

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Dr. Philipp Etter, Federal Councillor, has celebrated his 20th Jubilee as a member of the Swiss Government.

Previous to his election as a Federal Councillor, he represented his native canton of Zug in the States Council.

He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1939, 1942, 1947 and 1953.

During the month of February, 1954, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.66 million passengers, or 178,000 more than in February 1953. Receipts 20.43 million francs. (February, 1953: 20.21 million francs).

Goods traffic increased by 24,000 tons and is returned as 1.36 million tons. Receipts: 29.87 million francs. (February, 1953: 29.06 million francs).

Cantonal

During the month of March, 1954, 339 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. 245 persons were injured of whom 9 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The late Mlle. Hortense Auderset of Cressier near Murten, has left an amount of 30,000.— frs. to various institutions. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Arthur Rosenthaler, Vice-Director of the Electricity Works, Basle, has been appointed to the post of Director, in succession to Mr. E. Stiefel who has relinquished his office. [A.T.S.]

Six members (out of eleven) of the Superior Court of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. have resigned, mostly on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Rudolf Siegrist (Socialist) has been nominated "Landammann" of the canton of Aargau, and Dr. Hausheer (Conservative) has been appointed "Landesstatthalter". [A.T.S.]

The late Mme. Clara Signer-Munz of Horn. (Ct. Thurgau) has left an amount of 32,000.— frs. to various church institutions. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the town and canton of Neuchâtel, M. Jean Schütz, has celebrated his 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

In November, 1953, the Government of the canton of Geneva decided to nominate M. Ernest Ansermet, conductor of the "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande" an honorary citizen in recognition for the eminent services he had rendered to the musical life of Genève.

The ceremony of handing over the certificate has recently taken place at the Town Hall in Geneva in the presence of members of the cantonal Government and municipal authorities. [A.T.S.]

M. George Oscar Zoller, from 1926-1954, Director of the "College de Genève" has resigned from his post for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

The work of clearing the site on which the laboratory of the European Council for Nuclear Research is to be erected at an estimated cost of £10m. will be started in the middle of May. The convention establishing the organization still lacks the necessary ratifications to bring it into force, but it is expected that France, Italy, and the German Federal Republic will deposit their ratifications soon. Certain sums available under an earlier convention will be used for carrying out the preliminary work. The land has been put at the disposal of the organization by the canton of Geneva.

Herman Geiger, Swiss air rescue expert, landed a light plane 12,500ft. up the Alps to rescue a German girl who had broken her leg while skiing.

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The girl, Miss Jacqueline Crissel (25), of Cologne, was skiing on the Monte Rosa plateau near the Italian frontier.

She was flown down to Sion, on the Rhone, where she is in hospital.

The Swiss firms of Brown Boveri and Constructions Metallique de Vevey, have been entrusted with the manufacture of electric equipment for Canastra hydro plant in the Rio Grande del Sul Brazilian province. The equipment will consist mainly of two groups of 20 MW each.

* * *

Swiss shortwave radio have announced that an important order had just been received by the Swiss firm of Brown, Boveri of Baden from the Government of Saudi Arabia. This consists of the setting up of a central electricity power station, with gas turbines having a capacity of 18 MW supplying Jeddah, on the eastern coast of the Red Sea. Its electrical supply has been provided by a Diesel power plant of 3.7 MW, which has been quite inadequate. Often during peak hours it was necessary to cut off supplies to entire quarters of the city. Remedying this state of affairs, the Saudi Arabian Government has entrusted to Brown, Boveri and Co. installation of three groups of gas turbines, each of 6 MW, as well as the entire electrical installation. This firm had already installed in this same region, six groups of gas turbines of 6 MW each for the Arabian-American Oil Company.

* * *

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Abel Delaloye, advocate and notary in Ardon. (Ct. Valais) at the age of 73.

The deceased was at one time President of the parish of Ardon, as well as President of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais. For many years he held the post of President of the Board of the Cantonal Bank.

Fritz Degen, commercial manager of the "Schweizerischen Reederei, A.G." Basle, in Basle, aged 59.

Pastor Paul Blumenstein, in Solothurn, at the age of 63. He was for 40 years a preacher (protestant) spending 10 years in Biberist-Gerlafingen and the last 30 years in Solothurn.

Antonio Scanziani, correspondent of the "Schweiz. Depeschen Agentur", Rome, in Rome aged 69. From 1927-1928, he occupied the post of Director of the "Gazetta Ticinese", Lugano, he was also at one time President of the parish of Balerna, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino.

Leo Wehrli, from 1900-1935, Professor of Chemistry and Geology at the "Töcherschule" Zurich, and a lecturer at the "Zürcher Volkshochschule", in Zurich at the age of 84.

Charles Bernard, for more than 40 years a teacher of Gymnastics at the *Gymnasium* Geneva, in Geneva, aged 88.

Victor Perrier, lawyer in Yverne, at the age of 72. The deceased was at one time commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade. During the last war he was a Colonel in the General Staff.

Edouard Thorens, General Manager, and a member of the Board of the Paillard Works, S.A. Yverdon, in Paris, aged 66.

Louis Goetschmann, Director of the printing works "Paul Attinger, S.A." Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 53.

Professor, Dr. med. Maurice Muret, from 1903-1926, Professor of Gynaecology at the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, aged 91.

Walter Rudolf Salzmänn, Head of the firm "Salzmänn & Co. (Textiles) of St. Gall, aged 48. He lost his life in the recent Comet disaster.

Dr. August Roth, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau from 1923-1941. In 1941, he was elected a member of the cantonal Government. He also sat for several years in Parliament. (National Council). He died in Frauenfeld at the age of 60.

Luigi Luvini, architect, in Lugano, aged 77.

Colonel G. Hamberger, from 1914-1928, head of the motorised section of the Swiss army, and a honorary member of the Swiss Automobil Club, in Berne, at the age of 90.

Tienhy Chessex-Kürsteiner, head of the "Kammwollspinnerei Chessex & Co." Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen, aged 70.

Mgr. Lorenz Rogger, "Probst" of Beromünster, and for many years Director of the cantonal teachers seminary, Hitzkirch. He was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Fribourg. He died in Hitzkirch at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The undermentioned anniversaries are published in the Swiss Press:

Edmond Barde (80) of Geneva, for 40 years General Secretary of the "Journal de Genève".

Johannes Winzeler (75) of Stein A.Rh., for 22 years Mayor of Stein a. Rh., and from 1925-1928 a member of the National Council. From 1928-1947, he was a member of the States Council.

Dr. med. Rudolf Wolfer (75) of Zurich, a well-known specialist for asthma diseases, and for 30 years head of the "Hochgebirgsklinik für innere Krankheiten" in Davos.

Dr. Arnold Koller (80) of Zurich, from 1905-1923, Director of the "Heil & Pflegeanstalt" Herisau, and later on Director of the Asylum Préfargier in Neuchâtel.

States-Councillor Josef Vieli (70) of Chur. Amongst the various public appointments he held since 1916, are the following: Secretary of the Peasants Association of the canton of Grisons, member of the Grand Council, the cantonal Government and Tribunal. In 1938, Dr. Vieli was elected a

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member of the States Council to which he still belongs.

Pastor, Dr. Emil Camenisch (80) of Tschappina (Heinzenberg), author of numerous historical and religious dissertations.

Professor, Dr. Robert Haller (80) of Riehen, scientist and botanist. [A.T.S.]

At the end of last year the Swiss seafaring fleet numbered 34 ships with a tonnage of 197,000 belonging to 16 different concerns. The crew of these ships number about 900 of which a quarter are of Swiss nationality. [A.T.S.]

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

Nidwalden	..... Debit	Balance...	122,938.—	frs.
Obwalden	..... Credit	Balance...	21,948.—	"
Grisons	..... Debit	Balance...	1,200,000.—	"
Schwyz	..... Debit	Balance...	17,064.—	"
Schaffhausen	... Credit	Balance...	52,568.—	"
Thurgau	..... Credit	Balance...	354,122.—	"

[A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. & Mrs. A. Grünenwald-Paul of Basle, Mr. & Mrs. E. Kofmehl-Steiger of Zurich.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sonderegger-Schmiedle of Rehetobel (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.) have celebrated their iron wedding (65) anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The European Council for Nuclear Research has decided to offer the directorship to Professor Félix

Bloch, holder of the Nobel Prize for Physics, who was born in Switzerland but since 1935 has been working in the United States and is now attached to Stanford University.

As Professor Bloch would not commit himself for longer than two years, the council elected Professor Eduardo Amaldi, of the University of Rome, as deputy director, and Professor C. J. Bakker, of the University of Amsterdam, as representative of the scientific group leaders.

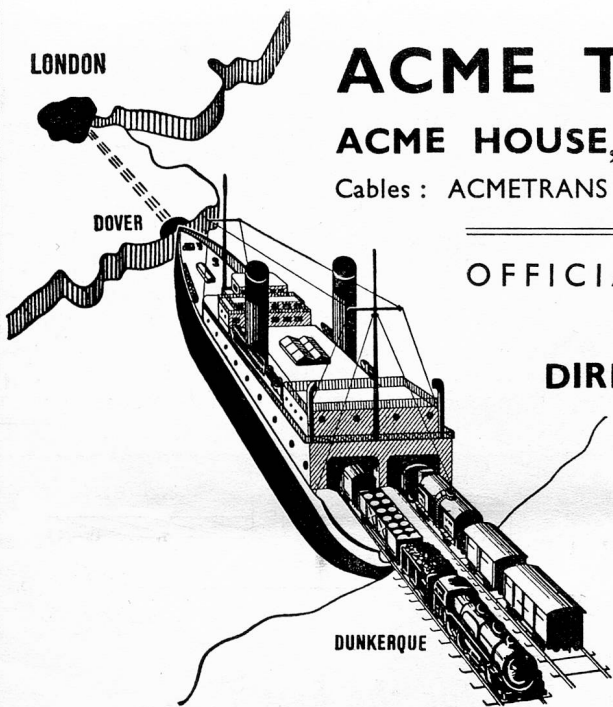
The appointments mark an important stage in the development of the project to build, at an initial cost of £10m., an international laboratory just outside Geneva. The sum will be spread over the first seven years, after which the operating costs of the organization are estimated at £750,000 a year. The share of the United Kingdom will be just under 24 per cent.

The laboratory will have no concern with applied research on atomic energy or with work for military objectives.

Sherpa Tensing, of Mount Everest fame, is to attend a training course for mountain guides in Switzerland.

The Swiss Helicopter Company of Berne has bought a Bell Model 47G, to be used initially for the training of pilots on behalf of the Air Ministry and Air Force. Later this year the company proposes to open mail services between Geneva and Lausanne and St. Gall and Zurich.

In the course of an address to members of the Cape Chamber of Industries in Cape Town recently,



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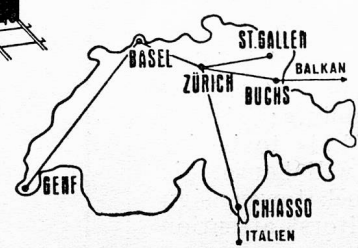
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Mr. A. C. Nussbaumer, of the Swiss Bank Corporation, indicated that further loans would be available for South Africa from Switzerland. He said that Swiss banks would be prepared to grant loans with maturities of five or six years on the sale of capital equipment. If finance was needed for the building industry a special organisation would be required on the lines of that established in Canada.

As a banker, Mr. Nussbaumer said, he was perfectly satisfied with what he had so far seen in South Africa. The economic, financial, and currency matters of the country were being controlled with such dexterity and conservatism that nothing better could be found anywhere in the world.

Only when one travelled through the Union could one appreciate the tremendous development since the industrial revolution started during the 1930s — and that was not so long ago.

One had to bear in mind the particular problems of the country, the vast distances and thinly populated area, and the fact that the whole financial burden had to be carried by only about 3,000,000 Europeans.

* * *

The consumption of meat in Switzerland slightly increased during 1953, as compared with the previous year. It amounted to 46.3 kilos per head of the population, which is considerably less than the maximum figure recorded in this respect up to the present namely 52 kilos.

* * *

THE FORTHCOMING HOSPES EXHIBITION, BERNE, May 14th-June 21st. Swiss caterers and hoteliers are attending to the final details of their organisation for the HOSPES Exhibition, particularly as regards the International Gastronomy Tournament. Reputed chefs, from more than twenty countries have entered for the Tournament and their Swiss confreres also hope to win new laurels. Teams of chefs are getting busy, as most of the Swiss Cantons will be represented; their intention is, also, to demonstrate that the reputation of Swiss cuisine is not based merely on regional or local speciality cheese dishes.

Public transport companies represented at the Exhibition are building their displays around the theme: "Comfort of Modern Trains". Indeed, the Berne show promises to be the largest demonstration of railway travel since the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich, 1939. The Swiss Federal Railways will be represented in three different sections:

In the Rail Travel Pavilion, where photographs, maps, graphs, diagrams and a huge luminous map of Switzerland will be used to give a general idea of the Swiss network and activities of the S.F.R.;

In a special Hall reserved for the display of scale models. Here will be found a model (scale: 1/10th) of the first train used by the West-Switzerland Company, an early XXth Century express train and a modern inter-city train;

A model station (natural size) will comprise ticket office, enquiry office, the most up-to-date station-master's office with ultra modern points; also a "Quick Service" station buffet which is to be installed at Thun. A special building will house this "Model Station" which, with its clock tower, sign and signals will certainly attract visitors' attention to this section of the Exhibition.

Three platforms with three lines are also being installed for the presentation and demonstration of rolling stock, including the Swiss Federal Railways Centenary Train. Here will be found an Enquiry Office, together with a Movie Car, Buffet Car and a Station Newspaper Kiosk: all these installations will be open to the public. Two different halls are reserved for the Federal General Post Office which is organising an interesting display of its many and varied activities. For example, in regions where the railways can go no farther, the P.O. Motor Coaches take over, carrying passengers and freight up steep and winding Alpine valleys. This extremely well-organised service is an invaluable aid to the travel trades, for the tourist is thus given an opportunity of visiting off-track sites, isolated mountain inns and villages. And, indeed, everywhere in Switzerland the visitor still remains in touch with the world by telephone and cable. As for correspondence, the airlines nowadays carry letters speedily to the farthest corners of the earth; the number of post-offices in Switzerland is remarkable — more than 4,000 — thus securing the quickest possible contact with every country in the world.

OFFICIAL "DAYS" AT THE HOSPES. Here are the dates: May 16th: Zurich and Aargau Day; May 18th: French Day; May 20th: English Day; May 23rd: Geneva, Vaud, Fribourg, Neuchâtel; May 25th: Germany; May 27th: Italy; May 30th: Valais, Berne, Solothurn, Bâle; June 1st: Austria; June 3rd: Belgium and Luxembourg; June 6th: Grisons, St. Gallen, Appenzell, Glarus, Thurgau, Schaffhausen, Liechtenstein; June 10th: Netherlands; June 13th: Ticino, Uri, Schwyz, Nidwald and Obwald, Zug, Lucerne; June 15th: America.

All the "Days" reserved for the Swiss Cantons are Sundays, whereas those reserved for other nations are weekdays.

* * *

THE 1954 WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS. National teams playing matches for the Eighth Finals of the World Championships (June 16th to 20th) will not put up in the cities of Bâle, Berne, Geneva, Lugano, Lausanne and Zurich where the stadiums are, but in other regions, the choice of which may yet be modified. The Belgian team has selected Rheinfelden and Lugano as halting places; Hungary has selected Solothurn; Yugoslavia — Fribourg; Brazil — Macolin/Maggingen in the Jura above Bienne; England or Scotland — Lucerne; Germany



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— Spiez or Thun; Austria — Baden; Uruguay — Montreux; France — Dully (on the shore of Lake Geneva, half-way between Rolle and Nyon). It has not been settled where the winner of the Japan v. Korea match, or Mexico will put up.

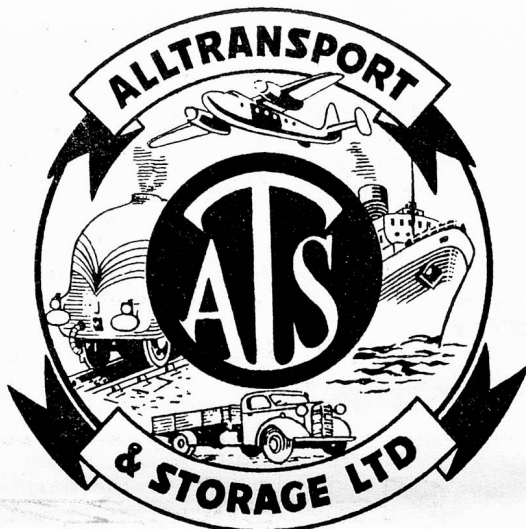
Sixteen umpires have been appointed by the International Federation of Football Associations (I.F.F.A.) for the Finals of the World Championships. Their names are: Schmetzer, West Germany; Ellis and Ling, England; Steiner, Austria; Francken, Belgium; Viana, Brazil; Faultless, Scotland; Asensi, Spain; Vincenti, France; Zsolt, Hungary; Orlandini, Italy; da Costa, Portugal; Wyssling, Switzerland; Marino, Uruguay, Griffiths, Wales; Stefanovitch, Yugoslavia.

Furthermore, for the Eighth Finals, eight Swiss umpires will serve as linesmen. All these umpires will follow a course of instruction, sponsored by the Umpire Committee of the I.F.F.A., on June 14th and 15th at Berne.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

“ *Semaine Suisse* ” (Service de Presse).

Au cours de ces dernières années, la demande de jus de raisin sans alcool n'a fait que croître. Pour la saison 1950/51, la consommation a été de 31,800 hl. et elle a passé à 40,400 hl. pour 1952/53. Ce développement réjouissant est dû, pour une bonne part, à l'amélioration constante de la qualité de cette boisson.



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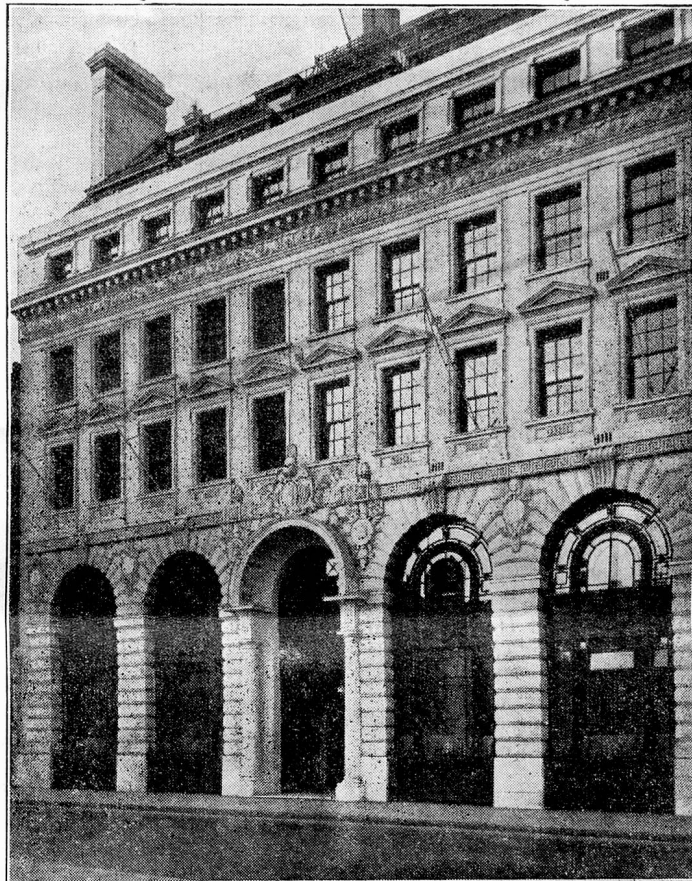


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* * *

Un nouveau procédé suisse pour la fabrication d'eau lourde (pour la production d'énergie atomique) vient d'être mis au point. Il est sensiblement moins coûteux que ceux utilisés à l'étranger.

* * *

Nicolas Aeschbacher, jusqu'ici directeur musical au Théâtre municipal de Berne, a été appelé à Tokio comme directeur de l'Orchestre symphonique national du Japon.

* * *

Une exposition Cuno Amiet à New York remporte un plein succès. Elle fera connaître en Amérique l'oeuvre du célèbre peintre suisse.

* * *

Le gouvernement éthiopien a chargé le professeur Jean Graven, de la faculté de droit de l'Université de Genève, de la rédaction d'un code pénal et d'un code de procédure pénale.

* * *


Ce qui semblait naguère impossible est aujourd'hui une réalité: grâce aux progrès accomplis dans les cultures, aux soins apportés lors de la récolte et de l'entreposage dans les frigorifiques, il est possible d'offrir aux consommateurs des fruits indigènes frais pendant toute l'année.



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This summer, there are three DC-6B flights daily to Zurich (Super Swiss and Tourist class on the day flight), daily Tourist and Night Tourist flights to Geneva and Basle, and daily flights to Berne. There is also a direct Manchester/Zurich service, the only direct service of this kind operated by any airline.

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Depuis quelques années ont lieu en Suisse des "Semaines villageoises". Elles ont pour but de mettre en évidence l'importance tout à la fois économique, morale, sociale et politique de la communauté villageoise et de lutter contre l'exode vers la ville.

* * *

La maison Escher-Wyss équipe la nouvelle patinoire artificielle de Cortina d'Ampezzo, dans les Dolomites italiennes, selon le système qui a fait ses preuves au Stade couvert de Zurich.

* * *

La "Transeuropa-Bus" de Saurer marque une nouvelle étape de l'industrie automobile; aucun véhicule de la même catégorie n'a jamais réalisé de telles performances. Les progrès sont surtout dans les domaines de l'accélération et de la puissance en côte, du gain de place par suite de la disposition transversale du moteur Diesel de 170 CV à 8 vitesses, de l'éloignement du bruit du moteur et des trépidations à des vitesses atteignant 100 km/h.

* * *

La production des livres suisses accuse, en 1953, une augmentation de 10,6% sur l'année précédente. L'accroissement est particulièrement fort dans le domaine de la littérature pour la jeunesse et les éditions de luxe.

* * *

Le pianiste suisse Max Egger a joué à Tokio devant une salle comble et a été rappelé douze fois, fait qui ne s'était jamais vu dans la capitale japonaise.

JEANETTE ALTWEGG ENGAGED.

The engagement of Jeanette Altwegg, who won the 1952 Olympic Ice Skating Championship, is announced.

Her fiance is Marc Wirz, brother of Susy Wirz, a leading Swiss skater.

Miss Altwegg's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Altwegg, live at Winterthur, Switzerland, but they formerly lived in Liverpool, where Jeannette was born 23 years ago.

She caused a sensation after the 1952 Olympics — when she was British, European, World and Olympic champion — by announcing her retirement. It was not a move from amateur titles to professional prosperity. She retired altogether from skating and turned down an offer of £2,000 a week in order to train, as she put it, for a job "in which I can be of real use".

That job was child welfare — for which she received something under £3 a week for darning the clothes of British orphans at the Pestalozzi Village, the international children's home.

She found happiness in fourteen hours a day, washing, ironing, mending and housework.

In a broadcast last August, after describing how she began skating in Liverpool at the age of six and gave up school at ten to concentrate more on skating, she said that she later realised she had missed the companionship of children of her own age.

She was awarded the C.B.E. in the Coronation honours list for her services to amateur skating. The International Olympic Committee awarded her a special diploma in recognition of her refusal to become a professional.