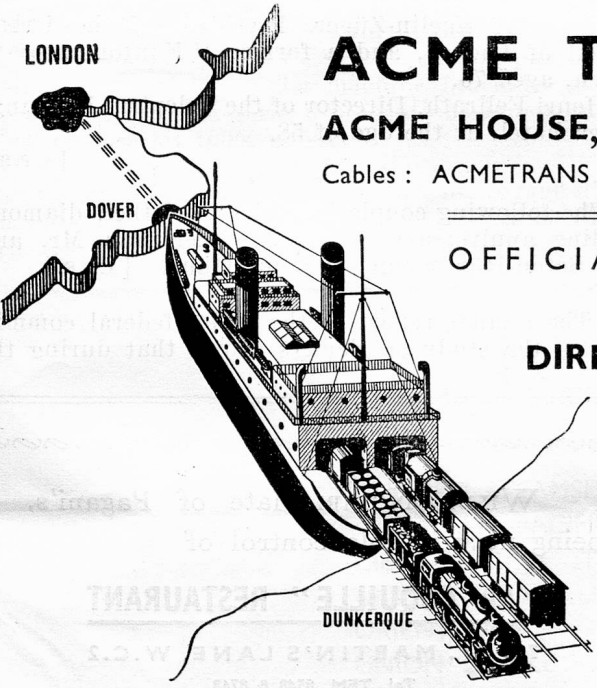
Professor Louis Michaud, for 37 years head of the medical clinic of the University of Lausanne, has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Jean Ch. Biaudet, keeper of the archives of the canton of Vaud, and editor of the "Revue historique vaudoise", has been elected director of the cantonal and university library, in succession to M. A. Rollin, who has relinquished his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Gabriel Chamoret, for many years Professor of Theology at the University of Lausanne, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]



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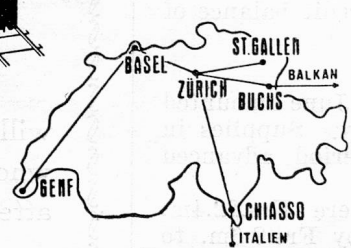
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M. Maurice Lugeon, the well-known scientist and formerly Professor of Geology at the University of Lausanne, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

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The Committee of the Conservative Party of the canton of Valais, has recently unanimously decided to claim the seat in the Federal Government, which will become vacant owing to the resignation of Federal-Councillor, Dr. Celio. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Gymnasium" of La Chaux-de-Fonds, has celebrated its 50th Jubilee. On this occasion the University of Neuchâtel has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* on M. Philippe Bourquin, for his publications on geology. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A serious accident happened on the lake of Neuchâtel, costing the lives of four persons.

A motor boat with eight people left Grandson for a trip when about 800 metres from the border the engine stopped; whilst some of the passengers tried to get the engine into motion, the boat overturned, and all the eight passengers were thrown into the water. Four persons were rescued by life boats.

The following were unfortunately drowned before help arrived: David Cachemaille, chef of Yverdon (26 years old); Jacques Weber, pastry cook of Yverdon (21 years old); Gaston Grangier, pastry cook of Yverdon (17 years old) and Pierre Chevalley of St. Croix (24 years old). [A.T.S.]

* * *

At the end of June, 1950, the population of the town of Geneva numbered 147,907, and that of the canton 204,957. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two motor-cars collided between Morges and St. Prex, two persons were killed and three seriously injured. The names of the killed are: Mme. Lydia Berthet, aged 65 of Geneva and her husband. [A.T.S.]

Economics

Swiss trade with Russia has remained well below the annual figure of 200 million francs each way, fixed under the Swiss trade agreement with Russia of March, 1948. In 1949, imports from Russia declined to 11.7 million Swiss francs from 21.3 million in 1948, the corresponding figures for exports being 24.2 million and 32.9 million Swiss francs. Main Swiss imports from Russia consisted of grain, hides and skins and carpets, with imports of cotton, coal, timber, heavy chemicals and precious metals negligible.

* * *

The accounts for 1949, of the "Schweiz. Zentrale für Handelsförderung" close with a credit balance of 207,589.—frs.

* * *

Swiss imports from Britain during June amounted to Frs.28.3m., against Frs.26m. in May. Supplies in the opposite direction during the period advanced from Frs.10.9m. to Frs.12.1m.

Total Swiss imports in June were Frs.22.4m. higher at Frs.329.5m. Exports rose by Frs.8.6m. to Frs.294.5m.

The United States is still Switzerland's biggest supplier (Frs.50m.), followed by France, Germany, Italy and the U.K.

Italy ranked first in June among Switzerland's customers (Frs.39.4m.), followed by the United States, France and Belgium.

————— :o : —————

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Ernest Tanner, from 1936-1942, a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Appenzell A. Rh., in Herisau, at the age of 69.

Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald Eugster, for twenty-five years a member, and at one time, Vice-President of the Urban Council of Trogen (Ct. Appenzell a.Rh.), in Trogen, aged 64.

Dr. Otto Diem, from 1919-1937, medical adviser to the SUVA in Lucerne, at the age of 76. The deceased was for 15 years President of the New Helvetic Society, Lucerne.

Fritz Deringer, a well-known landscape painter, in Uetikon, at the age of 48.

Aug. Henne, a former "Eidg. Forstinspektor" in Berne, aged 83.

Dr. Hermann Stadlin, a former member of the government of the canton of Zug, and a member of Parliament (National Council) in Beckenried, at the age of 79.

Paul Grisel, Textile manufacturer, and member of the board of the "Handels-und Industrieverein" of the canton of Neuchâtel, aged 63.

Alfred Janssen-Amsler, formerly Manager of the "Kulm Hotel" St. Moritz, in Rapperswil, at the age of 82.

Benedikt Kaelin-Züger, President of the Urban Council of Lachen, and a former "Kantonsrat" in Lachen, aged 76.

Henri Fellrath, Director of the Telephon Exchange in Neuchâtel, at the age of 58.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couple has celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Beton-Hürlimann, in Winterthur. [A.T.S.]

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The annual report of the Swiss federal commission for the study of glaciers shows that during the

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glacial year 1948-49 the general withdrawal of Alpine glaciers continued and was even greater than in previous years. Contributing factors were light snowfalls during the mild winter of 1948-49 and the excessive heat of the following summer. The result was that of 100 glaciers observed and measured five were advancing (13 in 1947-48), two were at a standstill (10 in the previous year), and 93 were retreating (77 in 1947-48).

The only advancing glaciers were small ones in the Alpes Vaudoises. The backward movement was much more accentuated in the Grisons and Ticino Alps than in the western and central regions. Soundings in the Tiefenmatten and Schönbühl glaciers, near Zermatt, showed that the mass of solid ice was from 375ft. to 750ft. thick. The Dakota aircraft which was stranded on the Gauli glacier in the Bernese Oberland in December, 1946, has now completely disappeared and its remains are expected to reappear within 30 or 40 years.

Traffic accidents in Switzerland are still on the increase. During the month of May 435 accidents (1949 : 351) occurred in the canton of Berne; 351 people were injured, nine of whom sustained fatal injuries. In the canton of Aargau 115 traffic accidents were reported. 87 persons were injured one of whom died.

[A.T.S.]

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Après trois ans d'études et d'essais, on vient d'entreprendre à Uster la construction de machines pour le travail du coton, conçues tout spécialement pour satisfaire les besoins suisses et européens. L'industrie suisse du bas s'affranchit ainsi de toute dépendance à l'égard de l'étranger, tant en ce qui concerne l'acquisition que l'entretien de son parc de machines de précision. La machine fabriquée à Uster présente toute une série d'innovations importantes et c'est un produit 100% suisse.

60 techniciens lyonnais ont fait un voyage d'étude en Suisse pour visiter les différents centres de l'industrie textile suisse.

Des trains rapides formés de voitures suisses modernes de métal léger ont procédé à des démonstrations concluantes entre Paris et Blois.

A New York et à Copenhague ont été organisées des expositions des produits de l'industrie suisse dans les vitrines des magasins. Le public a fort apprécié ces manifestations.

Sous la direction du professeur Lugeon et avec le concours de neuf missions scientifiques venant des pays les plus divers, on a lancé à Payerne des radiosondes qui ont atteint l'altitude de 30 km. Les directeurs des principales stations météorologiques des cinq continents ont visité Payerne à cette occasion.

"Swiss Tour" de la Präsens-Film a remporté un plein succès lors de sa première présentation au public américain, dans un théâtre de Hollywood. La critique vante particulièrement le charme romantique qui se dégage de ce film, la parfaite direction technique et l'excellence de la régie. L'opérateur a réussi à saisir comme toile de fond toute la beauté de la Suisse.

Les films que réalise le professeur Nicolet pour rendre plus fructueux l'enseignement des mathématiques viennent de remporter de nouveaux succès à Londres à un congrès international de professeurs de mathématiques. Un "comité de patronage des films Nicolet", à participation internationale, se propose d'apporter à l'auteur toute l'aide nécessaire à la poursuite et à la diffusion de ses travaux.

Plus de trois cents intellectuels européens se sont réunis en congrès à Venise, sous la présidence de M. Antony Babel, professeur à l'Université de Genève. Ils ont constitué une "Société européenne de culture", appelée à montrer l'unité de la culture européenne, par-dessus toutes les différences politiques, économiques ou linguistiques. Cinq Suisses ont été appelés à faire partie du Conseil exécutif; ce sont MM. Antony Babel, vice-président, Robert de Traz et Henri de Ziegler, hommes de lettres, Wilhelm Loeffler, professeur à Zurich et Fernand Mueller, secrétaire général des Rencontres internationales.

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