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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

A Government-sponsored Bill raising postal charges was rejected by the Swiss electorate in a popular poll. The vote was 266,790 in favour and 465,059 against. The Bill had already passed both Houses of Parliament. Here are the particulars of the voting:

	Yes	No
Zürich . . . . .	48,719	107,395
Berne . . . . .	37,196	57,598
Lucerne . . . . .	10,529	21,353
Uri . . . . .	3,040	2,745
Schwyz . . . . .	2,946	6,940
Obwalden . . . . .	858	2,249
Nidwalden . . . . .	1,087	2,391
Glarus . . . . .	2,927	3,806
Zug . . . . .	1,956	3,739
Fribourg . . . . .	6,602	11,255
Solothurn . . . . .	15,440	15,578
Basle Town . . . . .	7,526	13,866
Basle County . . . . .	5,728	9,684
Schaffhausen . . . . .	4,742	8,440
Appenzell A.Rh. . . . .	3,149	6,456
Appenzell L.Rh. . . . .	670	1,168
St. Gall . . . . .	21,441	35,876
Graubünden . . . . .	9,898	11,672
Aargau . . . . .	26,302	44,227
Thurgau . . . . .	11,428	21,251
Ticino . . . . .	7,431	8,193
Vaud . . . . .	14,694	30,573
Valais . . . . .	7,263	8,229
Neuchâtel . . . . .	10,033	16,697
Geneva . . . . .	5,185	13,678
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,790</b>	<b>465,059</b>

50% of the electorate went to the poll.

The Swiss Government has submitted to the Federal Assembly proposals for supplementary credits for rearmament and for the extension of military service in the Swiss armoured corps. This is con-

sidered as a timely reaffirmation of Switzerland's policy of maintaining ready and up-to-date defences regardless of political fluctuations.

The rearmament programme quoted two and a half years ago and providing for an expenditure of 1,463.3 million Swiss francs has been fulfilled to a large extent, according to the Federal Council. Up to the end of 1952, 569.9 million Swiss francs were actually spent; in addition current orders represent 401.8 millions; orders that were drawn up but that have not yet been placed account for 300.3 millions; and contemplated purchases for 410.5 millions. Thus, the rearmament programme is expected to cost 1,682.5 millions (about £137 millions), and this figure exceeds the originally planned expenditure by 219.2 millions (about £18 millions), the amount which the Swiss Government is now asking Parliament to approve.

The items which seem to be getting priority are armoured vehicles and jet planes. This confirms the

## ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, 30th MAY, 1953

at

THE POLYTECHNIC STADIUM, CHISWICK  
from 2.15 to 7 p.m.

The programme includes

- ATHLETIC EVENTS
- BOYS' and GIRLS' RACES
- MIXED RACES
- SPECIAL EVENTS

and musical entertainment by the Swiss Accordion Club.

Prizes will be given to the winners and also to the winners of a competition organised by the Swiss Rifle Association.

Admission free, no tickets required.

Covered Stand in case of rain.

Refreshments available.

Programmes with full details will be on sale on the Grounds.

How to reach the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick:

By Train from Waterloo to Chiswick S.R. Station thence a few minutes walk.

By Underground District Line to Turnham Green Station, thence by No. 55 bus to Chiswick S.R. Station.

By Bus No. 71 from Hammersmith to Polytechnic Sports Ground.