

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur André Parodi to the post of Chargé d'Affaires in Bucarest, in succession to Dr. Eric Kessler, who has recently been nominated Swiss Minister in Dublin.

Monsieur André Parodi was born in 1909 at Cairo and studied economic science at the University of Geneva, of which town he is a citizen; then followed visits to various foreign Universities. In 1945, he entered the Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne as first Secretary of Legation. After a short stay in Berne he was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Rome in the capacity of Commercial Attaché. In 1947, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

Monsieur Bernard Mallet has been appointed Swiss Consul General in Florence. He was born at Geneva in 1899 where he studied law. In 1925, M. Mallet entered into the diplomatic service, and four years later (1929) was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Paris. In 1933, he was sent to the Swiss Legation in Rome, where he was promoted in 1944 to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. From April 1946 to 1947, he held the post of 1st Counsellor of Legation in Brussels, and from 1949 — 1950 he acted as Chargé d'Affaires in Rumania.

Customs receipts for the month of February, 1954, totalled 44.1 million francs or 0.8 million francs more than in February, 1953. In the first two months of the current year the receipts of the Customs Administration amounted to 64.4 million francs which exceeds by 3.1 million francs the receipts during the same period in 1953.

The Government of the Republic of Brazil has decided to raise their Legation in Berne to an Embassy. Monsieur Francisco d'Alamo Lousada, formerly Brazilian Minister accredited to the Confederation has been nominated ambassador.

Air Marshal S. F. Javoronkow, Russian airline chief arrived in Berne for talks with the Swiss Government and airline officials on a Switzerland to Moscow air link.

Switzerland agreed to Communist China's opening a consulate general in Geneva in time for the Korea conference.

Monsieur Ibrahim El-Ahdab, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Lebanon, has presented his credentials to M. Rubattel, President of the Swiss Confederation and M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. He was until recently Minister in Ankara.

The Swiss Government has placed some £575,000 at the disposal of the Swiss Red Cross to send a medical mission to Korea.

### Cantonal

The Municipal theatre, and the "Schauspielhaus" Zurich have received a legacy amounting to 100,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

Burglars who raided a Jewellers shop in Zurich-Oerlikon got away with watches and jewellery to the value of 40,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Josef Jud, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich, has celebrated his 102nd birthday anniversary. He is a citizen of Krummenau. (Toggenburg). [A.T.S.]

A lawyer of Bienne, holding the post of secretary of the "Association cantonale bernoise des Termineurs"

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de mouvements d'horlogerie", disappeared from Bienne, after a charge for embezzling an amount of 80,000.— frs. had been made against him. He was later arrested at Thonon by the French police, and will be handed over to the Swiss authorities.

[A.T.S.]

The "Fédération Internationales des Géomètres", Paris, has nominated M. von Steiger, a former Federal Councillor, an honorary member. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Paul Billieux, a former National Councillor and Mayor of the town of Porrentruy, and for 41 years public prosecutor of the Jura district, has tendered his resignation. He is 70 years of age. [A.T.S.]

During the month of February, 1954, 290 traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Berne; 168 persons were injured, of whom 6 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The Papal Nuncio in Berne, Mgr. Gustavo Testa, has paid an official visit to the town of Basle, on which occasion the cantonal Government gave a reception in his honour at the Town Hall. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the Sandoz, A.G., Basle, is making a donation amounting to 500,000.— frs. to the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, on the occasion of the approaching 100th Jubilee of this University. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the Cantonal Bank of Schaffhausen has made a donation amounting to 50,000.— frs. to the new cantonal hospital, Schaffhausen, which will be inaugurated shortly. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Eugen Tanner (Herisau) since 1943 a member of the Government of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. is retiring from his post. [A.T.S.]

Dr. A. Eversteyn of St. Gall, has, in memory of his deceased wife, made a donation of 100,000.— frs. to the St. Gall foundation "Für das Alter".

[A.T.S.]

Burglars who raided the rectory at Rothrist (Ct. Aargau) stole a cash amount of 4,500.— frs. belonging to various church collections. [A.T.S.]

The parish of Villmergen (Ct. Aargau) has received a legacy of 20,000.— frs. from Mr. Guiseppe Schmidli, Hotelier in Rome, who was born at Villmergen in 1874. The money is to be used for the poor of the parish. [A.T.S.]

M. Arthur Maret (Socialist) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud.

[A.T.S.]

A young women employee fetching an amount of 10,000.— frs. from a Geneva Post Office was attacked on her way to the office by a man, who knocked her down trying to get hold of her handbag. Her cries for help were heard whereupon the assailant took to his heels, pursued by passers-by who stopped him, and handed him over to the police. [A.T.S.]

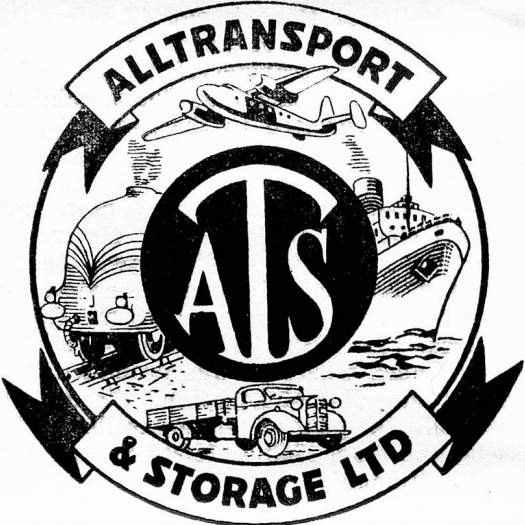
The judgment on Professor Bonnard and his colleagues — the professor was sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment (the sentence being suspended on conditions of good behaviour for three years) for supplying political information to a foreign organization — has been generally assessed by Swiss opinion as fitting the punishment to the crime. The writer of the leading article in the *Journal de Genève* describes the penalties imposed as symbolic, and other commentators praise the discretion with which the Federal Court has vindicated the law without making a martyr of the professor.

At the same time there are voices on the left which claim that the trial has shown how far democratic Switzerland has progressed towards a police State. This is the exaggeration of partisanship, but many Swiss democrats were uneasy to learn that the secrecy of the post and the telephone had been violated, and even those who applaud the judgment express the view that Article 272 of the penal code should be clarified to prevent the impression that anybody prosecuted under it is being tried for his opinions rather than for a breach of the law.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Charles-Arthur Redard, from 1945-1949 Swiss Minister in Brazil, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 70.

Carl Oesch-Weiss, President of the Board of the "Zuger Kantonalbank", and of the "Spinnerei Aegers", in Zug, aged 79.



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Karl Hermann Stamm, in Schleithem (Ct. Schaffhausen) aged 75. The deceased played a conspicuous part in the religious life of the canton of Schaffhausen.

E. Matter, a former "Oberbetriebschef" of the "Generaldirektion" of the Swiss Federal Railways, in Berne, at the age of 81.

Alphonse Lavèrrière, a noted architect, and for 19 years drawing-master at the cantonal school (Vaud), in Lausanne, aged 83.

Robert Cantieni, composer, and for many years Music-Master at the "Bündner Kantonschule" in Chur, at the age of 82.

Colonel Max Jaeger, at one time chief-of-staff of the 4th Division and commander of the Sargans fortress, in Berne, aged 54.

Gaston Boiceau, civil-engineer, in Lausanne, at the age of 85. The deceased was the constructor of the Lausanne municipal tramways, the funicular railways Interlaken-Harder, Siders-Montana and the electric railway Clarens-Blonay. From 1917-1933, Boiceau was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud.

Otto Kaufmann, from 1905-1947, Head of the "Kulturingenieurbüro" of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 75.

Dr. Theo Gubler, a former teacher at the "Humanistischen Gymnasium", Basle, in Basle, at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

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Here are some balances of the accounts for 1953 of the following cantons:

Valais	Debit Balance...	960,000.— frs.
Solothurn	Credit Balance...	2,347,674.— frs.
Vaud	Credit Balance...	421,344.— frs.
Geneva	Credit Balance...	7,807,188.— frs.
Appenzell A.Rh.	Credit Balance...	132,120.— frs.
Appenzell I.Rh.	Debit Balance...	69,700.— frs.
Neuchâtel	Credit Balance...	6,700,000.— frs.
Ticino	Credit Balance...	2,387,842.— frs.
Fribourg	Credit Balance...	316,683.— frs.
Berne	Credit Balance...	508,742.— frs.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The undermentioned anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press:

Karl von Weber (75) of Schwyz, from 1920-1944 a member of the Government of the canton of Schwyz, and from 1925-1943 a Member of Parliament. (National Council).

Dr. Arnold Reymond (80) of Pully, formerly Professor of Philosophy at the Sorbonne (Paris) and the Universities of Lausanne and Neuchâtel. He is a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Neuchâtel, and an honorary citizen of Pully.

Max Passet (70) of Thusis, a noted civil engineer. Many of the railway and power establishments in Switzerland and abroad were built after his plans.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. Gabus-Guinaud of Le Locle, Mr. & Mrs. P. Leyvraz of Corbeyrier-sur-Aigle, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Marchand-Gramière of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

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Switzerland now has two Communist parties; Léon Nicole, expelled from the Worker's (Communist)

Party in December 1952 for "deviation" has formed a rival group called the Progressive Party.

Like the Workers' Party, it advocates close friendship with Russia and the "Peoples Democracies" and is opposed to rearmament.

[A.T.S.]

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Mr. Marc Spitzer, for several years manager of the London office of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has been appointed manager of the Swiss Finance Corporation for Canadian Investment, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Swiss Bank Corporation. Mr. Spitzer's headquarters will be in Montreal.

### A RETIREMENT.

Our countryman, Mr. J. F. Beer, principal Chef de cuisine at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, is shortly retiring from his position.

Mr. Beer trained in Davos, later going to Claridges Hotel, London. After several years in West End Hotels, in 1926 he went to the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, but was shortly afterwards appointed to his present position at the Grand Hotel, a post he has held for 27 years. He is an old member of the Swiss Club, Birmingham.

We are extending to him our best wishes in his retirement.

### SWISSAIR TRAFFIC IN FEBRUARY.

Point to Point Passengers	...	24,726	18,886
		+ 31%	
Offered ton/miles	... ..	3,109,338	2,013,426
		+ 54%	
Average Utilisation Grade on the scheduled service		54.4%	65.1%

The offered Ton/Miles in February slightly exceeded the actual budget. Compared with the same month of the previous year, offered capacity increased by 54%. Against this large increase we have an increased utilisation of 29%. Demand therefore did not keep pace with the offered capacity which, despite the remarkable increase of 31% for point to point passengers, reached a utilisation of 54.4%. Compared with February 1953, our increased achievements are due to the use of larger aircraft and to the fact that during this winter season, the summer programme has not been drastically reduced as in previous years.

