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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Customs receipts for December, 1955, totalled 71.2 million francs, or 7.5 million francs more than in December, 1954.

The President of the Republic of Eire, Mr. Sean O'Kelly, has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Markus Feldmann, at the Palais Fédéral, in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17.49 million passengers in December, 1955, or 846,000 more than in December, 1954. Receipts: 24.37 million francs (1954: 23.20 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.95 million tons, an increase of 82,000 tons over December, 1954, figures. Receipts: 38.44 million francs (1954: 34.96 million francs).

The profit for the year 1955, is given as 268.42 million francs. This is 33.63 million francs more than in 1954.

The traditional dinner given by the Federal Council to the heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to the Swiss Confederation took place at the Hotel Bellevue in Berne. The members of the Swiss Government, as well as some high officials attended the dinner.

Cantonal

The accounts of the canton of Uri for 1955, close with a credit balance of 853,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Peter Leonhard Rösch has been elected Abbot of the "Stift Engelberg" in succession to the late Abbot, Mgr. Hunkeler. He is 44 years of age, and has studied Theology in Rome and Paris. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of a meeting of the Great Central Committee of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein",

under the presidency of Mr. Karl Strickler (Zurich), Mr. Arnold Meier-Ragg, was elected Central Secretary in succession to the retiring National Councillor Mr. Schmid-Ruedin. [A.T.S.]

On the 31st of December, 1955, the population of the town of Winterthur numbered 71,616. [A.T.S.]

The Berne cantonal Government has banned the Swiss Grand Prix for cars and motor-cycles, due to be held in Berne on August 18th and 19th, and told the police to issue no further permits for race meetings on public roads. [A.T.S.]

From the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1955, 1,154 traffic accidents were reported (1954: 1,145) in the canton of Solothurn. 717 persons were injured of whom 28 (1954: 27) succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

The Government of the canton of Basle Town has elected National-Councillor Dr. Alfred Schaller, to the post of President of the "Genossenschaft Schweizer Mustermesse", in succession to States-Councillor Dr. h.c., G. Wenk, who after occupying this post during the last ten years, has resigned for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Jos. Vieli (Conservative), one of the representatives of the canton of Grisons in the States Council (Ständerat) has tendered his resignation. He entered the Council in 1938. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, March 13th, 1956,** at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1 (Stanhope Room).**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, March 12th, 1956.

THE COMMITTEE.

Dr. Hans Peter has been elected Director of the Basle Teachers Seminary, in succession to Mr. Carl Günther, who has resigned for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1955, 1,012 road accidents (1954: 884) were reported in the canton of Grisons. 464 (1954: 412) persons were injured and 14 killed (1954: 12). [A.T.S.]

The community of Zurzach (Ct. Aargau) has nominated Dr. med. Martin Erb an honorary citizen. [A.T.S.]

The Soviet Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Pawlow Iwanowitch Jerschow, has paid an official visit to the town of Lausanne. He was the guest of the municipal authorities at a luncheon, and in the evening the Government of the canton of Vaud entertained him to dinner. [A.T.S.]

The International "Salon de l'automobile" will be opened on March 8th, 1956, in Geneva, by Monsieur Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. h.c. Friedrich Hug, in St. Gall, at the age of 76. The deceased was one of the leading men in the St. Gall embroidery industry. He was a member of the Board of the "Exportfirma Union, A.G." since 1936, and since 1946, President of the Board. From 1937-1954, Dr. Hug held the post of President of the "Kaufmännischen Direktoriums", St. Gall. The Commercial University of St. Gall honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Leodegar Hunkeler, Abbot of the "Benediktinerstift", Engelberg.

Kurt Joss, Editor of the "Neuen Berner Zeitung", in Berne, aged 58.

Jacques Werz, formerly chief engineer of the Sécheron works, in Geneva, at the age of 76.

Dr. Fritz Steiger, from 1920-1949, President of the Civil Court, Basle, in Basle, aged 73.

Dr. med. Léon Weber-Bauler, Editor-in-chief of the periodical "Médecine et Hygiène", in Geneva, at the age of 86.

Charles-François Fontanellaz, Journalist, formerly

Editor of the papers "Revue automobile", and the periodical "Bouquet" in Berne, aged 65.

Henri Jacquenod, a former teacher of mathematics for 38 years at the "Collège de Genève", at the age of 71.

Alfred A. Geneux, consulting engineer, and a member of the national sports commission of the Swiss Automobile Club, in Geneva, aged 64.

Jean Debrit, Journalist, and at one time Editor of the "Journal de Genève", and founder of the weekly paper "ABC", and the "Revue automobile", in Berne, at the age of 76.

Mathias Forster, from 1940-1955, a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town, in Basle, aged 63.

Emil Oettli, administrator of the "Dampfbootgesellschaft Untersee und Rhein", in Schaffhausen, at the age of 73.

Hermann Sprüngli, Proprietor of the confectioner's shop at the Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich, and Vice-President of the chocolate works "Lindt & Sprüngli", Kilchberg, in Arosa (whilst on holiday), aged 65.

Joseph Magnin, for 25 years President of the commune of Posieux (Ct. Fribourg) and at one time a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 70.

Dr. Adolphe Gaudy, well-known architect. Many churches and chapels in towns like Romanshorn, St. Gall, Richterswil, Dietikon, Winterthur-Töss, Zermatt and Bristen, have been built after his plans. He died in Rorschach, aged 84.

[A.T.S.]

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LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The Board of the firm of "Wild Heerbrugg, A.G.", Heerbrugg (Ct. St. Gall) has made a donation of 50,000.—frs. towards the foundation of a new secondary school in Altstätten.

The late Mme. Gisela Manser-Eller of Rorschach has left an amount of 59,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. Thomas Holenstein (60) of St. Gall, a member of the Federal Government.

Dr. Eduard Gubler (80) for 50 years a reporter at the Supreme Federal Court, Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1955: Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle: 8 per cent (1954: 8%); Schweiz. Bodenkredit Anstalt, Zurich: 6 per cent (1954: 6%); Schweiz. Volksbank, Berne: 5 per cent (1954: 5%); Neue Guyerzeller Bank, A.G., Zurich: 6 per cent (1954: 6%); Leu & Co. Bank, Zurich: 7 per cent (1954: 6%). [A.T.S.]

The members of the 1956 Swiss Mount Everest Expedition were entertained by the Indian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Mohan Sinha Mehta, previous to their departure.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Ph. Etter, who was present at the reception, wished the members, on behalf of the Swiss Government, success and "bon voyage". [A.T.S.]

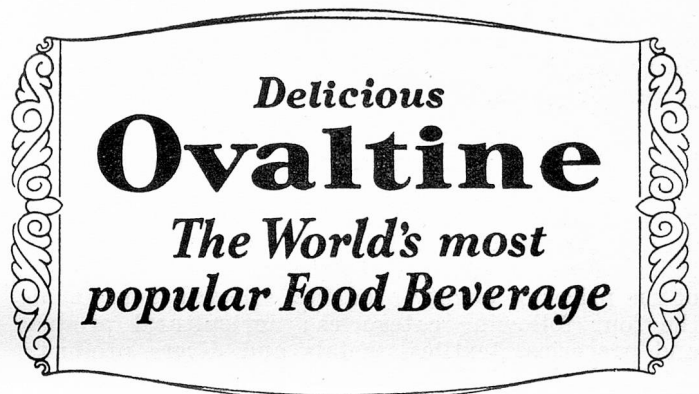
Dr. Jean Bourgnicht, Mayor of the town of Fribourg, has been elected President of the Swiss

Conservative party, in succession to National-Councillor, Dr. Max Rohr (Baden), who has relinquished his post which he had occupied since 1950. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1955, 220,867 (1954: 181,627) foreigners were granted permission to work in Switzerland (147,083 men, and 73,784 women). Hotel Industry absorbed 33,877, agriculture and farming: 28,384, Domestic: 21,192, and engineering: 20,133. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1955, 2,075 persons emigrated to overseas countries from Switzerland (1954: 2,291). [A.T.S.]

At the Winter Olympic Games in Cortina D'Ampezza (Italy) the Swiss team has won three Gold, two Silver, and one Bronze medal. [A.T.S.]



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