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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, R. PFENNINGER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

President Eisenhower, in the name of the four chief delegates at the Geneva Conference, addressed a letter of thanks to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, for the hospitality extended to them. He has also sent a letter of thanks to the President of the Government of the canton of Geneva, and the Mayor of the town of Geneva.

During the Geneva Conference of last month, the Federal Council offered a dinner at the Palais Lynard in honour of the chief delegates.

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Monsieur Max Petitpierre, in his address of welcome voiced the appreciation of the Federal Council and the Swiss people for having chosen Geneva as the meeting place for this important conference, and expressed the wish that the deliberations might be accompanied with success laying the foundation of a lasting peace.

The following attended the dinner: President Eisenhower, Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, Miss Frances Willis, American Ambassador in Berne, Mr. Dillon Anderson, Major John Eisenhower (son of the President), James Hagerty, the President's Press chief, Marshall Bulganin, Chruschschow, 1st Secretary of the Russian Communist Party, Molotov, Foreign Minister, Schukow, Minister of Defence, Gromyko, Assistant Foreign Minister, Ershow, Russian Ambassador in Berne, E. Faure, French Prime Minister, A. Pinay, Foreign Minister, E. Dennery, French Ambassador in Berne, Louis Joxe, French Ambassador in Moscow, A. Bérard, R. de Margerie of the Quai d'Orsay, Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan Foreign Minister, Sir Lionel Lamb, British Ambassador in Berne, Messrs. Brook, Kirkpatrick and Sir Harold Caccia, of the Foreign Office, Dag Hammarskjöld, General Secretary of UNO, Adrian Pelt, Director of European UNO, Wilkinson, General Secretary of the conference, M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal

Councillors: M. Feldmann, Hans Streuli, Th. Holenstein and P. Chaudet (Federal Councillors Etter and Lepori were unable to attend), Häberlin, President of the National Council, Colonel de Montmollin, Chief of the Swiss General Staff, Minister Zehnder, General Secretary of the Political Department in Berne, André Dominicé, chief of the protocol, F. Perréard, President of the Government of the canton of Geneva, and L. Billy, Mayor of the town of Geneva.

* * *

The newly appointed Belgian Ambassador, Monsieur Pierre Attilio Forthomme, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

Ambassador Forthomme has previously occupied various posts in London, Lisbon, Tokio, Lagos and Mexico. Until recently he held an important post at the Belgian Foreign Office.

* * *

The Federal Council has elected Dr. Fritz Dick to be Head of the Federal Police, in succession to Dr. Werner Balsiger, who has vacated his post. He was born in Berne, and studied law at the University of this town.

* * *

Mr. Fritz Albrecht, has been appointed Swiss Consul in Le Havre. He was born in 1905, and hails from Müllheim (Ct. Thurgau). Mr. Albrecht entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1929, and has held previous appointments in Lisbon, Sao Paulo, Porto Allegre, Laurengo Marques, and Rio de Janeiro. In 1946, he was promoted to the rank of Vice-Consul.

Cantonal

Dr. Gotthard Egli (Lucerne), who recently vacated his post as a member of the Government of the canton of Lucerne, has announced his retirement from the States Council, of which he has been a member since 1935.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

In the first six months of the current year, 867 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Lucerne. 506 persons were injured of whom 22 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Johann Gasser-Gasser (Lugern) a former member of the "Kantonsrat" Unterwalden, has celebrated his 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 64th Federal Gymnasts Festival in Zurich came to a close on the 19th of last month, over 100,000 spectators went through the turnstiles. The

number of competitors of both sexes amounted to 18,000. [A.T.S.]

The "Kreisdirektion 3" of the Swiss Federal Railways has appointed a new *Gérant* of the Station Buffet, Zurich, in the person of Mr. Rudolf Candrian, citizen of Sagens (Ct. Grisons). (Mr. Candrian was well-known in the Swiss Colony in London, having been at one time Manager of Brown's Hotel.) [A.T.S.]

Professor, Dr. med. et phil. Alexander von Muralt has been elected rector of the University of Berne for 1955/56. [A.T.S.]

Two men from Oberdiessbach (Ct. Berne) on a mountaineering excursion on the Hockenhorn have lost their lives. The names of the victims are Samuel Gehrig (22) and Ernst Gerber (21), both were unmarried. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Elisabeth Wenger of Kirchlindach near Berne has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The paper "Express" Bienne, which was published in French and German, and founded in 1890, has ceased to exist. [A.T.S.]

The "Instituto del hierro y del acero" (Spanisches Eisen-und Stahlinstitut) in Madrid, has nominated Professor, Dr. R. Durrer, General Manager of the "von Roll'schen Eisenwerke", Gerlafingen, an honorary member. [A.T.S.]

According to figures just published by the Statistical Buro in Basle, the population of the canton of Basle-Town at the end of 1954, numbered 207,300 (112,000 females and 95,300 males). [A.T.S.]

During the month of June, 1955, 147 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Basle-Town. One person was killed, and 110 injured. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the well-known Hotel Walhalla in St. Gall has caused damage to such an extent that the building has to be entirely rebuilt. One visitor lost his life. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Eugen Bircher (Aarau) has informed the administration of the "Aargauischen Bauern-Gewerbe und Bürgerpartei" that he will not be a candidate at the Parliamentary elections which will be held next autumn. (He is 74 years of age.)

Dr. Bircher was at one time surgeon-in-chief and Director of the cantonal hospital, Aarau. In 1934, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel of Division, and was in command first of the 4th and afterwards 5th Division. He resigned from the army in 1942, and was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council). [A.T.S.]

Three persons were injured and an elderly woman was killed when the cabin of the cable railway from Saas Fee to the Langenfluh (Ct. Valais) hit the rocks as a result of violent gusts of wind. The suspension braking system was damaged. Traffic was stopped pending an inquiry.

Injured were M. Jean Bourgnicht, National Councillor, and Mayor of the town of Fribourg, and his wife and son. The mother of M. Bourgnicht (born 1879) was killed instantaneously. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

René von Graffenried, in Berne, at the age of 69. The deceased studied law, and practised as a lawyer first in Thun, and afterwards in Berne. He was from 1926-1929, chief of staff of the 2nd Division. In 1931, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel, in which capacity he was in command of the Mountain Infantry Brigade 5. Six years later (1937) he obtained the rank of Colonel of Division, with command of the 3rd Division, which he held until 1940.

Herbert Schwarz, watch-manufacturer, La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 61. [A.T.S.]

LEGACIES.

The late Mlle. Anna Lerchi of Flims has left 60,000.—frs. each to the "Stiftung für das Alter in Graubünden" and the "Freibettenfonds der Bündner Heilstätte" in Arosa.

The foundation "Dr. Bircher'sches Volkssanatorium für Ordnungstherapie", Zurich, has received a donation 80,000.—frs. from an anonymous donor. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Henri de Ziegler (70) of Geneva. Writer, Essayist and rector of the University of Geneva.

Georges Rigassi (70) of Vevey, since 1923 Editor-in-chief, and from 1930-1945, Director of the "Gazette de Lausanne", and author of many works.

Carl Angst (80) of Geneva, well-known sculptor. [A.T.S.]

While on a voyage from Lipari for Alexandria, the Swiss motorship "Rhône" (336 tons) grounded and capsized at Zanzua, 40 miles east of Tobruk. All her crew are safe. [A.T.S.]

According to the paper "Die Alpen", published by the Swiss Alpine Club, 46 mountaineering accidents occurred in the summer of 1954 (1st of May to 31st of October). 59 persons lost their lives, and two are missing. From the 1st of November, 1954, to April 30th, 1955, there were 19 accidents and 24 persons lost their lives. [A.T.S.]

The International Olympic Committee decided in Paris to hold the summer games of the 1960 Olympiad in Rome. Rome gained 35 votes in the final ballot against Lausanne 24.

Professor Urs Kury has been elected Bishop of the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland in succession

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to his father, Mgr. A. Küry, who has held the episcopal office for 31 years.

* * *

Princess Helen, daughter of the Count of Paris, pretender to the French throne, was rescued by air after she had wrenched her right ankle while climbing on the Monte Rosa massif. Herr Hermann Geiger, the Swiss mountain pilot, landed on the Grens glacier at an altitude of about 9,000ft., and flew the princess to Sion, where she was taken away by car.

* * *

Two young storks have been flown from Algeria to Switzerland in the hope that they will breed and that their offsprings, after the annual migration, will return there. During the last 20 years the number of storks in Switzerland has steadily diminished.

Previously about 200 stork nests were counted every year. Recently, Swiss ornithologists brought three couples of storks from Alsace, but they flew off in the autumn and did not return.

* * *

The Swiss National Council (Lower Chamber) rejected a proposal for sponsored television by 98 votes to 17.

The Deputies agreed that provisional State-run television programmes continue until the end of 1957, when a national referendum would decide the future of Swiss television.

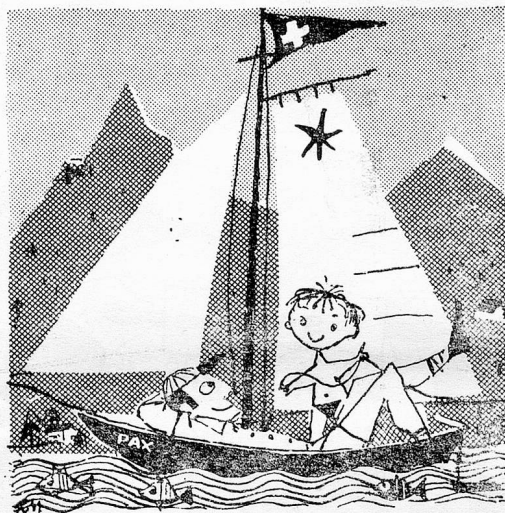
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The "Tour de Suisse" was won by Hugo Koblet, second was the Belgian, Stan Ockers.

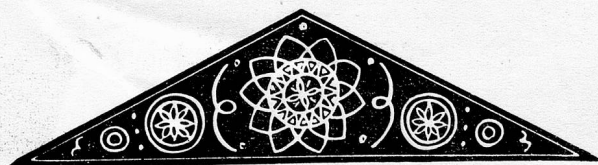
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Dr. Carl Burckhardt, the Swiss historian and diplomatist, received the insignia of the Order *Pour le Mérite* from President Heuss (Germany).

* * *

Switzerland drew 0-0 with Yugoslavia in an international Soccer match in Belgrade.

* * *

Owners of refrigerators in Switzerland have been called on to collect hail and keep it until it can be collected by the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research.

* * *

A remarkable feat is reported from Gressoney in the Aosta valley. Maccabeo, a three-year-old Irish setter, belonging to a hotel proprietor of the zone, has climbed alone the Mount Rosa glacier, crossing from Gressoney to Zermatt in Switzerland. Maccabeo disappeared one morning from Gressoney. He was sighted the same evening on the Garstelet glacier, trotting towards the col del Lys. Two days ago he was found at Zermatt, utterly exhausted, by an Italian climber, who identified the dog by the name of the owner on the collar.

Maccabeo has always shown a marked passion for climbing. He often accompanied his master on his excursions, but more often went alone. He is probably the holder of the high-altitude climbing record for domestic animals. Last year in one of his lonely excursions he reached the Margherita hut, the highest in the world (about 15,000ft.). The previous record is believed to have belonged to a cat, who the year before followed a party of climbers to the top of the Matterhorn and back.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

Le jury d'un concours international de tricotage, présidé par le couturier Pierre Balmain, a examiné 144 travaux provenant de 12 pays. La Suisse s'est vu attribuer un 3ème prix pour un travail exécuté avec des laines suisses HEC.

Dans un concours international, une cosméticienne zurichoise a réussi à s'imposer à côté de spécialistes américaines en présentant des produits de beauté biologiques, une méthode d'application naturelle et un cours pour la formation d'esthéticiennes.

Construction et inventions suisses intéressantes.

Après de longues années de recherches et d'améliorations successives, une maison lausannoise a mis sur le marché une bourreuse qui est utilisée par plus de 100 compagnies de chemin de fer dans 50 pays différentes.

Des inventeurs suisses ont présenté un nouveau parachute, dont les cordages élastiques permettent d'amortir notablement les chocs à l'ouverture et à l'atterrissage.

Une exposition internationale de sport s'est ouverte à Turin. Le Musée olympique de Lausanne et le Musée suisse de sport et de gymnastique y participent. La grande exposition historique de ce musée unique en Europe a provoqué un vif intérêt.

Le chiffre d'affaires total de la Swissair a augmenté de 35% de 1953 à 1954. La capacité de transport s'est élevée de 60%. Le réseau desservi par la Compagnie est de plus de 50,000 km., le nombre des voyageurs transportés dépasse le demi-million.

(Semaine Suisse.)