

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has announced the following transfers in the Consular Corps:

Mr. Werner Hirs to be Head of the Swiss Consulate in Cincinnati (U.S.A.), and Mr. Hermann Bähler to be Swiss Consul in Istanbul.

Consul Hirs hails from Dielsdorf (Ct. Zurich) and was born in 1895. He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1917, and was subsequently attached to the Swiss Consulates in Bombay, Manchester and New York. In 1946, Mr. Hirs was nominated Swiss Consul in Istanbul.

Consul Bähler, was born in 1904 in Buchholterberg (Ct. Berne). In 1923, he entered into the service of the Federal Post and Railway Department, and in 1939 was transferred to the Swiss Federal Railway agency in London. Four years later (1943) Mr. Bähler joined the Swiss Legation where he occupied a post in the Commercial Division. In 1952, he was appointed Swiss Consul in Accra (Gold Coast).

(Both Consuls were well-known personalities in the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, and we extend to them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for success in their new spheres of activity — Ed.)

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the death of Albert Einstein, Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Confederation has sent a message of condolence to his son, Mr. Eduard Einstein, who resides in Zurich.

\* \* \*

The newly appointed Italian Ambassador, Monsieur Maurizio Coppini, has presented his credentials to Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Pavel Ivanovic Ershow has been appointed Russian Minister in Switzerland in place of Monsieur Molochkor, who is being "transferred to other spheres".

### Cantonal

At the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden all the former members of the cantonal Government were re-elected. Mr. A. Wagner (Cons. Cath.), who is retiring from the Government was succeeded by Dr. A. Grani (Cons. Cath.). Distinguished visitors at the "Landsgemeinde" were Federal Councillor Feldmann, Army-Corps Commander Nager, Division Commander Wey, and the members of the Bernese Government *in corpore*. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Nidwalden for 1954, close with a *credit* balance of 87,459.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

The "Obwaldner Landsgemeinde" took place at Sarnen in the presence of M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Confederation, and the British Ambassador in Berne, Sir Lionel Lamb.

States Councillor Ludwig von Moos was elected as "Landammann", whilst Dr. G. Odermatt, the

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retiring "Landammann", was nominated "Landesstatthalter". [A.T.S.]

The following parties are represented in the newly elected "Kantonsrat", Zurich; Socialists: 54 seats (3 gains); Peasant and Bourgeois Party: 31 seats (6 loss); Liberals: 30 seats (4 gains); Christian Socialists: 20 seats (no change); Democrats: 17 seats (no change); "Landesring" (Duttweiler Party): 18 seats (5 loss); Evangelical Popular Party: 7 seats (4 gains); Communists: 2 seats (no change); "Freiwirtschaftler": no seat (1 loss), and Independant: 1 seat (1 gain). [A.T.S.]

The re-election for the Government of the canton of Zurich took place recently, all former members were confirmed in their offices. Reich (Democrat): 80,750 votes; Heusser (Peasant and Bourgeois Party): 77,810 votes; Meier (Peasant and Bourgeois Party): 77,437 votes; Vaterlaus (Liberal): 73,915 votes; Egger (Socialist): 70,104 votes; Meierhans (Socialist): 64,412 votes, and König (Landesring): 49,205 votes. 66.5 per cent of the electorate went to the poll. [A.T.S.]

A serious motor accident occurred at the Rötelstrasse in Zurich, when a 19 year old motorist driving at excessive speed ran into four pedestrians belonging to the same family. All four, father, mother and two children were seriously hurt, and had to be taken to hospital. The motorist was arrested. [A.T.S.]

The three new Federal Councillors, Chaudet, Hohenstein and Lepori have paid a visit to the Government of the canton of Zurich. They were received by Dr. Meierhans, and other members of the cantonal Government at the "z. Reclberg" house [A.T.S.]

Dr. Adolf Kury (Berne) has announced his resignation as Bishop of the Christian-Catholic Church of Switzerland.

Bishop Kury was consecrated as priest in 1893, and subsequently acted as pastor in Starrkirch-Dullikon, Lucerne and Basle. In 1924, he was elected successor of the late Bishop Dr. Eduard Herzog, and Professor at the Christian-Catholic faculty of the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

Dr. H. L. Irollet has been appointed French Consul-General in Basle, in succession to M. E. Ribère, who has been transferred to Montreal. [A.T.S.]

The Basle Fair closed its doors on Tuesday, April 26th. 700,000 visitors went through the turnstiles, a figure which has never been reached since this Fair has started. [A.T.S.]

Director Hans Gnehm-Graf of Basle has donated to his home community of Stein a. Rh. a piece of land at the Klingenberg consisting of 8,000 m<sup>2</sup>, to be used as a sports ground. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Albert Cornamusaz (Radical) has been elected Mayor of the town of Payerne. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Armin Locher of Oberegg was elected "Landammann" at the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell I. Rh. which took place at Appenzell. [A.T.S.]

A serious motor accident occurred at Landquart (Grisons), when a motor-car driven with great speed ran into a wall. Three of the passengers, Hans

Runnger (49), the driver Josef Cavelti (39) of Lenzerheide and Johann Collet (42), Reams, were killed. Other passengers, Hans Killias, Chur, Guelf Juvalta, Bergün, received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor, Dr. Paul Bösch-Carpentier, since 1908, Professor of ancient languages at the Cantonal *Gymnasium*, Zurich. The deceased had been since 1933 President of the Swiss Teachers Association. He died at the age of 73.

Nikolaus Fein, architect, in Solothurn, aged 64. During the second world war he commanded the 4th frontier brigade with the rank of Colonel.

Emil Steiner-Sidler, Printer and Publisher of the "Schwyzer Zeitung", and a former member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Schwyz at the age of 67.

Traugott Senn, well-known as a landscape and portrait painter, in Ins, aged 77.

Professor, Dr. Josef Gattler, who was in 1935 awarded the "Rottenbund Kulturpreis" of the canton of Valais, in Brigue, aged 83.

Dr. Walter Fischle, rector of the *Gymnasium* and the "Lyzeum", Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 48.

Paul Basilius Barth, prominent portrait and landscape painter, in Basle, at the age of 74.

Emil J. Graf, in Kilchberg (Zurich) aged 65. The deceased was from 1913-1919, principal teacher at the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule", Wädenswil. In

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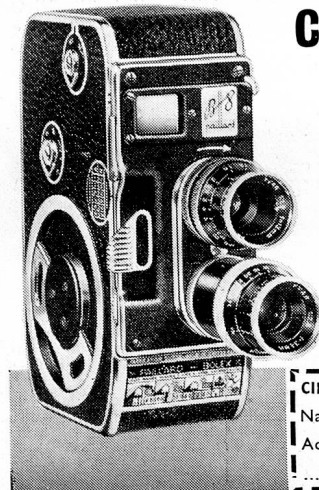
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1925, he was elected "Zürcherischer Bauernsekretär" and Editor of the "Zürcher Bauer". He was a member from 1923-1947 of the "Kantonsrat", and from 1939-1947 he sat in Parliament (National Council).

Dr. Henri Perret, in Yverdon, owing to a motor-accident, at the age of 70. The deceased was from 1918-1933, Director of the Technical School of Le Locle, and from 1933-1950, Director of the Technical College of Neuchâtel. He had been a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel since 1925. In 1928, he was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council).

Canon Albert Membrez, in Rome during a holiday, aged 60, from 1930-1954, priest in Porrentruy.

Mme. Rosa Wetter-Wismann, wife of former Federal Councillor Dr. Ernst Wetter, in Zurich, at the age of 70.

Severin Livio, Proprietor of the Theatre Livio, Fribourg, aged 74.

Colonel Theodor Nager, President of the Board of the "Papierfabrik, Perlen", at the age of 72.

Xaver Brunner, President of the commune of Emmen, and since 1938 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Emmen, aged 64.

Otto Schaub, for the last 27 years Town Engineer of Bienne, in Bienne, at the age of 70. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**ANNIVERSARIES.**

Dr. Gion Rudolf Mohr (70), of Chur. He was born at Zernez, and studied law at the Universities of

Fribourg, Munich and Berne. After practising as a lawyer at St. Moritz for several years, and as Editor of the "Engadiner Post", he became in 1922, Editor of the "Freien Rätier", Chur. In 1935, he was elected Mayor of the town of Chur, which post he occupied until 1951. For many years Dr. Mohr was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, over which he presided in 1951. In 1947, he was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) but relinquished his seat in 1950 for reasons of health.

Dr. h. c. Adolf Ryniker (80) of Basle, founder of the Rhine Shipping fleet. He was from 1925-1938, "Privatdozent" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, which honoured him in 1945 with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
**LEGACIES.**

Mme. Martha Widmer of Zurich has given an amount of 25,000.—frs. for the old people in Zurich.

Mme. Friederike Meyer of Schwyz, has made a donation of 50,000.—frs. to the "Kantonsrat", Schwyz, the money to be used for charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
**DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.**

Mr. and Mrs. J. Roth-Häfelfinger of Basle, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ruffieux-Morard of Avry-devant-Pont (Fribourg). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
The Papal Academy of Science has appointed 14 new members, amongst them Professor Walter Rudolf Hess, Director of the Institute of Physiology at the University of Zurich, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1949, and Professor Paul Niehans of Berne — a non-catholic — promotor of cellular-therapy, with which he treated the Pope during his last illness.

\* \* \*  
The Swiss Guards — one of the Holy Father's personal bodyguard — are short of recruits.

They are well below their establishment of six officers, 15 N.C.Os. and 115 men.

A few weeks ago they were down to 60. Since then 20 recruits have arrived from Switzerland.

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\* \* \*

Arsenal are planning a fortnight's close season tour of Switzerland, in May, when they will probably play three games.

The first is against Grasshoppers, at Zurich, on Wednesday, May 11th, where they will make their headquarters, one is at Munich and the last against Young Boys, at Bern, on Thursday, May 19th.

\* \* \*

*The Holiday General Season Ticket.* One of the principal reasons for Switzerland's popularity as a tourist country is no doubt its excellent network of communications. Its 16,000 square miles (about twice the size of Wales) are crisscrossed by no less than 3,600 miles of railway lines. Furthermore, boats maintain frequent services in the summer on the many Swiss lakes, and the famous yellow Postal Motor Coaches carry holiday-makers safely across the well-known Alpine Passes.

The Swiss Transport Undertaking offer an excellent ticket to all those travellers who wish to explore Switzerland or who do not want to be tied down to a fixed itinerary. It is the Holiday General Season Ticket, the price for which had to be deducted from the basic allowance until recently. *Now it can be paid for in Sterling.*

This ticket is a combination of a General Season Ticket and a Half-fare Season Ticket. Out of a total

validity of 15 days the holder can select six season ticket days on which unlimited journeys may be made on a network of 3,350 miles of rail and boat services. On a number of mountain railways not incorporated in this network, also on Postal Motor Coaches and some licensed Private Motor Companies, half-fare tickets can be purchased.

On days other than "season ticket days" half-fare tickets for single, return and circular journeys in any class on railways, boats and motor coach lines totalling no less than 7,450 miles may be obtained.

This ticket is also available for a longer validity, i.e., 30 days, with 12 season ticket days. The prices are:

	1st class	2nd class	3rd class
15-day ticket with 6 optional season tickets days ...	£11. 5.0.	£ 8.15.0.	£ 6.13.4.
30-day ticket with 12 optional season ticket days ...	£17.10.0.	£14. 3.4.	£10.16.8.

Children from 6 — 16 years pay half-fare. A passport photograph is required.

Ask for the special folder containing further useful information.

*Regional Season Tickets Bernese Oberland.* The interested Transport Undertakings have again published separate folders for their:

Regional General Holiday Season Ticket (yellow) and

Regional Kilometric Holiday Season Tickets (turquoise) issued during the period 1st May — 31st October, 1955.

Both publications contain full details regarding the reductions involved and thus allow the traveller to budget his excursion expenses most accurately. It is pointed out that the following two sections: Meiringen-Innertkirchen and Wengen-Maennlichen are not shown in the resp. synoptic maps. Their inclusion in the tickets was decided upon only after the blocks were made.

*Currency Regulations.* The Treasury of H.M. Government has announced (17.3.55.) the following changes in the present regulations:

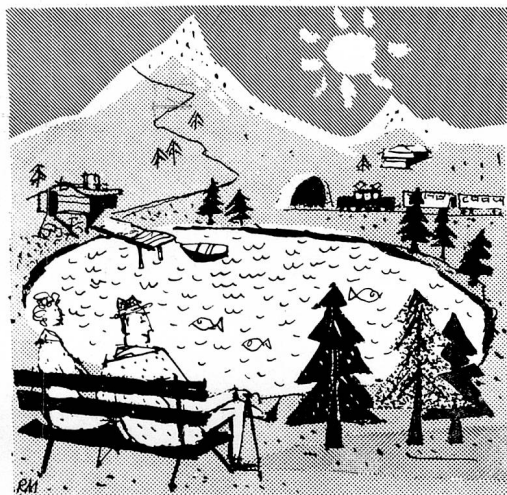
As part of the currency allowance, a maximum amount of £25 (previously £10) may now be had in foreign cash.

The amount which may be taken out of the U.K. in sterling notes to meet expenses on return has been raised from £5 to £10.

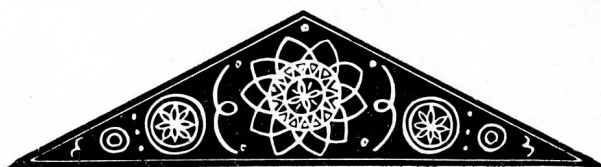
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