

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur R. Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation, has been nominated an honorary freeman of Villarzel, his birth-place.

\* \* \*

Various changes have been made in the Personnel of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne.

The Federal Council has nominated Minister Alfred Zehnder, — Head of the section for political affairs —, Secretary-General of the Federal Political Department.

Counsellor of Legation, M. Egbert von Graffenried, — Deputy to the Chief for political affairs — has received the title of Minister.

Minister von Graffenried, to whom we extend heartiest congratulations on his promotion, is no stranger to the Swiss Colony. In 1943, he took up the position as 1st Secretary of Legation and Attaché Commercial, at the Swiss Legation, in succession to Monsieur Girardet, the latter being appointed Swiss Minister at Copenhagen. During his seven years stay in London, he soon impressed everybody by his immense assiduity, by the attention he invariably paid to the smallest detail, by his eagerness to study any given problem *à fond*, and particularly by his complete and utter personal sincerity and integrity. He left London in March 1950, to take up an important position at the Political Department in Berne.

Counsellor of Legation, Paul Clottu, has been appointed Head of the section for Administrative Affairs at the Federal Political Department.

M. Clottu also enjoyed great popularity in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, and to him too our warmest congratulations are extended. He was appointed Social Counsellor to the Swiss Legation in 1947, leaving London in August, 1952, for Berne, where he occupied an important position in the Swiss Foreign Office.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in November, 1953, 16.6 million passengers, or 642,000 more than in November 1952. Receipts: 20.26 million frs. (Nov., 1952: 19.47 million frs.).

Goods traffic is returned as 1,78 million tons transported, or 229,000 tons more than during the same period in 1952. Receipts: 33.41 million francs.

### Cantonal

Dr. Hans Steiner, from 1919-1924 a Member of Parliament (National Council), from 1920-1924 a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, and from 1924-1944, a Judge at the Federal Supreme Court, Lausanne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the newspaper "Vaterland", Lucerne, has nominated National-Councillor, Dr. Karl Wick to the post of Editor-in-Chief. [A.T.S.]

The newly appointed Danish Minister, has paid an official visit to the Government of the canton Basle-Town. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor, Arthur Steiner, has been appointed Director of the "Schweizerischen Gewerkschaftsbundes". [A.T.S.]

During the month of November, 1953, 645 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Zurich. 267 persons were injured of whom ten eventually died. [A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, February 2nd, 1954**, at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. to reach him not later than, Monday, February 1st, 1954.

Ch. GYSIN

Hon. Secretary.

M. J. Gogniat, since 1927 the organist at the Minster in Fribourg has resigned from his post. On the 1st of January, 1954, he completed 50 years of organ playing [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Maurice Remy, Vice-Director of the "Heil-und Pflegeanstalt Waldau", Berne, has been appointed Director of the "Heil-und Pflegeanstalt Marsens", Fribourg. He studied medicine at the Universities of Fribourg, Lausanne and Paris. [A.T.S.]

The community of Brigels (Ct. Grisons) has nominated Mr. Martin Kramer, since 1912, Station-Master at Tavanasa-Brigels an honorary citizen, on the occasion of his retirement. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Hans Theus, has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Grisons, in succession to Dr. E. Tenchio. Dr. A. Cahannes has been elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor, Dr. E. Bircher, has been nominated a honorary freeman of the commune of Wohlenschwil. (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the 150th anniversary celebration of the canton of Thurgau's entry into the Confederation show a deficit of 65,266.—frs.— [A.T.S.]

Monsieur Marc Peter, formerly Swiss Minister in Washington, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

### Army

The Federal Council has promoted the following to the rank of Brigade-Colonel: Colonel Hermann Bachofner, born 1904 in Zurich; Colonel Rudolf Meyer, born 1899 in Zurich; and Colonel Walter Burkhard, born 1895, in Sumiswald. (Ct. Berne).

Captain William Hurter, at one time Assistant Military and Air Attaché at the Swiss Legation in London, and at present attached to the Swiss Legation in Warsaw, has been appointed Military and Air Attaché in Irak.

Lieut. Colonel Pierre Musy, at present Military and Air Attaché at Teheran, has been appointed in the same capacity to Paris and Brussels, in succession to Colonel of Brigade, R. de Blonay. [A.T.S.]

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The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. med. Emanuel Bise, Chief of the Dermatological section of the Cantonal Hospital, Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 56.

Simon Erlanger, Proprietor of the "Trikotagenfabrik" Lucerne, and from 1911-1941, a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 77.

Ludwig Zweifel, Industrialist, in Zollikon-Zurich, at the age of 65. The deceased was from 1926-1941, President of the commune of Netstal, and from 1926-1945, a member of the "Glarner Landrat"; from 1943-1945, he sat in Parliament. (National-Council).

Hans Allenbach, a lawyer, and President of the Tribunal Interlaken, in Interlaken, aged 82.

Jakob Renggli, from 1929-1942, a member of the Government of the canton of Lucerne, and formerly President of the Superior Court of Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 81.

Dr. med. Bernardo Semadini, a well-known eye specialist, founder of the "Augenklinik Scola", Davos, and Head of the "Augenklinik Guardaval", Davos-Dorf. In 1941, he was awarded the Alfred Vogt Prize. He died in Zurich, at the age of 47.

Bernard Schenker-Stocker, from 1910-1927, Director of the "Städtischen Unternehmungen", Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 87.

Dr. med. vet. Heinrich Strub, for over 30 years "Kantonstierarzt", and a former National-Councillor, in MuttENZ, aged 79.

Pasteur Charles Béguin, for the last 40 years a

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Enginerr, and later on "Kreisdirektor" of the Swiss Federal Railways. [A.T.S.]

The following couple have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland Mr. & Mrs. F. Pfunder-Illi of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned Legacies and Donations are published in the Swiss Press:

The late Max Burger-Fröhlich, co-proprietor of the "Rössli Stumpfenfabrik" Burg, has left legacies for charitable institutions, amounting to 85,000.— frs.

Mme. Maria Bernasconi of Mendrisio (Ct. Ticino), who died at the age of 84, has left an amount of 300,000.— frs. to a "Kindergarten" which bears the name of her family.

Eugen Wismann, an "Auslandschweizer" residing in Brazil has donated an amount of 100,000.— frs. to the community of Meilen (Zurich) to be used to help old people.

The "Maschinenfabrik Schweiter" Horgen has given an amount of 30,000.— frs. to the "Krankenhaus" in Horgen.

The "Kontrollverein" Grenchen has, on the occasion of its General Meeting, made the following donations: 100,000.— frs. to the Hospital Grenchen; 100,000.— frs. to the Concert & Theatre Hall, Grenchen; 20,000.— to the Literary Society Grenchen, and 10,000.— frs. to the Children's Home St. Josefanstalt, Grenchen.

The late Jean Ackermann, Post-Master in Oberach, (Ct. Thurgau) has left 50,000.— frs. to the community of Oberach. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Alpine Club is to make another attempt to climb Mount Everest this year, and may try to persuade the Sherpa Tensing to join. The expedition will arrive at Katmandu, Nepal, in March.

A Maserati, driven by E. de Graffenried, Swiss racing motorist, has won the Rio de Janeiro Grand Prix for sports cars over the Gavea circuit. De Graffenried covered the 330 km. (205 miles) in 4 hours, 14 minutes, 21.7 sec.

At the recent General Assembly of Clubs affiliated to the Swiss Rowing Federation, the following dates were fixed for 1954: May 9th-12th: River Regattas at Aarburg. May 23-30th: Zurich Spring Regattas at Horgen. May 30th: Lake Geneva Spring Regattas. June 13th: National Regattas on Lake Wohlen (Berne). June 30th: International Regattas

on the Rotsee, near Lucerne. June 26th-27th: Zurich International Regattas. July 11th: Swiss Rowing Championships, Rotsee. August 26th-29th: European Rowing Championships, Amsterdam. September 5th: Autumn Regattas, Bâle. September 12th: Autumn Regattas of the Jura Region, Olten. September 25th: Autumn Regattas, Zurich. September 26th: Autumn Regattas, Thun and Lausanne. October 18th: Long Distance Rowing Regattas, Erlenbach.

A new chair-lift has just been opened at La Creusaz, in the Valley of Trient (Valais). In fifteen minutes, passengers are carried from the village of Les Marécottes to a magnificent natural belvedere overlooking the Valley and the Alps (rising from 3,300 to 5,400 ft). Skiers will appreciate the Golettaz ski-tow, rising to 6,900 ft. to a spot where a full view of Mont Blanc is obtained. Other chairlifts are contemplated from Les Diablerets to the Col des Anderets and Verbier-Croix des Ruinettes.

Communication by road is now, and for the first time, secured between Küblis — a well-known halt to skiers on the Parsenn track near Davos — and St. Antönien, a village at 4,260 ft. above the River Landquart, the starting point of several downhill tracks. St. Antönien is also famous for a fine old 15th century church. Postal coaches are operating on this line.

Vacation courses in the French language will take place from July 12th to October 2nd 1954, and lectures on International Institutions from July 12th to August 7th. The latter will be delivered in French with simultaneous interpretation into English and German. For programme with full particulars please apply to "Secrétariat des Cours de Vacances", Université, Geneva, Switzerland.

A new "small" or "pocket" theatre has just been opened in Lausanne. It is known as the "Théâtre du Petit-Chêne" and is of the type very popular in Paris and Geneva; accommodating only 200, it is comfortable and even luxurious and the management propose to produce "problem" plays and good comedies, billing outstanding performers. It is certain to be a success, because Lausannites are notorious theatre-lovers.

On Saturday January 2nd Silver City Airways inaugurated a seasonal "Winter Sports Air Ferry"

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between London and Zurich for vehicles and passengers. Aircraft leave London (Blackbushe Airport, Camberley, Surrey) on Saturdays and arrive at Zurich by noon, thus permitting many of the popular winter sports centres to be reached the same day.

Return flights leave Zurich early afternoon, arriving back in London early evening. This service is especially designed for the benefit of winter sports enthusiasts who wish to take their cars (or motor cycles) abroad, but who want to avoid the arduous two-day drive across Europe. Only passengers accompanying vehicles will be carried. The charge for cars up to an overall length of 13½ ft. is £25 per single journey or £35 over that length. Passengers £14.17.0 single or £26.15.0 return. Vehicle rates include comprehensive insurance cover against loss or damage during loading and whilst in flight.

Zermatt has in the course of the last two years spent about 100,000 Swiss francs in improving the marvellous Gornergrat ski run, which starting at an altitude of about 10,000 ft. descends to Zermatt, a difference of nearly 5,000 ft. A passage through Riffelberg which was formerly considered very dangerous no longer presents any difficulty, as the slope has been made less steep, thanks to the piercing of a tunnel about 80 yards long through the rock.

Two British women who will accompany the Swiss guide Raymond Lambert on a Himalaya expedition next autumn are Mrs. Monica Jackson, of Tomintoul, Scotland, and Mrs. Anne Marsh. Mr. Lambert said that it was due to the initiative of the two women that the expedition was first considered. The party will also comprise some Swiss climbers. Mr. Lambert hopes that the cost of the expedition will not exceed £1,300 a head.

Hugo Koblet and Armin Von Buren, Switzerland, won the final of the European Winter Criterium, the unofficial Madison championship, at Zurich, when they beat Schulte and Peters, Holland, and Bruneel and Acou, Belgium. The result of the 1953 series is a repetition of that for 1952. The first three teams finished equal on distance, the result being decided by the final sprint.

A Swiss delegation has visited Italy to discuss the possibility of a road tunnel under the St. Bernhard to connect the two countries.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Le laboratoire de recherches d'une importante fabrique bâloise de produits chimiques et pharmaceutiques vient de mettre au point le Diazinon. C'est un nouveau progrès fait dans la lutte contre les parasites de nos vergers, champs, jardins et vignes.

Une fabrique suisse de machines mondialement connue vient de reprendre l'une des plus anciennes entreprises d'équipement de mines de l'Afrique du Sud.

La filiale brésilienne d'une maison bernoise fabriquant des produits maltés vient d'ouvrir une nouvelle fabrique à Resende (entre Rio et Sao Paulo), la quinzième de cette entreprise suisse.

L'industrie suisse de l'aluminium a mis au point du matériel typographique en métal léger, répondant à toutes les exigences techniques. L'économie de poids est remarquable. Ce matériel est 2½ fois plus léger que la fonte et 4 fois plus léger que le plomb.

Le Swissair se place en second rang, après les CFF, dans l'ordre d'importance des entreprises de transport suisses. Elle exerce son activité principalement à l'étranger. Le réseau de ses lignes atteint une longueur de plus de 30,000 km. Dans l'année, ses avions parcourent plus de 10 millions de km, en près de 12,000 vols et en transportant environ 300,000 passagers. Le chiffre d'affaires total monte à 70

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millions de francs. Le parc comprend 24 machines et le personnel compte presque 2,000 personnes.

Le nouveau "Requiem" d'Henri Sutermeister vient d'être joué avec grand succès à Rome, sous la direction d'Herbert de Karajan. Après une tournée en France et en Espagne, l'orchestre de chambre de Zurich est retenu encore pour dix concerts en France.

Un juriste lausannois, M. Jacques Bourquin, a été appelé aux Etats-Unis à faire une conférence sur la liberté de l'information et la protection de l'Etat, dans le cadre des festivités marquant le deuxième centenaire de la fondation de la célèbre université Columbia.

### SWISS NEUTRALITY.

A notable statement of policy has been made by M. Max Petitpierre, the Swiss Foreign Secretary. Recently there has been much grumbling in Switzerland about Swiss "commitments" in the two neutral commissions in Korea. The sharp criticism of Switzerland by the Soviet satellites because the Swiss delegation in Panmunjom stood out for basic human rights and resisted the use of violence against prisoners made the public wonder whether Switzerland was not unwittingly making itself the protagonist of the West. M. Petitpierre endeavoured to drive home that "neutrality" does not imply a purely passive attitude "had to be adopted towards the groundless recognised and respected," he said, "neutrality has to be supported by deeds which justify it. Neutrality

has its obligations." He said that an "energetic attitude" had to be adopted towards the groundless accusation levelled against the Indian, Swedish, and Swiss representatives on the Neutral Nations Commission because their views did not coincide with those of the Chinese and North Korean command. This is a sound and constructive attitude. The combination of neutrality, which the Swiss believe to be a prerequisite for the political existence of their country, with active attempts to be useful to peace in the real sense of the word is bound to have a beneficial influence in the world. Neutrality need not presuppose constant soundings at the precise location of the central point between extremes and strict navigation along the dotted line. The alternative is an active approach which, by the nature of Switzerland's genuine and traditional neutrality, would help it to mediate, if and when called upon, and thus serve peace and international stability. The Swiss Government's activity in Korea has been an outstanding example of this approach and one for which it deserves thanks.

(Manchester Guardian) 25.11.53.

### THE SWISS NATIONAL ANTHEM. RUFST DU MEIN VATERLAND.

(by J. R. Wyss.)

Fatherland, at your call,  
We offer you our all,  
Our heart, our life.  
Hail to Helvetia's name;  
Your sons are still the same  
As those who built your fame,  
Joyful in strife.

Where the great Alpine shield  
Can no protection yield,  
God will sustain.  
Rocklike, we shall not fail,  
In danger never pale,  
Meet death without a wail  
And smile in pain.

You shaped our destiny  
And made us strong and free  
O native soil.  
Steadfast in times of need,  
Perils we shall not heed,  
And for a noble deed  
Gladly we'll toil.

Free and for ever free!  
This shall our watchword be,  
Our heartfelt prayer.  
Free are they who can die,  
And who with purpose high  
To every task apply  
A courage rare.

But when God sends us peace  
And battle tumults cease,  
O what delight.  
Banish the deadly steel,  
Let's build with joy and zeal,  
Having the homeland's weal  
Ever in sight.

(Translated by J.J.F.S.)  
Jan. 1954.

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