

# News at random

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss Legations in Lebanon, Poland and Mexico have been raised to the status of Embassy, and the respective Ministers, Monsieur Egbert von Graffenried, Monsieur Friedrich Gygax, and Monsieur Ch. de Bavier, to the rank of Ambassador.

Ambassador Dr. E. von Graffenried was born in Berne in 1909 and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1934. After having occupied posts at the Swiss Consulates in Shanghai and New York he returned to Berne, where he held a position in the Commercial Division of the Federal Political Department.

In 1943 he was appointed Commercial Attaché at the then Swiss Legation in London, and three years later (1946) was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. Dr. von Graffenried returned to the Swiss Foreign Office in 1950, and in 1954 received the rank of Minister, in which capacity he acted as Deputy to the head of the Division for Political Affairs. From August 1955 until March 1956 he was in charge of the Swiss delegation of the neutral commission in Korea.

In 1956 Monsieur von Graffenried was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Lebanon, Persia, Jordania and Syria.

Ambassador Dr. Friedrich Gygax was born in 1902 and is a citizen of Seeberg (Ct. Berne). He studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Berne and Berlin. On the conclusion of his studies he occupied posts in commercial concerns, and in 1934 entered the service of the commercial division of the Federal Economic Department and was sent to New York as Consul-General, where he remained until 1956. On his return to Berne he held the post of deputy to the head of the Department for Political Affairs, with the rank of Minister. In 1957 Monsieur Gygax was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Poland.

Ambassador Ch. de Bavier was born in 1893 and is a citizen of Chur and Zurich. He studied Law at Swiss and French Universities and entered the

Diplomatic Service in 1918, subsequently holding appointments at the Legations in Paris, Rome, Istanbul, Athens and Berlin. In 1933 Monsieur de Bavier was appointed Counsellor of Legation, and a year later Swiss Minister, in Teheran. Since 1951 he has held the post of Swiss Minister in Mexico.

\* \* \*  
Monsieur Nagib Sadaka, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Lebanon, has presented his credentials to Dr. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

\* \* \*  
The Swiss Supreme Court in Lausanne has ordered the trial, on charges of espionage and violation of duties, of Max Ulrich, former Berne police inspector. M. Ulrich was arrested in May last, after it had been alleged that the then Attorney-General (who committed suicide) had been tapping the telephone of the Egyptian Embassy in Berne and passing information to the French.

\* \* \*  
The Swiss Parliament has decided that a hundred British Armstrong-Siddeley Sapphire jet aircraft should be built under licence in Switzerland.

The new fighters are in addition to a hundred British Hawker Hunter jet aircraft, worth about £26m., due to be delivered by the end of next year.

The National Council also voted to increase the credit asked by the Government for the P.16 fighters from 407m. francs to 440m. (£33m. to £36m.)

## SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

### MONTHLY MEETING

on Wednesday, April 9th, 1958 at 7 p.m.  
at Swiss House, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

followed by a talk on the

### NEW SWISS CUSTOMS TARIFF

by M. HANS MUELLER

Attaché to the Swiss Embassy.

Members and friends are cordially invited. The Students' Canteen will be open for light meals and refreshments from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.4 million passengers in the month of January 1958, or 500,000 more than in January 1956. Receipts: 24.2 million francs (January 1956: 23.5 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned at 1.73 million tons or 260,000 tons less than during the same period in 1956. Receipts: 34.1 million francs (January 1956: 39.9 million francs).

### Cantonal

The "Verein Schweizerhilfe für Ungarn's Flüchtlinge" of Lucerne have now closed their accounts, after

having collected the net amount of 966,211,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

The recent elections for the "Stadtrat" (9 members) of Zurich show the following results: Dr. Emil Landolt (Liberal) 59,189 votes, Albert Sieber (Liberal) 43,932 votes, Alois Hostenstein (Christian Socialist) 42,052 votes, Dr. W. Spühler (Socialist) 38,546 votes, Dr. August Ziegler (Socialist) 37,786 votes, Walter Thomann (Socialist) 37,613 votes, Adolf Maurer (Socialist) (new) 36,567 votes, Dr. Sigmund Widmer (Landesring) 30,369 votes, Jakob Baur (B.G.B.) (new) 27,700 votes.

Mr. Hans Sappeur, formerly a representative of the "Landesring" Party, has not been re-elected; he has been a member of the "Stadtrat" since 1949.

The following Parties are represented in the "Stadtrat": two Liberals, four Socialists, one "Landesring", one Christian Socialist, one Peasant and Bourgeois Party.

Dr. Emil Landolt has been re-elected as Mayor of the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The following Parties are now represented in the newly elected "Gemeinderat" of Zurich: Liberals 25 (27), Socialists 46 (46), Peasant and Bourgeois Party 10 (7), Christian Socialists 17 (16), Democrats 1 (4), Evangelical Popular Party 4 (3), Communists 1 (2).

[A.T.S.]

The Swiss-British Society in Zurich has given a farewell luncheon to the departing British Ambassador, Sir Lionel Lamb and Lady Lamb. Sir Lionel has represented his country in Berne for the last five years.

Professor Dr. M. Wildi was in the Chair, and amongst the participants at the luncheon were: the British Consul-General, Mr. J. Robinson; Dr. W. Koenig, President of the Government of the canton of Zurich; and Dr. E. Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich.

Fifteen persons were injured — three of them seriously — when a lorry collided with a train of the Bremgarten-Dietikon railway at the Reppischhof near Dietikon. The lorry was totally destroyed and severe damage was caused to the train. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the jewellery establishment of Vlasak, in the Badenerstrasse Zurich, and decamped with watches and jewellery to the value of 50,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. phil. Schnyder has been appointed keeper of the archives of the canton of Zurich, in succession to Dr. Anton Largiader, who has vacated his office.

[A.T.S.]

Professor Dr. Jakob Ackeret, *Ordinarius* for aerodynamics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the Technical University of Karlsruhe. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the Hotel "Waldheim" (65 beds) on the Bürgenstock caused the death of four people. The victims were: Mrs. Amstutz-Borsinger (49) (the wife of the Manager), her two sons, Markus (10), and Hermann (11), and four-month-old Hans Wichmann, the son of an employee. The damage is estimated to be about half a million francs. [A.T.S.]

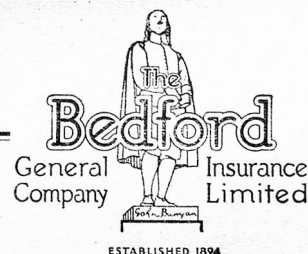
The accounts of the canton of Glarus for 1957 close with a debit balance of 32,332 francs. [A.T.S.]

Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery, who has spent several weeks holidaymaking in Switzerland, before leaving paid a courtesy visit to Federal-Councillor Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department. [A.T.S.]

A car, driven at a speed of 100 km. per hour by a nineteen-year-old student, skidded and overturned in the Murtenstrasse in Berne. His passenger, Pierre Bandert (20), of Peseux, was killed, whilst the driver of the car escaped with slight injuries. [A.T.S.]

During 1957 42,500 persons have visited the Oberhofen Castle on the lake of Thoune. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has elected Mr. Raymond Schneider, Lic. es. sc. meth. & phys., from 1946 to 1955 chief meteorologist at the Kloten airport, to the post



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of Vice-Director of the "Schweizerischen Meteorologischen Zentralanstalt" Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1957 of the canton of Zug show a deficit of 125,520.—francs. [A.T.S.]

The Tribunal of Fribourg has sentenced a motorist, driving under the influence of alcohol, to 15 days' imprisonment and a fine of 150.—francs. [A.T.S.]

The collection made for the University of Fribourg amounted to 650,339.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hermann Bachofner, a signature-holder in the firm A. & R. Moos in Pfaeffikon (Ct. Zurich), has celebrated his 70th service jubilee with the firm. [A.T.S.]

The oldest woman inhabitant of the town of Basle, Frau Karoline Fiechter-Singler, has celebrated her 102nd birthday. [A.T.S.]

A party of six skiers were surprised by an avalanche in the "Jakobshorn" district near Davos. Whilst five of them could be saved, 12-year-old Silvia Deckel, of Davos, lost her life. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Karl Ruetschi, proprietor of the "Pumpenbaufabrik" Brugg, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Braunschweig. [A.T.S.]

Mr. G. B. Rusca, Mayor of the town of Lugano, has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to the late Aleardo Pini. Mr. Rusca was a

member of the National Council from 1927 to 1931, from 1935 to 1943, and from 1947 to 1955. He is 77. [A.T.S.]

In the Governmental election of the canton of Vaud which took place recently none of the candidates has received the necessary majority of votes and a second poll will be necessary.

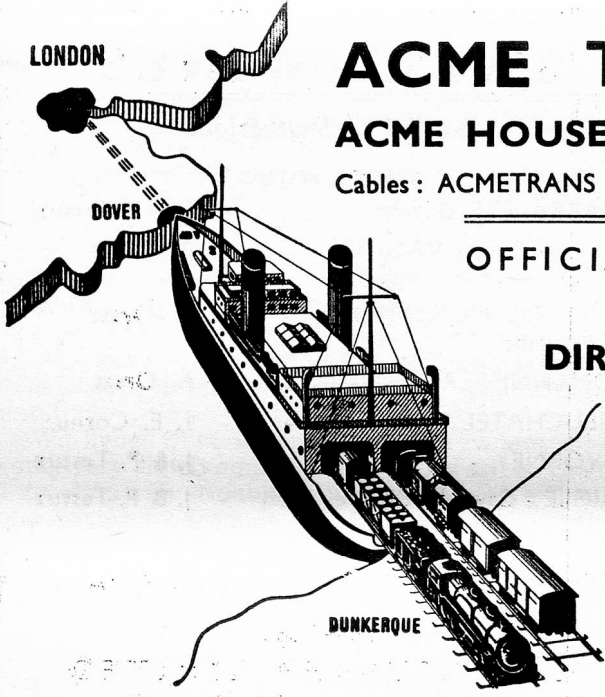
Here are the particulars of the poll: Charles Sollberger (Socialist) 26,399 votes, Arthur Maret (Socialist) 25,141 votes, Gabriel Desplands (Radical) 21,450 votes, Pierre Oguey (Radical) 21,096 votes, Alfred Oulevay (Radical) 19,670 votes, Robert Piot (Radical) 17,976 votes, Louis Guisan (Liberal) 16,441 votes, Georges Thevoz (Liberal) 13,545 votes, and Albert Brochon (Independent) 12,795 votes. [A.T.S.]

Professor Henri Borle, since 1933 Professor at the "Ecole des hautes études commerciales" of the University of Lausanne, has tendered his resignation for health reasons. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Helene Champond has celebrated her 100th birthday, at the home for old people in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Oouise Pay-Detraz of Nyon has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

Divisional Colonel Karl Brunner was seriously injured when his car, driven by a soldier, collided with another car at Montpreveyères near Lausanne. He had to undergo a serious operation. [A.T.S.]



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Burglars broke into a jewellery establishment, in the Rue du Bourg at Lausanne, and decamped with goods valued at 50,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Two persons were seriously injured and one killed when two motor-cars collided in Vevey. The victim was Charles Chatelanat (50), of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Neuchâtel for 1957 close with a credit balance of 1,260,952.— francs. [A.T.S.]

A watchmaker from Cernier, who on two former occasions was fined for having driven when under the influence of alcohol, appeared before the Tribunal of Neuchâtel, this time again charged with the same offence — having caused serious injuries to a 12-year-old girl cyclist. He was sentenced to 70 days' imprisonment and a fine of 100.— francs. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

National Councillor Dr. Aleardo Pini, in a clinic in Berne. The deceased was born at Biasca (Ct. Ticino), and after his schooling at Lugano, he studied Law at the Universities of Berne and Lausanne. In 1933 he opened a law practice in Biasca.

Dr. Pini was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino from 1931 until his death. He entered the National Council in 1942, over which he presided in 1950/51. He also held the post of President of the commune of Biasca. Dr. Pini was a founder of the Ticino group of the N.S.H.

Georges Marcard, a former army-corps commander, in Berne aged 77. He was born in Berne and was educated at the "Freien Gymnasium" Berne, and afterwards studied Law at the Universities of Geneva, Leipzig and Berne. In 1907 he became a member of the Federal Instructors Corps (artillery). He held the following commands in the army: 1930, commander of the garrison of St. Maurice; 1935, commander of a division and "Waffenchef" of artillery. Eight years later (1943) he became "Ausbildungschef" of the army with promotion to the rank of army-corps commander, from which post he retired in 1944.

Felix Beguin, from 1919 to 1946 Director of the cantonal school Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 77.

Robert Rey-Willer, from 1924 to 1933 a member of the municipal council Lausanne, from 1928 to 1938 Austrian Consul at Lausanne, and from 1940 to 1950 Secretary of the "Westschweizerischen Kinotheater Vereinigung". He was one of the founder-members of "Migros" Lausanne. He died in Lausanne at the age of 68.

Marius Chatton, a former President of the commune of Romont, in Romont.

Fritz Bigler-Baumann, for many years head of the "Landwirtschafts Betrieb des Allg. Consumvereins", in Riehen, aged 74.

Wolfgang Müller, well-known architect, in Schaffhausen, aged 61. [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. Charles Werner (80), of Geneva, for 45 years Professor of Philosophy at the University of Geneva.

Emil Keller (80), of Aarau, from 1909 to 1945 a member of the Government of the canton of Aargau,

and a member of the National Council from 1912 to 1943, over which he presided in 1942/43. From 1919 to 1925 he was in command of the 22nd infantry regiment with the rank of Colonel.

Alfred Blaile (80), of Neuchâtel, well-known painter, and from 1931 to 1942 Central President of the Association of Swiss painters, sculptors and architects.

Professor Antony Babel (70), of Geneva, a former rector of the University of Geneva, and for the last thirty years Professor of Economics. He is President of the "Rencontres Internationales" Geneva.

[A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Mlle. Ida Ruth Morf, of Cham, has left a legacy of 20,000.— francs to the "Bürgerheim" Schwyz.

Mr. Friedrich Müller, who recently died in Steffisburg (Ct. Berne), has bequeathed 18,000.— francs to the following institutions: "Blindenanstalt" Spiez (5,000.— francs), "Asyl Gottesgnad" Berne (5,000.— francs), "Bezirksspital" Thun (5,000.— francs), and "Taubstummenheim" Uetendorf (3,000.— francs).

The late Mr. Georges Blancpain-Diethelm, of Fribourg, has left an amount of 123,000.— francs to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. Jules Richard of Bienne, Mr. & Mrs. S. Grossenbacher of Sonceboz-Sombeval. [A.T.S.]

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