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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

On Wednesday, September 19th, the Austrian Federal Chancellor, Herr Dr. Julius Raab, arrived at Buchs on a four days official visit to the Confederation.

On entering Swiss territory he was welcomed by the "Vice-Landammann" of the canton of St. Gall, Mr. Clavadetscher. After a short stay at the Werdenberg castle, the Chancellor left by car for Zurich. On his arrival there he was visited at the Grand Hotel Dolder by Dr. Vaterlaus, President of the cantonal Government, and by Dr. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich.

The next day (Thursday) the distinguished visitor continued his journey — this time by train — to the Federal capital, where on arrival at the station he was greeted by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. The latter was accompanied by Federal Chancellor Oser, Colonel Bracher, and M. Dominicé, chef du protocol.

The party then drove in open carriages to the Palais Fédéral, where Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, and members of the Federal Council *in corpore* received the Austrian Chancellor and his suite.

The President of the Swiss Confederation extended to him, in the name of the Federal Council and the Swiss population cordial greetings, to which Dr. Raab replied. In the evening a large Banquet was held, which was attended by all the members of the Government, members of the diplomatic corps, federal and cantonal authorities, and high ranking officers. During the dinner speeches were given by the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Austrian Chancellor.

On Friday, the distinguished guest paid a visit to the cathedral in Fribourg, where he attended an organ recital and afterwards inspected military air-fields at Forel and Payerne. In the evening, Dr. Raab offered a Banquet to members of the Federal Council

at the Bellevue Palace Hotel, followed by a reception at which six hundred persons attended.

On the last day of the official visit (Saturday), the Chancellor gave a press conference, after which he left for Altdorf on a week's private visit.

* * *

The Israeli Minister in Berne, Monsieur Samuel Tolkowsky is leaving Switzerland shortly, on the occasion of his retirement.

He will be succeeded by Monsieur Yeshayahn Aviad who was born in 1892 at Hamburg. The new Minister is by profession a doctor of medicine, and is also well known as an author of several works, amongst them a complete history of the Jewish population.

* * *

The Federal Council has decided to take up diplomatic relations with Burma. Dr. E. Bernath, Swiss Minister in Bangkok (Thailand) will also be accredited to Burma.

* * *

Mr. Max Kaufmann, Director of the "Bundesamtes für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit" (BIGA) at the Federal Economic Department, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the current year.

Director Kaufmann was born in Berne in 1891. He studied law at the Universities of Berne and Berlin, and in 1918, entered into the service of the Federal Administration. In 1940, he was elected to the post of Vice-Director, and seven years later (1947), Director of "BIGA" in succession to Dr. Willi. In the army he occupied the rank of a General Staff Colonel.

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The Federal Council has elected Mr. Franz Lüthi of Lauperswil (Ct. Berne) to the post of Director of the 1st Customs District. (Basle).

* * *

Ten-franc notes went into circulation on October 1st, 1956. Printed in pink and brown, they have an Alpine flower on one side and on the other a portrait of the author Gottfried Keller. They are claimed to be proof against counterfeiting.

* * *

The federal Council has appointed Monsieur Otto Seifert to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Norway and Iceland, in succession to Minister Gaston Jaccard.

Minister Seifert was born in 1902, and is a citizen of Wartau (Ct. St. Gall) and Kreuzlingen (Ct. Thurgau). He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1934, and in succession occupied posts at the Legations in Rome, Madrid and Budapest, where he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In 1950, M. Seifert was transferred to Vienna as first collaborator to the Minister, and a year later (1951), he was appointed Minister to Israel. In 1954, he was transferred — in the same capacity — to Indonesia. He returned to Berne in September, 1955.

Cantonal

The Val-de-Ruz District Court sentenced an engineer, who on two occasions drove his car whilst under the influence of alcohol, to 10 days imprisonment, and a fine of 75.— frs. (!) [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 800th anniversary of the foundation of the town of Fribourg will be celebrated on Sunday, June 16th, 1957. States-Councillor, M. Jean Bourgknecht, Mayor of the town of Fribourg, has been elected President of the organisation committee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A smash and grab raid was made at the jeweller's shop of Giorgio Varini in Locarno-Muralto. Goods valued at 100,000.— frs. were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Joseph Zurkinden (Fribourg) piloting his own airplane, was seriously injured, when his machine, owing to fog, collided with the top of a tree on landing at the airport of Blecherett. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Mayor of the town of Geneva, M. Fernand Cottier, has left by air for Tokio to attend the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese capital. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "St. Gallische Kantonsschule" has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

The official celebration was held at the "Tonhalle". Amongst the many guests who attended were Federal-Councillor, Dr. Hohenstein, "Landamann" Gemperli, representatives of the town of St. Gall, members of the States- and National Councils, representing the canton of St. Gall in Parliament, of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and former Federal-Councillor, Dr. Kobelt.

At the luncheon held at the "OLMA" hall, 4,000 persons were present. [A.T.S.]

The "Comptoir Suisse" closed its doors on Sunday, September 23rd. Over 800,000 visitors went through the turnstiles. [A.T.S.]

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The American Ambassador in Berne, Miss Frances Willis, was received in Fribourg by members of the cantonal Government, a luncheon in her honour was held at the "Greyerzer" castle. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At the end of August, 1956, the population of the town of Geneva, including the adjoining communes of Carouge, Chêne-Bougeries, Lancy and Vernier, numbered 190,593. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Albert Rehsteiner, from 1913-1934 a member of the Government of Appenzell I.Rh., and from 1919-1947, editor of the "Appenzeller Volksfreundes", in Appenzell, at the age of 76.

Colonel Arnold Weber, from 1930-1938, Instructor of the 4th Division, in Lucerne, aged 83.

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Suite No. 9 in G major	<i>Handel</i>
Sonata in C major	} <i>Scarlatti</i>
Sonata in F minor	
Fantasia and Fugue in C major (K394)	<i>Mozart</i>
Sonata No. 3, in B flat major	<i>Hindemith</i>
Four Concert Studies:	<i>Scriabin</i>
Op. 42, No. 5, in C sharp minor	
Op. 42, No. 6, in E. flat major	
Op. 8, No. 11, in B minor	
Op. 8, No. 12, in D sharp minor	
Two Etudes: La Campanella	} <i>Liszt—Paganini</i>
Variations in A minor	

Press Extracts:

LONDON: "When a martellato was called for he responded magnificently."

PARIS: "R. am Bach fit jaillir du premier choc l'éblouissement d'une perfection admirable."

VIENNA: "Da ist eine grossartige Lauf- und Sprungtechnik, da ist eine eminente Stilvertrautheit."

HAMBURG: "Ein echtes musikalisches Temperament von grossem innerem Reichtum."

MILAN: "R. am Bach esegui Beethoven con spiccato e magistrale diletto di chiaro scuri che completa il quadro delle sue vaste possibilità."

Tickets (including Tax): Reserved 9/- and 6/-; Unreserved 3/- (all bookable in advance) may be obtained at the BOX OFFICE, WIGMORE HALL (WELBECK 2141, usual ticket offices and WILFRID VAN WYCK LTD., 80, Wigmore Street, W.1. (WELbeck 0218).

Dr. Damian Bossard, a former member of the "Kantonsrat" Zug, and from 1925-1935, editor of the "Zuger Volksblattes", in Zug, at the age of 72.

Friedrich Kuhn, for over 25 years President of the "Kirchenpflege Neumünster", and the "Zentral-kirchenpflege" of the town of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 80.

Otto Tschanz, a former General Procurator of the canton of Berne, in Oberhofen, at the age of 80.

Hans Richard, for 34 years conductor of the "Musikverein" Weinfelden, in Weinfelden, aged 71.

Fr. Huber, for over 25 years Swiss Consul in Lille, and a former Manager of a French Insurance Company, in Basle, at the age of 66.

Dr. Robert Jezler, in Berne, aged 49. The deceased was born in Berne in 1907. He studied law at the Universities of Rome and Berne. After practising for several years as a lawyer in Berne, he entered in 1935 into the service of the Confederation (Federal Justice and Police Department). After occupying a number of important posts in this administration, he was appointed in 1955, Head of the Police section of the Justice & Police Department. Dr. Jezler rendered many services to the Swiss abroad.

J. B. Mottier, a notary and well-known personality of the town of Montreux, in Montreux. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

Large scale manoeuvres are held in Switzerland. These are directed by army-corps commander Frey. More than 20,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men are taking part.

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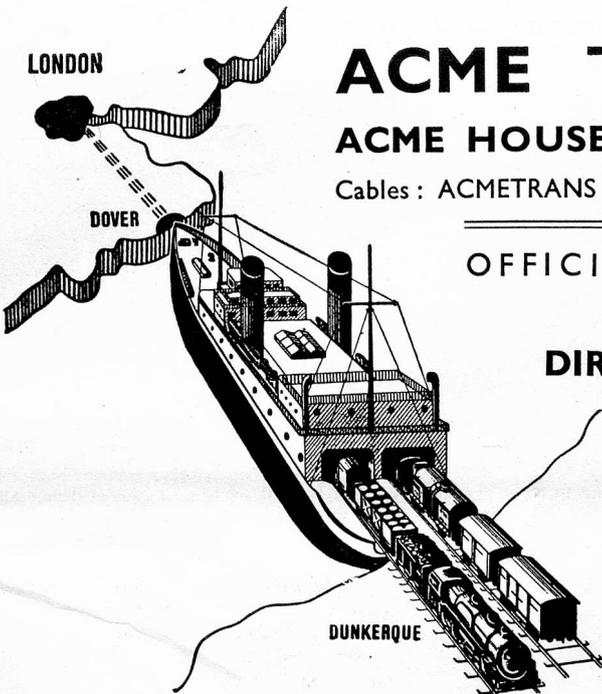
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A military Vampire machine crashed at the Raron airfield, the pilot sergeant-major Raymond Theus (aged 26) of Geneva, was killed.

During the recent military manoeuvres, a vehicle attached to a tank, carrying a crew of seven, fell over a 25m. deep border. One man, Felix Schmidhalter, of Brig, was killed, and four injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES.

The late Huldreich Meyer-Berg of Baden has legated an amount of 30,000.— frs. to the church community of Dürnten. (Ct. Zurich).

Mlle. Emma Utiger of Deisswil-Münchenbuchsee, (Ct. Berne) has left the sum of 10,000.— frs. to the "Insel" hospital in Berne.

The late Leonhard Kellenberger, consulting engineer in St. Gall, has left an amount of 10,000.— frs. to the commune of Rehetobel. (Ct. Appenzell a. Rh.)

The late Dr. Eugen Meyer of Zurich, a former member of the Supreme Court, has donated the following legacies: 50,000.— frs. to the "Gemeinnützigen Gesellschaft" of the district Affoltern a. Albis, 45,000.— frs. to the hospital at Dielsdorf, and 5,000.— frs. to the home for old people in Regensburg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Aloys Mooser (80) of Geneva, journalist, music critic of the paper "La Suisse".

Friedrich Schneider (70) of Basle, a former member of the Government of the canton Basle-Town, and the National Council. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. F. Spuhler-Binkert of Boettstein (Ct. Aargau), Mr. & Mrs. A. Christenmanz of Winterthur, Mr. & Mrs. J. Wettstein-Keller of Baeretswil (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

The Press Department of the Foreign Office of the USSR has invited a number of Swiss journalists to visit Russia, this invitation has been accepted and the following have left for Moscow: Bernard Béguin (Journal de Genève), O. Treyvaux (Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne), Pietro Pellegrini (Libera Stampa), Dr. H. Kuhn (National Zeitung), Dr. A. Baur (Neue Berner Zeitung), and Dr. F. Luchsinger (Neue Zürcher Zeitung). The visit will last two weeks. [A.T.S.]

* * *

There were 17,500 accidents on Swiss roads in the first half of 1956, compared with about 17,000 the previous year.

There was no great change in the number of injured and killed, 11,550 and 401 respectively.

The 401 killed comprised 217 drivers of vehicles, 58 passengers and 126 pedestrians.

The number of vehicles registered in Switzerland increased by 50,000 between the two half-years in question.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Government is to ask Parliament to subsidise the Canton of The Ticino in its fight against the ravages of the "chestnut blight" which is destroying chestnut trees by the thousand.

* * *

Work is nearing completion in Basle on the "first automobile silo" in Europe as an experiment to help

to solve the city's chronic shortage of car parking space. The "silo," costing about £1½ million, is being built by private enterprise.

The building, when completed, will be an eight-storey one and will have garage space for 400 vehicles. A motorist will drive his car into a vast ground-floor reception hall and leave it there.

Within minutes an attendant, seated in front of a diagram and an automatic control panel, can park the car without manhandling it, to any section of the eight floors. The owner can get delivery of his car with the same ease and speed.

Other Swiss cities, where too many cars are competing for shrinking parking space, are watching the Basle experiment with interest. They may follow the "silo" plan.

* * *

The four-hundredth anniversary of the arrival of John Knox in Geneva in 1556 was marked in that town by special services.

The celebrations, in which the National Protestant Church of Geneva joined with the Church of Scotland, reached their climax in a commemorative service in the Cathedral of St. Pierre.

The programme of celebrations planned for the anniversary of the arrival of the great Scottish reformer in Geneva included a lecture on John Knox, by Professor G. B. Henderson, dean of the Divinity College at the University of Aberdeen. The Scottish Congregation in Geneva dates from the sixteenth century, when Knox came to the Swiss City to minister to the English-speaking religious refugees.

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