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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Olivier Long to the post of Delegate for Commercial Treaties.

Dr. Long was born in 1915, and is a citizen of Petit-Veyrier (Geneva). He studied law, economic and political science at the Universities of Geneva, Paris, Vienna, London and Harvard. In 1943, he was appointed head of the economic service of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva. From 1944-1946, Dr. Long was the Delegate of the International Red Cross in London; he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1946, and three years later was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Washington with the rank of Secretary of Legation. In 1953, he returned to Berne, where he occupied an important post at the Public Economy Department.

* * *

Mr. Alexander Manz, until recently Swiss Consul at Trieste, has been appointed Consul-General in Lyons, in succession to M. Henri Charles. He was born in 1908 at Zurich. In 1940, he entered into the service of the Confederation, as Honorary Vice-Consul at Nice. Six years later he was appointed to the rank of Consul, in which capacity he was transferred to Trieste.

* * *

Switzerland had a surplus in trade with the European Payments Union in October of 14.7 million francs, against a surplus of 65.5 million francs in September.

* * *

A new commercial treaty between the Swiss Confederation and France has been signed. The treaty will remain in force from July 1st, 1955 — to 30th of June, 1957.

* * *

The following National-Councillors, who were again candidates at the recent Parliamentary elections lost their seats: Woog (Communist), Zurich; Dr. R. Bühler (Radical), Zurich; Hermann Kurz (Socialist),

Berne; Dr. Alfred Grütter (Landesring), Berne; Jean Gressot (Cath. Cons.), Berne; Degen (Bourgeois Party), Basle County; Klinger (Cath. Cons.), St. Gall; Allemann (Socialist), Aargau; Rusca (Radical), Ticino Frainer (Cath. Cons.), Vaud; Jaccard (Radical), Vaud; Peitrequin (Radical), Vaud; de Courten (Cath. Cons.), Valais; and de Senarclens (Liberal), Geneva.

* * *

Divisional Colonel Charles Dubois, Assistant Chief of Staff on the General Staff is vacating his post at the end of the current year on reaching retiring age.

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The Swiss Federal Railways carried in September, 1955, 18.65 million passengers, or 15,000 less than in September, 1954. Receipts: 27.81 million francs (September, 1954: 27.84 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.06 million tons, or 199,000 tons more than during the same period in 1954. Receipts: 35.19 million francs (September, 1954: 33.15 million francs).

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The Federal Council gave a dinner at Geneva in honour of the four Foreign Ministers attending the Geneva Conference. Amongst the invited guests were twenty foreign delegates. Ten Swiss attended.

Cantonal

Dr. Willy Spühler (Socialist) has been elected a member of the States Council, in succession to Dr. Emil Klöti. He was born in 1902, and studied national economy at the Universities of Zurich and Paris. From 1935-1942, Dr. Spühler was in charge of the "Städtischen Arbeitsamtes", Zurich, and from 1939-1948, chief of the "Zentralstelle für Kriegswirtschaft". In 1942, he was elected a member of the Municipal

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AT

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Council, Zurich. He has sat in the National Council since 1938. [A.T.S.]

The Marcel Benoist Prize for 1954, for scientific research, amounting to 20,000.—frs., has been awarded to Professor, Dr. Ernst Hadorn, of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

King Paul of Greece, and Queen Friederike paid a three days unofficial visit to the town of Zurich. The municipal council gave a dinner in their honour at the "Muraltengut". [A.T.S.]

A burglary took place at a Jewellers establishment at 123, Badenerstrasse, Zurich, a number of watches and jewellery, to the value of 30,000.—frs. were stolen. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Otto Misteli (born, 1909) station-master at Schlieren (Zurich) was run over by an engine and was killed instantaneously. [A.T.S.]

Mgr. Alois Beck, town-priest (Stadtppfarrer) of Lucerne has been elected "Probst des Stiftes zu St. Leodegar", Lucerne, in succession to Dr. F. A. Herzog, who has vacated his office. [A.T.S.]

National-Councillor Christian Clavadetscher (Liberal), of Dagmarsellen (Ct. Lucerne) has been elected a member of the States-Council (Ständerat) with 30,467 votes, his opponent, Dr. W. Bühlmann, (Conservative) received 29,927 votes. Mr. Niklaus Honauer, Manufacturer of Root, is succeeding Clavadetscher in the National Council. [A.T.S.]

A fire, which broke out at the Miserez factory in Saignelégier, caused considerable damage. Nineteen people were injured. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Armin Scheurer (aged 60), station-master at Langau (Ct. Berne) was run over by a manouevring engine and killed. [A.T.S.]

A motor-cyclist, who by reckless driving caused the death of a 25-year-old man, was sentenced to three months imprisonment and a fine of 200.—frs. by the Court of Estavayer. [A.T.S.]

A postman collecting a postal packet at the post-office in Oberdorf (Ct. Solothurn) was attacked by a masked man, brandishing a revolver. The assailant fired several shots without, however, hitting anybody, and decamped with an amount of 4,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The new "Bruderbachbrücke" connecting Trogen and Wald (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh) was inaugurated recently. The cost of the bridge amounted to 500,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The five million loan issued by the Government of the canton of Aargau, at 3½ per cent has been considerably over subscribed. [A.T.S.]

A piper sports plane, piloted by Hans Wagner (aged 39), crashed on the Hörris alp, west of Stockberg (Obertoggenburg). The pilot and his passengers, Heinz Fuog, of Kradolf, aged 39, and his nine months old boys, were killed. [A.T.S.]

A sports machine, type Norecrin, crashed at Olten. The pilot Willy Haller (aged 25), of Olten, and three of his passengers, all members of the Aero Club, Olten, were injured. The plane fell on a dwelling house, causing the death of one of the occupants, an Italian, aged 37. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the Federal Rifle Competition, which took place in Lausanne in 1954, show a net profit of 80,825.—frs. [A.T.S.]

M. Henri Challet of Cottens (Ct. Vaud) has been appointed Director of the Lausanne telephone service. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Joseph Moulin, formerly National-Councillor, has been elected a member of the States-Council, representing the canton of Valais. Mr. Paul de Courten, Prefect of Monthey, who failed to be re-elected to the States-Council, will enter the National Council, in succession to M. Moulin. [A.T.S.]

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The oldest watch manufacturing firm in the world, Vacheron & Constantin of Geneva, is celebrating this year the 200th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Paul Thut, formerly Manager of the Municipal Electricity Works, Berne, in Berne, at the age of 83.

Dr. Alphonse Gams-Meng, a former Manager of CIBA, A.G., Basle, in Basle, aged 72.

Dr. Robert Studer, veterinary-surgeon, in Schüpfheim, at the age of 60.

Dr. Arthur Frey, for ten years Editor of the "Thurgauer Tagblatt", and since 1931, head of the Evangelical Press Service, in Zollikon, aged 58. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat", Zurich.

Paul Rotach, from 1934-1941, a member of the Government of the canton of Appenzell, A.Rh., in Herisau, at the age of 84.

Dr. med. François Doret, formerly chief-surgeon at the Rothschild Hospital, Geneva, and for many years surgeon-in-chief of the St. Maurice fortress, in Geneva, aged 77.

Fernando Podrolini, Industrialist, in Morbio Inferiori, (Ct. Ticino), at the age of 83.

Dr. Ernst Wanner, Vice-Director of the "Schweizerischen Meteorologischen Zentral Anstalt", Zurich, in Zurich, aged 56.

Alexandre Moriaud, from 1924-1931, a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, and a former

Member of Parliament (States-Council), in Geneva, at the age of 84. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Corti (80) of Winterthur, prominent lawyer, and member of the Board of a number of important industrial concerns.

François Gos (75), well-known painter of alpine landscapes, and author of several books, amongst them "Die Schweiz", "Au Pays des Murerans", "Zermatt et sa vallée", and "Les Alpes de la Haute-Savoie". [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Steingruber-Ramsauer of Hundwil (Ct. Appenzell, A.Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. Rognon-Tiébaud of Bret-dessous (Ct. Neuchâtel), Mr. and Mrs. F. Düblin-Degen of Oberwil (Basle-County), Mr. and Mrs. J. Keller of Wald (Ct. Zurich), Mr. and Mrs. J. Faessler-Dörig, of Herisau (Ct. Appenzell, A.Rh.). [A.T.S.]

* * *

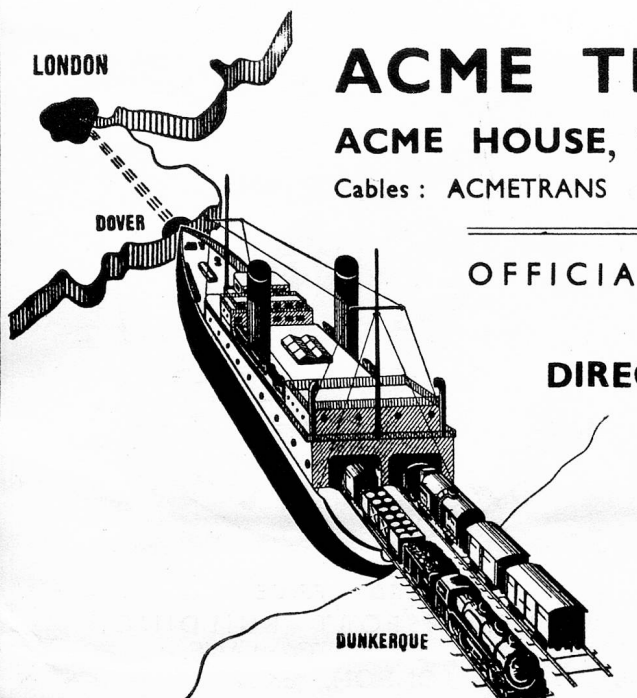
Eric Gauchat, a Swiss member of the Franco-Swiss Himalayan expedition who climbed Ganesh-Himal (24,299 ft.) was killed after a fall on the descent from the summit. He was 24 years of age, and resided at Geneva. The leader of the expedition was the well-known Swiss guide, Raymond Lambert. [A.T.S.]

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The Swiss ocean-going merchant fleet now totals 31 vessels, aggregating 103,590 gross tons. [A.T.S.]

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The Swiss steamer St. Cergue, which grounded near Uttorgflesa lighthouse was refloated and proceeded to Berg, Heligoland, for examination.



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