

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The various Departments in the Swiss Government have been assigned as follows:

Political Department:

M. Petitpierre; Deputy: Ph. Etter.

Home Affairs:

Ph. Etter; Deputy: Th. Holenstein.

Justice and Police:

M. Feldmann; Deputy: G. Lepori.

Military:

P. Chaudet; Deputy: H. Streuli.

Finance and Customs:

H. Streuli; Deputy: M. Petitpierre.

Public Economy:

Th. Holenstein; Deputy: P. Chaudet.

Post and Railways:

G. Lepori; Deputy: M. Feldmann.

The Federal Military Department, with the sanction of the Swiss Foreign Office, has nominated Major (General Staff) Jean-Christian Millioud, artillery-instructor, to the post of Military Attaché in Teheran, in succession to Captain William Hurter.

Mr. Oskar Obrist, Honorary Swiss Consul General in La Paz, has resigned from his post for reasons of health.

The Federal Council has appointed Vice-Consul René Cuttat, of La Paz to be in charge of the Consulate, with the rank of Consul.

Consul Cuttat was born in 1910, and hails from Rossemaison (Ct. Berne). He entered the Consular Service in 1931, and has held posts at the Consulates of Besançon, Paris, Strassburg, Lyons and Ankara.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried during the month of November, 1954, 16.34 million passengers, or 194,000 more than in November, 1953. Receipts: 20.63 million francs. (November, 1953: 20.38 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 2.02 million tons, which exceeds last year's figures by 265,000 tons. Receipts: 37.75 million francs. (November, 1953: 36.03 million francs.)

The Federal Council has elected Mr. Arnold de Kalbermatten (Sierre) to the post of Federal "Oberbauinspektor".

Cantonal

The Federal Statistical Office in Berne has published the results of the census taken on the 1st of December, 1950, according to which the canton of Zug numbered on that day 42,239 inhabitants. (20,287 males, and 21,952 females.)

Zug: 14,488 inhabitants, Baar: 6,992, Cham: 5,486, Menzingen: 3,398, Oberägeri: 2,453, Risch: 1,630, Unterägeri: 3,340, and Walchwil: 1,226.

[A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Glarus on the 1st of December, 1950, numbered 37,663 inhabitants. (17,664 males, and 19,999 females.)

Glarus: 5,724 inhabitants, Ennenda: 2,940, Linthal: 1,741, Niederurnen: 2,931, Mollis: 2,191, Näfels: 3,327, Netstal: 2,654, Oberurnen: 1,181 and Schwanden: 2,930.

Federal Judge, Albert Comment was honoured with honorary citizenship of the commune of Courgenay. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds on the 1st of December, 1954, numbered 36,307, or 756 persons more than a year ago. [A.T.S.]

The Board of the "Allgemeinen Schweizerischen Uhrenindustrie A.G." (ASUAG) has elected Mr. Theo Renfer to the post of Manager, in succession to Mr. P. Renggli, who remains President of the Board.

The new Manager was born in 1897 at Bienne. In 1928, he became Manager of the Banque Populaire in Bienne, and in 1948 he was appointed Manager of the Banque Populaire in Berne. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Yodelling Festival will take place in Fribourg, from the 1st to the 3rd of July of this year. [A.T.S.]

On the 1st of January, 1955, the population of the town of Olten numbered 17,732, and that of Solothurn 17,426. [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Solothurn has nominated Dr. Urs Dietschi to the post of "Landammann" for 1955, and Werner Vogt, as Vice-Landammann. [A.T.S.]

In 1954, 690 traffic accidents occurred in the canton Basle-County (1953: 570), 645 persons were injured of which 25 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the Federal Singing Competition, (Eidg. Sängerfest) which took place at St. Gall last year, show a surplus of 60,661.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Kurt Furgler (Conservative) of Vasön nr. Pfäfers (Ct. St. Gall) has been nominated a member of the National Council. He is replacing Dr. Holenstein, who has entered the Federal Government. [A.T.S.]

Dr. August Cahannes has been appointed President of the Government of the canton of Grisons. [A.T.S.]

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Dr. Rudolf Siegrist, since 1932 a member of the Government of the canton of Aargau is shortly relinquishing his post. [A.T.S.]

M. Edmond Jaquet has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Vaud for 1955. M. Arthur Maret has been elected Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

The International Committee of the Red Cross gave a reception in Geneva in celebration of the anniversary of the eightieth birthday of Professor Max Huber, its Honorary President, and for many years one of the outstanding leaders of the Red Cross movement. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Chermignon (Ct. Valais) has nominated M. René Payot, General Manager of the "Journal de Genève", a honorary citizen [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Paul Speiser-Thurneysen, from 1914-1932 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, in Basle, at the age of 79.

Dr. med. Edwin Hengge, for thirty years a medical practitioner at Bad Ragaz, and President of the "Kur-und Verkehrsverein", at Chur, aged 61.

Konrad Böschenstein in Berne, at the age of 82. The deceased, was for 50 years a teacher, and for a number of years a member of the Municipal Council of Berne.

Dr. Hans G. Syz, President of the Board of the "Linoleum A.G.", Giubiasco, and the "Indep,

Treuhand-und Revisions A.G." in Zurich, aged 63.

Léon Jungo, a former "Baudirektor" and "Kantonsarchitekt" of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 69.

Dr. h.c. Robert Helbling, Geologist, in Wallenstadt, aged 80.

Gustave Du Pasquier, Painter, in Neuchâtel, at age of 79.

Teodor Schuler-Real, a former President of the commune of Schwyz, and member of the "Kantonsrat", Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 74.

Eugène Martin, well-known painter, in Geneva, at the age of 75.

Dr. med. Alec Cramer, Member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and lecturer at the medical Faculty of the University of Geneva, in Geneva at the age of 75.

Adolphe Des Gouttes, formerly Manager of the Gasworks of the town of Geneva, at Coligny, aged 87.

Dr. h.c. Jakob Schmidheiny in Heerbrugg (Ct. St. Gall) at the age of 79. The deceased was a well-known personality in commercial and industrial circles being on the Board of many important concerns. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall for many years, and sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1932-1935. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. In the army he commanded at one time an Infantry Brigade.

August Romang, from 1927-1929, Prefect of the Val Travers, and from 1929-1943, Prefect of the Montagnes Neuchâteloises in Pourtalès, aged 77.

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Jean Guérini, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Peseux, aged 37.

E. Wegmann, formerly commercial Manager of the "Basler Nationalzeitung" in Basle, aged 70.

Professor, Dr. Raymond Savioz, Professor of Philosophy at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, in Zurich, aged 52.

Dr. Rudolf Keel, at one time a member of the cantonal Tribunal and the "Kantonsrat" St. Gall, in St. Gall, at the age of 79.

Fidel Tuor, Founder and President of the Board of the "Tuchfabrik Truns, A.G.", Truns (Ct. Grisons). The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons. He was 79 years of age.

Heinrich Bachmann, Master-BUILDER, President of the Board of the "Rolladenfabrik Griesse, A.G.", and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau, in Winterthur, aged 77.

Lieutenant-colonel Jean Panosetti, Head of the Police Force of the canton of Geneva, at the age of 52.

Mme. Maria Philomena Kottmann-Eigensatz, in Menziken (Ct. Aargau) aged 102. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following anniversaries are reported in the Swiss Press:

Professor, Dr. Max Huber (80) of Berne, for many years Professor of "Staats-und Völkerrecht" at the University of Zurich, a Judge at the International Court of Justice at the Hague, and President of the International Red Cross Committee from 1928-1945.

Dr. Eugen Hasler (70) of Winterthur, from 1937-1950, a member of the Supreme Federal Court.

Pastor D. A. Köchlin (70) of Basle, President of the "Basler Missionsgesellschaft" and formerly of the "Schweizerischen Evangelischen Kirchenbundes".

Professor, Dr. Emil Abegg (70) of Zurich. Since 1918, Professor of Philology at the University of Zurich, and author of a number of books dealing with Indian Psychology.

Robert Monnet (70) of Lausanne, formerly Editor-in-chief of the "Tribune de Lausanne". [A.T.S.]

* * *

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

The heirs of the late Dr. Josef Siegwart, Judge and Factory Manager in Hergiswil (Ct. Nidwalden) have donated an amount of 75,000—frs. to various charitable institutions, amongst them 30,000.—frs. for the Children's Home, Nidwalden.

The Late G. Spahr-Born, Proprietor of the firm of Spahr & Co., iron-mongers, Zofingen, has left an amount of 300,000.—frs. to the District Hospital, Zofingen, and 110,000.—frs. to various charitable and cultural institutions; in addition he has left his real estate to the "Einwohnergemeinde", Zofingen.

Mr. Alfred Meier-Wepfer, who recently died in Rüşchlikon (Ct. Zurich) has bequeathed the sum of 70,000.—frs. to different charitable institutions, in the cantons of Zurich and St. Gall.

The late J. Tschudi-Kläsi of Luchsingen (Ct. Glarus) left 26,000.—frs. to a number of charitable institutions, of which 10,000.—frs. goes to the "Glarner Kantonsspital".

The "Rhätischen Kantons-und Regional Spital" has received an amount of 10,000.—frs. from the sisters Anna and Elsa Batänfer of Chur, in remembrance of their parents.

The late Dr. Arnold Bollag of Baden, has given a legacy of 19,000.—frs. to the "Stiftung für das Alter".

The "Kantonsschule" Trogen, has received a gift of 20,000.—frs. from Dr. Emil Schiess, formerly "Ratsschreiber" in Herisau.

The widow of the late Eduard Müller, Manager of Nestlé's who is residing in Stamford (U.S.A.) has sent a cheque of 25,000.—frs. to the authorities of La Tour de Peilz. The money is to be used for the benefit of school children.

In memory of the late Director Christoph Tobler of Thal (Ct. St. Gall) his relations have made donations to various charitable institutions in the canton of St. Gall, amounting to 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

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The following have celebrated their diamond-wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. J. Oeschger-Huber of Wettingen, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kohler-Wannier of Soyhières (Ct. Berne).

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The Swiss national bobsleigh championship was won by the Zurich Club, steered by F. Kapus; their combined time for the two runs was 2min. 41.65sec. St. Moritz, steered by H. Mathis, were second in 2min. 43.71sec.

* * *

Ex-President Arbenz of Guatemala has denied recent reports that he was seeking Swiss nationality. "I am a Guatemalan citizen," he said in an interview at Zermatt, "and I have not applied for Swiss citizenship." Senora Arbenz intervened to say that Guatemalan law did not permit dual nationality and that her husband "remained a good patriot". Senor Arbenz added that he had no definite plans, but that it was likely that he would go to Mexico.

The Swiss township of Andelfingen near Zurich, where Senor Arbenz's grandfather was born, has recognised his "latent right" to Swiss citizenship.

* * *

The West German Civil Order of Merit, which is the highest German civil order, has been awarded to Professor, Dr. Carl Burekhardt, the Swiss historian.

* * *

The Guatemalan Government has decided to close

down its Legation in Bern. The Guatemalan Minister is reported to have informed the Swiss Government that this step was being taken for "budgetary" reasons. It is pointed out that there is no connection between this decision and the presence in Switzerland of ex-President Arbenz.

* * *

The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" was 175 years old on the 12th of January. In celebration of the notable anniversary it published a special issue in which the development of the newspaper and its unbroken fight for liberal thought throughout the ages are described by pen and picture.

In its first issue the newspaper (then issued as *Zürcher Zeitung*) set up the standard of liberalism, which it has never lowered. Herr W. Bretscher, the present editor-in-chief, in a review of the newspaper's past, pays a high tribute to Paul Usteri, who did so much to establish the liberty of the Press and freedom of opinion.

Currency for Medical Aid, Restrictions Eased.

The Secretary of the Exchange Control Medical Advisory Committee has announced that patients needing medical treatment abroad will in future be able to obtain foreign currency "solely on the strength of a doctor's recommendation that it is required on medical grounds".

The change is in line with H.M. Government's policy of easing and simplifying exchange control procedure. Banks will provide a printed application form.

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The Swiss Ski Championships (Long Distance and Relay Races), Ste. Croix, February 12th/13th.

The fact that the Swiss National Ski Races are occasionally divided into two parts, one consisting of Alpine and the other of Nordic events, gives an opportunity to smaller resorts, which would be unable to undertake the organization of anything so complex as a full programme of races, to organize one part of these championships. The Jura, which is a favourite district for long distance races and ski-jumping, is particularly suited to the Nordic events of the National Championships.

The Swiss Federation of Ski Clubs has entrusted the organization of these important competitions, to be held on February 12th and 13th, 1955, to the resort of Ste. Croix/Les Rasses.

Ste. Croix, which is known all over the world for its industries that export each year many million francs' worth of cinema apparatuses, gramophone and wireless sets, not to mention the famous "musical boxes" which are a delight to young and old alike, is connected to the plain by the Yverdon-Ste. Croix branch line and by excellent roads through Yverdon and Pontarlier. The Ste. Croix Ski Club is one of the oldest in Switzerland; it was founded fifty years ago, in the early days of this sport, which has grown at such a rapid pace in the Jura as well as in the Alps.

The routes chosen for the Nordic events pass through the beautiful forests of the district of Les Rasses, at the foot of the Chasseron (height 5,280 ft.) and well-situated enclosures have been set aside for the spectators. The jumping will be held at the Châble jump, which is one of the best in Switzerland, having been made shortly before the last world war under the supervision of the Norwegian world champion ski-jumper Birger Ruud.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, February 11th, 1955. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: A. G. T. Luminati, W. Schlatter, E. Kern, J. Hofstetter, E. A. Muller, W. Diener, Major A. Weber, J. Zimmermann, M. Gedet, R. J. Helfenstein, W. Goldmann, John Smith, W. Glur.

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NEWS FROM THE LEGATION.

Dr. René Faessler, Commercial Counsellor at the Swiss Legation, gave a cocktail party at his home, 233, Cromwell Road, S.W.5, on Monday, January 17th, to meet the members of the Swiss Trade Delegation then in London for concluding a new commercial treaty.

Amongst those present were the members of the Swiss Economic Council, the Swiss Press, Board of Trade, London Chamber of Commerce, Federation of British Industries, as well as a number of Commercial Counsellors of Foreign Embassies and Legations.

We extend a hearty welcome to Monsieur Alberto Albertini, who has recently been appointed Secretary to the Swiss Legation in London.

Monsieur Albertini, who hails from the canton of Ticino, entered into the service of the Confederation in April, 1943, when he occupied a post in the Swiss Legation (Special Division for Foreign Interests) in Rome.

From October, 1943 until March, 1945, he was in charge of the local section of the above mentioned Division at Florence. In 1946, Monsieur Albertini entered the Diplomatic Service, and was transferred to our Legation in Cairo with the rank of Attaché, there he remained until October, 1949, when he was sent to the Free Territory of Trieste to be in charge of the Swiss Consulate; three years later (1952) he returned to Berne to be attached to the Political Section of the Federal Political Department, followed by his present appointment.



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