

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Chambers have concluded their spring session. The summer session will start on June 3rd, 1952.

In the Council of States the most important business dealt with, was the debate on the draft bill of a revised law on Civic Rights. The most important of the innovations put forward, concerns the question of the maintenance of her civic rights by a Swiss woman who marries a foreigner. (Particulars of this debate will appear in our next issue.)

\* \* \*

The Lower House of the Swiss Parliament (National Council) rejected by 80 votes to 31 a private Bill to reintroduce capital punishment.

The Government opposed the Bill on the grounds there was not sufficient evidence to prove capital punishment was a deterrent to crime.

In 1874 Switzerland abolished the death penalty, but a crime wave followed and in 1879 individual cantons were allowed to reintroduce it. Parliament abolished it again in 1937.

\* \* \*

M. Robert Miney, Honorary Swiss Consul at Antwerp since 1927, and a partner in the firm of Miney, Fontannaz & Co., Antwerp, has tendered his resignation, as he is returning to Switzerland.

### Cantonal

Dr. med. Jakob Schmid (Hochdorf), has been elected surgeon-in-chief of the Lucerne sanatorium for tubercular diseases at Montana. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The paper "Luzerner Tagblatt", published in Lucerne, has celebrated its 100th anniversary. A jubilee number, containing 88 pages has been issued on this occasion. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Josef Jud, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich, has celebrated his 100th birthday anniversary, he hails from Krummenau (Toggenburg).

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Joh. Hösli, a member of the government of the canton of Glarus since 1932, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two persons were killed and five injured when an explosion occurred at a house in the Rue Pierre Jolis-saint at St. Imier (Ct. Berne.).

The names of the victims are: Mlle. Berthe-Louise Dubois (aged 34) and a two years old child, Marie-Louise Tèche. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

An avalanche at the electric power station Oberhasli (Grimsel), has killed three men working at the mouth of a tunnel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Lucien Despond, a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, has left a legacy amounting to 20,000.—frs. to the community of Bulle for the foundation of a technical school, and 10,000.—frs. for a clinic for women. The son of the testator, M. Lucien Despond has also made a donation of 20,000.—frs. for the latter institution. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Domkapital" of Sitten has appointed Mgr. Grand, "Generalvikar" of the late Bishop Bieler, to the office of "Kapitularvikar", he will be in charge of the affairs of the "Bistum" until the election of a new bishop.

Mgr. Grand was born in 1898 in Vernamiège and ordained in 1923. He studied theology at the seminary in Sitten and at the University of Fribourg where he obtained the degree of doctor of philosophy. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Werner Vogt (Socialist), has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Solothurn

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with 22,943 votes. His opponent, National-Councillor Dr. Karl Obrecht (Liberal), received 21,234 votes.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of Arthur Honegger's 60th birthday anniversary, the "Basler Kammerorchester" under the conductorship of Dr. P. Sacher gave a concert at the "Grossen Musiksaal des Stadtkasinos" of works by this eminent Swiss composer, who was present himself in person. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The new "Kurtheater" in Baden was inaugurated on March 23rd, in the presence of numerous guests amongst them Federal-Councillor, Dr. Ph. Etter. The building was started in 1951, and has a seating capacity for over 600. The architects were Lisbeth Sachs and O. Dorer. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Charles Chamay, merchant of Lausanne has left an amount of 30,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Paul Ruegger, President of the International Red Cross Committee, received the Indian Minister, Monsieur Raghaven, in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:—

Dr. Ernst Amberg, for many years rector of the "Kantonalen Gymnasiums" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 81. The deceased was from 1903-1938 Professor of mathematics at the cantonal *Gymnasium*, in 1916 he was elected rector; he reached the rank of a Colonel of artillery in the army.

Hugo Wachs, a member of the "Bürgerrat" of the town of St. Gall since 1933, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall since 1948, in St. Gall, aged 63.

Professor, Dr. Paul Geiger, from 1917-1944 a teacher at the "Humanistischen *Gymnasiums*" Basle, and since 1950, Professor of ethnology at the University of Basle, and Editor of the "Atlas der Schweizerischen Volkskunde", in Basle, at the age of 65.

M. Elie Morand, from 1900-1944 Professor at the college St. Michel, Fribourg, and since 1946, an honorary canon of the Minster in Fribourg, aged 77.

Mgr. Victor Bieler, Bishop of Sitten and Doyen of the Swiss Bishops, in Sitten at the age of 71. He was ordained in 1907 and elected Bishop in 1919.

Robert Courvoisier, from 1910-1937, a judge at the cantonal tribunal of Neuchâtel, a teacher of commercial law at the Commercial School and at the University of Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, aged 71.

Jules Baillods, since 1943 Director of the Municipal Library of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 63.

Mme. M. Geering, author of a number of well-known novels and poems, which she published under the pseudonym "Ruth Waldstetter", in Basle, aged 70.

Peter Seiler-Schilt, well-known wood-carver, in Interlaken, aged 89.

## VINS DU VALAIS

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William Hirschy, at one time Director of the Municipal Library of La Chaux-de-Fonds and a member of the Swiss Olympic Committee, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 73. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The undermentioned anniversaries have been announced in Switzerland:—

Dr. W. Weibel (70), for 20 years "Auslandsredaktor" of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung", Zurich. Born in 1882, he studied at the Universities of Berlin, Rome, Geneva and Berne, and afterwards acted as foreign correspondent of various Swiss papers in Rome. In the year 1911 he was appointed war correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" during the Turkish-Italian war in Tripoli.

From 1912, until the outbreak of the first world war he did journalistic work in Russia and later on was on the editorial staff of the "Frankfurter Zeitung". In the year 1919, Dr. Weibel was sent as foreign correspondent of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" to London where he remained until 1924 when he joined the editorial staff of this paper.

Professor, Dr. Arnold Heim (70), a well-known Geologist. He was from 1929-1931 Professor at the Sun Yat-Sen University in Canton. He is the son of the founder of modern alpine geology, Professor Albert Heim and of Dr. Marie Heim-Vögtlin, the first woman medical practitioner in Switzerland.

Rudolf Maurer (80), from 1920-1939 a member of the government of the canton of Zurich.

[A.T.S.]



The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. L. Notz-Lietha, of Zurich; Mr. and Mrs. Kurz-Kübler, of Wilchingen (Ct. Schaffhausen).

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Here are further balances of the accounts for 1951 of Swiss cantons:

Valais ..... *Credit* Balance ..... 157,175.—frs.  
Lucerne ..... *Debit* Balance ..... 208,191.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Organisation Committee of the Federal Gymnastic Festival, which took place in Lausanne last year, have presented their final accounts showing a credit balance of 42,409.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

According to figures given by the Central Committee of the 'Schweizerischen Kaufmännischen Vereins', the membership of the Society numbers 52,500 active and 5,000 youth members. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Of the nearly 5 million population of Switzerland, 2.46 million or 57.6 per cent are Protestant and 1.75 million or 41.4 per cent Catholics, according to the last census. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, opening the Geneva Car Show, urged motorists to buy cars that could be used by the army, if mobilised. "It is part of our militia system of 'weapons at home' that not only the soldier but horses and motor-cars must be called up", he said. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two Swiss, Professors Eggert and Boltzer, have been made corresponding members of the Bavarian Academy of Science. Professor Eggert teaches physics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, while Professor Boltzer lectures on zoology at the University of Berne. Mr. Jacob Seiler, a teacher of zoology at the Institute of Technology, Zurich, has also been made a member of the Academy.

**ALL NATIONS CAVALCADE.**

Readers will be interested to know of the ALL-NATIONS CAVALCADE of Song and Dance to take place at the Royal Albert Hall — Sunday, May 25th, at 7 p.m.

The show — in aid of The National Playing Fields Association — will have a tremendous cast of hundreds of international peoples giving displays of their own culture with good entertainment. There will be many big choirs and groups of dancers from Europe to Coloured Dancers from the Gold Coast.

Switzerland will be well to the forefront and represented by the Swiss Male Choir and Swiss Accordion Band.

A special allocation of *best seats* will be available for Swiss Colony Friends, and this show could be an occasion for a fine social reunion. Tickets are very reasonable and reserved seats are 3/6, 5/-, 6/- and 7/6. Please contact Mr. E. P. Dick, Swiss Bank (Tel. MON.4000) personally, by post or sending Postal Orders or cash (or personally and by post to Mr. Luss Hardy, Dept. R.A.H., Swiss Hotel Plan Ltd., 245, Regent Street, London, W.1. (Tel: GRO.8921) marking Swiss Colony Friends.

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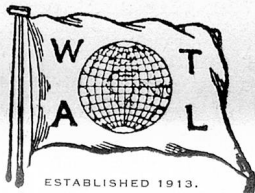
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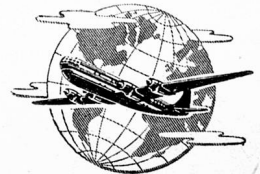
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