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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 elections for the two Chambers of the Swiss Parliament (States and National Council) have taken place on Sunday, October 30th.

The first Chamber or Council of States, pending a second ballot for two seats, so far includes 37 members of the bourgeois parties and two Socialists. The second Chamber will be formed of 53 Socialists, 50 Radicals, 47 Catholic Conservatives, 22 members of the Peasant party, 20 members of other bourgeois parties, and four Communists. Thus the Socialist Party, with a gain of four seats, becomes the strongest single party in Parliament, while the Communists lose one seat and the Radical Party, which is a Government party, loses one seat.

Swiss budget estimates for 1956, to be presented to Parliament in December, show a record estimated gross surplus of frs. 463 million. From this will be deducted frs. 100 million as a special reserve and a further frs. 15 million for unforeseen expenses.

Overall revenue is put at 2,432 million and expenditure at frs. 1,969 million.

The net income in 1954, of the Swiss Confederation amounted to 22 milliard francs, or 5 per cent more than in 1953.

The 3 per cent loan for 230 million francs issued by the Swiss Confederation has been heavily oversubscribed.

Mr. Yehuda Nassi is to replace Mr. Avidor Shoham as the Israeli Consul in Zurich. Mr. Shoham has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Helsinki.

The Swiss Federal Railways have granted a free one month season ticket to all Journalists attending the Geneva Conference.

### Cantonal

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, the following have been honoured with the decree of *doctor honoris causa*: Federal-Councillor, Dr. Philipp Etter, Professor Alfred Stucki, Director of the "Ecole Polytechnic de l'Université de Lausanne", Professor, Dr. Paul Karrer, Zurich, Max Maag, civil-engineer, Zurich, Franz Gerber, engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, Wabern, nr. Berne. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the jewellery establishment, G. Egli, in the Talstrasse Zurich, and decamped with goods to the value of 20,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Four people lost their lives in a fire which broke out in Riehen nr. Glarus, in which a number of dwelling houses were totally destroyed. [A.T.S.]

A sports machine piloted by Mr. Ernst Flückiger of Langenthal, caught fire and crashed in the Tremelaschlucht in the Gotthard district. The pilot and his three passengers Mr. and Mrs. H. Ziegeli, and Mrs. Brugger, all from Belp, were injured, and had to be taken to the hospital in Faido. [A.T.S.]

A serious motoring accident occurred between Luterbach and Flumenthal when a lorry in a skid collided with a tree. The driver, Max Frey, mechanic of Olten (aged 28) was killed, his passenger Hans Peter Kunz (aged 24) Secretary in Olten, received fatal injuries. A third passenger was seriously hurt. [A.T.S.]

## Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 25th, 1955, together with remittance for 6/-.