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# The Swiss Observer

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## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur André Parodi, to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Republics of Columbia and Ecuador, with residence at Bogotá. He is succeeding M. Jacques-Albert Cuttat, who is returning to the Foreign Office in Berne.

M. Parodi was born in 1909, and is a citizen of Geneva. He studied economic science at the Universities of Geneva, Baltimore, and Freiburg i. Br. In 1932, he entered into the service of the Federal Economic Department, changing over to the Federal Political Department in 1945, when he was sent to the Swiss Legation in Rome as Commercial Attaché. Two years later, (1947) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1954, M. Parodi was appointed permanent Chargé d'Affaires at Bucarest.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Hans Wilhelm Gasser, has been nominated by the Federal Council to the post of Consul General in New York, in succession to M. F. Gyax, who will take up an appointment at the Federal Political Department in Berne.

M. Gasser, was born in 1904, and hails from Nunningen, (Ct. Solothurn). On the completion of his studies in Bienne and Zurich, he occupied various posts in commercial concerns in Switzerland and abroad. In 1941, he joined the Swiss Legation in Berlin, (Foreign Interests), and in 1946, was appointed Vice-Consul in Hambourg. Two years later (1948) M. Gasser was nominated Consul-General in Frankfurt a. M. He was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation in 1954.

\* \* \*

Monsieur H. K. Frey, has been promoted to the grade of Counsellor of Legation, and will occupy a post at Cologne.

#### Cantonal

The German Minister in Berne, Monsieur F. Holzapfel, paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Schwyz. He was received at the Town Hall by the "Landammann", Dr. Vital Schwander. After the reception a luncheon was offered to the distinguished visitor. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the first six months of the current year, 862 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Lucerne. 18 persons succumbed to their injuries. 228 persons received serious, and 318, light injuries.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The little town of Sursee (Ct. Lucerne) has celebrated its 700th anniversary; on this occasion a monument to Peter Staffelbach, goldsmith, who died in 1736, was unveiled. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Argentine Government, through its Diplomatic representative in Berne, has presented to the Central Library, Zurich, a collection of works written by Argentine authors. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mme. J. Walpert-Kundert, has celebrated her 103rd birthday in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The veterinary faculty of the University of Vienna has bestowed honorary doctorate on Professor, Dr. Walter Frei, from 1911-1952, Professor at the University of Zurich, and Director of the veterinary physiological and pharmaceutical Institute. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Samuel Baechli has been appointed Director of the "Studio" Zurich, in succession to Dr. Jakob Job, who has retired on reaching retiring age. The new Head of the "Studio" Zurich was born in 1918, and is a citizen of Buchs. (Ct. Aargau), he was until recently a lecturer of German literature at the University of Uppsala. (Sweden). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The technical University of Hanover, on the occasion of its 125th jubilee, has nominated Dr. F. Kobel, Director of the "Eidg. Versuchsanstalt für Obst-Wein & Gartenbau", a doctor *honoris causa*.

[A.T.S.]

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The "Textil Fachschule", Zurich, has celebrated its 75th anniversary. The school is under the direction of Dr. Johannes Itten, and K. Pfister.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A climbing accident occurred on the northern ridge of the Dammastock (11,922ft.). A rock slab

worked loose and fell on a party of three Bernese climbers, who were thrown on to the glacier 1,200 ft. below. Two of them, Mr. H. Schmid (27), chemist of Berne, and Fritz Fankhauser, a gardener of Ruefenacht, nr. Berne, were killed outright. The third was rescued with minor injuries. [A.T.S.]

The Senate of the University of Berne has elected Professor Dr. Hans Robert Hahnloser, rector of the University for the period 1956/57. [A.T.S.]

The premises of the Schüpfen brickworks (Ct. Berne), were totally destroyed by fire, due to an explosion. The damage is considered to be considerable. [A.T.S.]

Professor Norbert Luyten has been nominated rector of the University of Fribourg for the period 1956/1958. [A.T.S.]

Dr. E. F. Knuchel, for 40 years "Feuilleton" editor of the "Basler Nachrichten", has resigned from his post, he is succeeded by Dr. Rud. Suter, collaborator of "Radio", Basle. [A.T.S.]

Two alpinists, Max Fueg (30) of Ennetbaden, and Franz Fegier (40) of Wuerenlos, were killed on the ascent to the Altmann. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Romeo Audermar, Industrialist of Lugano-Cassarina, was boating on the lake of Lugano with his wife and three children, when near Castagnola the boat overturned. Audermar, and the three children were saved, whilst his wife was drowned. [A.T.S.]

The Indian Ambassador in Berne, has paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Valais. A reception was held which was attended, apart from members of the cantonal Government, by the Presidents of the Grand Council, the cantonal Tribunal, the Mayor of the town of Sitten and the Abbot of Saint Maurice. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1955, of the canton of Geneva, close with a credit balance of 7,218,251.—frs. [A.T.S.]

The President of the Republic of Indonesia, Monsieur Achmed Sukarno, who recently paid an

official visit to the Confederation, has made a donation of 10,000.—frs. to the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Marcel Pillonel, Canon of the St. Niklaus cathedral, Fribourg, and rector of the St. Michel college, in Fribourg, at the age of 59.

Dr. O. Weibel, Editor of the "Schaffhausen Bauer", and President of the Press Association of the canton of Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen, aged 59.

Robert Bujard, a former President of the commune of Aubonne, and commander of the 3rd mountain-brigade, in Aubonne, at the age of 90.

Th. Huenerwadel, from 1900-1936, "Kantonsbaumeister" of Basle Town, in Basle, aged 92.

Heinrich Matzinger, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Winterthur, in Winterthur, at the age of 97.

Christian Baechtold, a well-known personality in the political life of the canton of Schaffhausen, and for many years a member of the Grand Council, in Schleithelm, aged 75.

Henri Leuzinger, a lawyer, and former Mayor of Sitten, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, in Sitten, at the age of 77.

Dr. med. W. Bratschi, a medical practitioner in Berne, owing to an accident, in Berne.

Emanuel Gaillard, from 1931-1937, Mayor of the town of Lausanne, and from 1929-1937, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Lausanne, aged 81.

Emanuel Faesch, from 1920-1950, Director of the "Handelsgenossenschaft des Schweiz. Baumeisterverbandes", in Basle, at the age of 82.

Mme. Anna Moerikofer-Ledermann, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Thurgau, in Frauenfeld, aged 99.

Carl Baumgartner, for 35 years administrator of the "Einkaufsgenossenschaft des Schweiz. Tapezierer Verbandes" in Basle, at the age of 80. [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. Ernst Nobs (70) of Seedorf and Grindelwald. (Ct. Berne) a former Federal Councillor.

Born in 1886, he started his career as a school teacher, but soon changed over to journalism. In 1915, E. Nobs was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the paper "Volksrecht", Zurich. A year later (1916) he was elected a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat", Zurich, and in 1919, he entered Parliament. (National Council).

From 1935-1942, he was a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich, and for two years held the post of Mayor of the town of Zurich. In 1943, he was elected a member of the Federal Government — the first Socialist who ever was elected a member of the Federal Council —. On reaching the age of 65, in 1951, he went into retirement. Apart from his political activities, Ernst Nobs, was the author of several books.

Albert Hinter (80) of Engelberg, well-known painter of stained glass; many of his works can be found in churches, chapels and council-chambers.

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Colonel Montmollin, since 1945 Chief of the General Staff of the Swiss army, has celebrated his 40th service jubilee. He was born in 1893, and is a citizen of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### VARIOUS.

A Swiss team of five, specially trained in mountain rescue work, flew to the spot where the air disaster occurred in the Grand Canyon to help in rescue work.

Amongst the victims of the disaster is a Swiss, Dr. Albert Vogt-Schoch, Director of the Zurich Insurance Company, in Chicago. [A.T.S.]

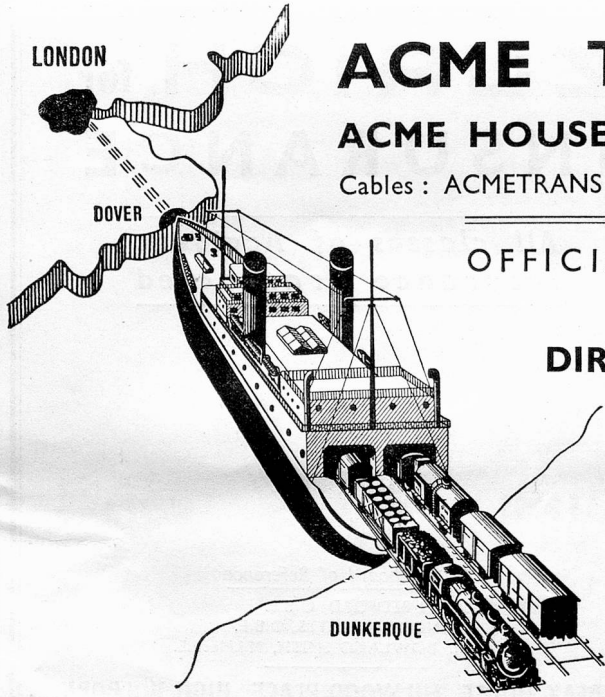
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The spa resort of Ragaz-Pfäfers located near the romantic Tamina gorge, and described as the richest thermal spring in Switzerland, already witnessed a period of prosperity in the sixteenth century, when the noted physician Theophrastus Paracelsus practised here. The modern spa resort dates back to 1867 when a franchise granted by the Canton St. Gallen came into effect for a one hundred year term, which recently was extended up to the year 2017. As a result the road was cleared for a thorough rejuvenation of this unique resort. In the 1957 season a new bathing establishment featuring a Medical Institute complete with all up-to-date installations of balneotherapy, will be available to Ragaz Spa's many guests. It will be connected with the existing thermal indoor swimming pool as well as with the two leading hotels, Hof Ragaz and Quellenhof by way of a covered passage.

To relieve the public thermal pool the Grand Hotel Quellenhof is to have its own bathing facilities and is now undergoing complete modernisation, while the renovation of the hotel Hof Ragaz is already accomplished. The golf course will be extended to 18 holes, and well known landscape architects are supervising the enlargement and remodelling of the "Kurpark". A new casino, an open-air thermal swimming pool, "minigolf" links and other recreation and sports facilities will be added attractions. Ragaz Spa with its numerous sporting and excursion possibilities is also expected to become a mecca for horseback riders, anglers and mountain climbing enthusiasts. The new aerial cable way to the 9,300ft. Piz Sol Mountain is of special appeal to alpinists and affords the enjoyment of winter sports till the early summer.

\* \* \*

Finishing touches will soon be added to the new Astoria Hotel on Pilatus Street, Lucerne's "Fifth Avenue". The traditional hotel scheme has been literally turned upside down in this instance. Guests will enter an express lift right on the side-walk, where a row of ultra-modern shops occupy the ground-floor of the hotel, and will be whisked in a few seconds to the hotel lobby, located on the floor below the roof garden and affording an unequalled panoramic view of the town, the surrounding mountains and Lake Lucerne. After registering at the desk the guests are escorted downstairs to their rooms. All 100 rooms of this "Hotel Garni" — or bed-and-breakfast hotel — are with private bath and other modern facilities. Near the lake promenade the construction of another



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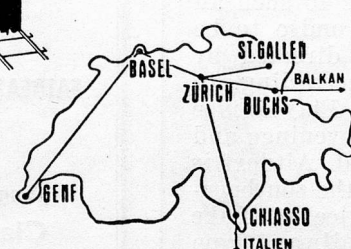
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"Hotel Garni", the "Luzerner Hof", somewhat smaller than the Astoria, but also very up-to-date, is in progress.

\* \* \*

The "Innkeepers' Parliament" — the General Assembly of the Association of Swiss Restaurateurs and Café-keepers — recently convened in Zurich for its annual meeting. According to the activity report of 1955, the membership was 18,303 strong. In order to become a qualified restaurant owner or manager in Switzerland, it is necessary to graduate successfully from a vocational school teaching the many-faceted services of hospitality, ranging from gastronomy to the art of human relations and the ability to cater to individual tastes. In compliance with these standards licenses were issued to 1,477 graduates last year. During the peak of the tourist season the demand for qualified cooks and waiters usually has to be satisfied partly by reinforcing kitchen brigades from abroad. By the end of 1955, as revealed by the annual report, television sets were installed in 2,580 Swiss restaurants; only 1447 existed in the previous year. One of the problems which came up for discussion during the General Assembly was the planned improvement of the Swiss motor road network which was greatly acclaimed by the delegates. The official Swiss restaurant schools in Geneva and Zurich, as it was also mentioned, enjoy an ever increasing popularity with professional students from many countries.

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Fifty years ago, in the same year as the Simplon tunnel was completed, the Railway Company "Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon" was founded, with the object to construct the Lötschberg railway line. In the summer of 1913 the first standard gauge electrical mountain railway of Europe materialized. The construction cost of this internationally important mountain railway link through Bernese territory amounted to 135 million francs. The Lötschberg railway often abbreviated to BLS (Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon), is the shortest connection from the Swiss capital of Berne via the Canton of Valais and Simplon tunnel to Italy. Daily inter-city streamliners connect the cities of Berne and Milan by way of the Lötschberg-Simplon in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours, as well as Berne and Genoa in  $7\frac{3}{4}$  hours.

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There are at least two places in Switzerland this summer, where one can make the "personal acquaintance" of William Tell, the legendary hero of freedom. In the outdoor theatre of Interlaken, with the majestic background of the Bernese Oberland mountains, the saga of Tell will be dramatized by local amateurs every Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon from July 15 to September 9. The great success of the performances in recent years has made it possible for the Tell Theatrical Group to intensify and modernize the lighting of the theatre to such an extent that the evening performances promise to be extremely popular. The plays will be directed by Wilfried Scheitlin. — In Altdorf, according to legend the native home of the hero, the Play House will present the Tell drama on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons during the same period. Altdorf is located at a short distance from Fluelen, the southernmost point of the excursion boat service of Lake Lucerne, and is easily reached by railway from Lucerne, as well as from Zurich and Bale.

### *The Jungfrauoch Research Centre.*

The research centre at Jungfrauoch, 11,723 ft. a.s.l., situated near the highest railway terminal in Europe, will commemorate this coming Summer its 25th anniversary. During the past year 15 research teams from Switzerland, Germany, England, France and Belgium have visited the institute. One third of the working days spent at the research centre by scientists and their staff were devoted to scientific studies of cosmic rays as well as astronomical observations, one fifth to meteorology and the rest to research work in the fields of physiology and glaciology. Several new buildings have been added to the research institute in recent years.

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### *A New Swiss Holiday Resort.*

The Gruyere district, in the southern part of the Canton of Fribourg, with its green meadows and pastures, rare alpine flowers and historical towns, ranges among the most scenic regions in Switzerland. Recently the community of Enney, one of the forgotten villages in these beautiful surroundings, decided to cede a 20-acre strip of land to a future tourist centre. Another 10 acres will be made available to private landowners. About one hundred comfortable chalets, a hotel with 44 beds and restaurant are to be built in this area. The construction of a chairlift has been envisaged as well, providing access during the winter to several excellent ski descents. The project is estimated to cost some five million Swiss francs.

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