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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 16.72 million passengers during the month of April, 1950, or 1.46 million less than in April, 1949. The receipts from passengers service amount to 23.72 million francs (April, 1949: 25.79 million frs.).

Goods traffic decreased by 165,619 tons and is returned as 1.05 million tons, the receipts totalled 20.92 million francs (April, 1949: 22.98 million frs.).

The 300 million francs Federal Loan at 2½ per cent. has been oversubscribed. Allocations had to be considerably reduced.

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, has paid an official visit to the "Comptoir" at Neuchâtel.

Cantonal

Mr. Herman Oldani, Central Secretary of the "Schweiz. Bau & Holzarbeiterverbandes" has entered Parliament (National Council) in place of Dr. P. Meierhans, who was recently elected a member of the government of the canton of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

During the month of April, 1950, 609 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich (April, 1949: 478). Eight people were killed and 256 injured. [A.T.S.]

Colonel Zuber, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary in Berne. After his studies at the Universities of Zurich, Berlin and Geneva, he entered the Federal Military Department in 1886. In 1915, he was appointed "Oberkriegskommissär" of the Swiss Army. Colonel Zuber retired from the army in 1930. [A.T.S.]

At the second poll the following have been elected members of the government of the canton of Berne:— Samuel Brawand (Socialist), 24,091 votes; Fritz Giovanoli (Socialist), 23,634 votes; and Georges Moeckli (Socialist), 23,634 votes. Only 10 per cent. of the

electorate went to the poll. The composition of the cantonal government is as follows: 6 members of the Bourgeois parties and 3 Socialists. [A.T.S.]

Rudolph Boehlen (52), jumped from a plane at 1,700 feet over the Belpmoos airfield, near Berne, and glided with bat-shaped wings above the airfield. [A.T.S.]

The late M. Pascal Remy of Bulle (Ct. Fribourg) has left an amount of 36,000.—frs to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

Two mountaineers from Fribourg, met with an accident when climbing in the "Gastlosen" district; they were found by a rescue party. René Bugnard was found dead and his comrade, Raymond Page seriously injured. He was taken to the hospital in Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton Basle-County for 1949, close with a credit balance of 1,281,941.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. August Cahannes (Chur), has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Grisons. Dr. Cahannes, who received 11,984 votes, is a member of the conservative party. His opponent, Hans Stifter (Davos), a Socialist, received 10,486 votes. The following parties are represented in the cantonal government: 2 Democrats, 1 Liberal, 1 Conservative and 1 Christian Socialist. (No change.) [A.T.S.]

Otto Hoeppli, a member of Parliament (National Council) for 28 years, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau, over which he presided three times, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary in Frauenfeld. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Ambrosina Cataneo-Musso, a school mistress of Faido (Ct. Ticino), has celebrated her 50th jubilee as a teacher at the local school. [A.T.S.]

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M. Olivier Cornaz, has been elected President of the District Court of Yverdon, Grandson and Echallens.

[A.T.S.]

Three people were killed and eight seriously injured, when a motor lorry, containing a number of workmen engaged in road repairs left the road and fell into a ravine, between Salvan and Les Granges (Ct. Valais). [A.T.S.]

The wreckage of a Percival Proctor plane, which had been missing for several days was found on the Furka Pass, near Gletsch, its four occupants: Hans Hottinger (48) a partner of the Banking firm Lüscher, A.G., Basle, Edwin Suter (34), pilot, Basle, Rolf Malcolm, London and Colonel Miguel Robbin (U.S.A.), were dead. [A.T.S.]

M. Jean Humbert has been elected President of the government of the canton of Neuchâtel for the year 1950/51, and M. Jean Louis Barrelet, Vice-President.

[A.T.S.]

M. Edgar Junod, has celebrated his 40th jubilee as a journalist. He is at present Director of the "Tribune de Genève." [A.T.S.]

M. François Vibert, chief of police in Geneva, has been elected Mayor of Carouge. [A.T.S.]

Economics

Owing to pressure of work, negotiations for the renewal of the Franco-Swiss trade agreement which expired on May 31st, have not yet been started. It has therefore been decided to extend the validity of the present agreement for another three months to the end of August and to increase quotas by one-third. It is believed that new negotiations during which the further liberalisation of Franco-Swiss trade is to be discussed will commence in June in Berne.

The Swiss cost of living index, based on 1939, dropped 0.2 per cent. during March to a level of 158. The index of food prices fell at the same time by 0.3 per cent. to 169.6.

oOo

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Alfred Messer, in Winterthur, at the age of 74. The deceased was a member of the "Kantonsrat" from 1920-1943.

Dr. von Grünigen, Assistant at the "Eidg. Agrikulturchemischen Anstalt, at Liebefeld (Ct. Berne), aged 52.

Mlle. Julie Barbezat, in Lattrigen, near Bienne, at the age of 100.

Dr. Gustav Schmid, since 1940, Director of the cantonal hospital in Lucerne, at the age of 62. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" Lucerne, over which he presided in 1942/43.

Heinrich Wirz, a former "Kreispostadjunkt" of Lucerne, and from 1919-1947 a member of the "Grossen Stadtrat" Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 62.

Edgar Jeanloz, for many years Manager of the "Kornhauskeller" in Berne, and proprietor of the Hotel de la Gare and Café Cina, in Berne, at the age of 64.

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Karl Elsener-Gut, Industrialist and former member of the "Kantonsrat" in Schwyz, aged 64.

Theodor Epper, from 1923-1949, technical expert of the "Stickerreitruhandgenossenschaft" St. Gall, in St. Gall, at the age of 76. [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Leder-Käser, of Oberflachs nr. Brugg; Mr. and Mrs. Käser-Süss of Brugg; Mr. and Mrs. A. Schneider of Wagenhausen (Ct. Thurgau), Mr. and Mrs. J. Schläpfer Indlekofer of Teufen.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacot-Dubois, of Les Bulles near La Chaux-de-Fonds, have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. The husband is 96, and the wife 91 years of age. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss Military Department has asked Parliament for an extra grant of £120 million for a five-years rearmament plan.

Arsenal, the F.A. Cup winners, beat F.C. Servette Geneva 3:1.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

Le nouveau barrage de Castello do Bode, au Portugal, qui portera la production du pays à 300 millions de Kwh, a été construit avec la collaboration de la S.A. Conrad Zschokke, de Genève.

Les autorités de la foire internationale de Milan ont déclaré que le pavillon Suisse était celui qui, parmi

les étrangers, témoignait du goût le plus sûr et offrait le plus d'agréments. A la foire de Bruxelles, l'exposition suisse a été très remarquée. Nos produits y étaient présentés aux visiteurs sur une sorte de téléphérique.

La Suisse a remporté une médaille d'or et le prix de la ville de Gand à la grande exposition florale européenne connue sous le nom de Floralia Gantoises.

Une expédition suisse se rend actuellement à Montréal pour se joindre à l'expédition arctique de l'Artic Institute of North America. Elle se propose de faire des relevés cartographiques et des premières ascensions dans la Terre de Baffin, au Canada.

Un institut suisse d'archéologie a été ouvert dans l'île de Gesireh, sur le Nil. Il arbrite la bibliothèque égyptologique la plus complète, comprenant des œuvres actuellement introuvables.

BRITISH EXPORTS AND EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS ABROAD.

The Swiss Bank Corporation have issued a fourth edition of their booklet "British Exports and Exchange Restrictions Abroad." They have covered as wide a range of countries as possible and assembled the essential information required by exporters to every part of the world. There is a comprehensive table of exchange rates inserted as an appendix which will be of service to many business houses.

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