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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss Government has announced details of the federal budget for 1958, which provides for an expenditure of 2,267 million francs (£184 m.) and a revenue of 2,715 million francs, thus leaving an estimated surplus of 448 million francs. Defence expenditure is estimated at 897 million francs, 190 million francs more than in the previous year.

Expenditure on armaments, 143 million francs higher than the 1957 figure, will be increased by the purchase of military equipment, training aircraft, and helicopters. It is possible that the higher pay for the Army recently voted by Parliament, the purchase of new fighters and bombers, and the cost of some land bought in the Bernese Jura for use as a training ground for armoured cars may increase the estimates by a further 200 million francs.

Customs receipts for the month of September 1957 totalled 75 million francs, of which the Confederation received the amount of 53.2 million francs or 1.1 million frs. less than in September 1956. For the first nine months of the current year the receipts amounted to 524.0 million francs or 38.7 million frs. more than during the same period in 1956.

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Ludwig Schnurenberger, at present Director of the Aarau Postal District, to the Basle Postal District, in the same capacity.

Monsieur Hermoz Gharib, the newly appointed Ambassador of Iran, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Legation in Indonesia to the status of an Embassy, and the Minister, Monsieur Sonderegger to the rank of Ambassador.

### Cantonal

The electric power station at the "Sarner Aa" (Ct. Obwalden) was recently inaugurated; its cost amounted to 6.3 million francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. sc.tech. Werner Karrer, chief engineer of the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon", has been elected Director of the "Zentral-Schweizerischen Technikum" Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Watches of great value were stolen from the show-window of a jewellers' establishment at the Spitalgasse in Berne. [A.T.S.]

A training plane of the "Rettungsflugwacht" crashed on the "Oberen Stein" glacier; three of the passengers were injured, and a fourth, Mr. Guenther Erzinger (28), teacher of gymnastics at the "Humanistischen Gymnasiums" Basle, was killed. [A.T.S.]

Madame Maria Wuethrich-Blaser of Bowil (Ct. Berne) has celebrated her 102nd birthday. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the "Roulements à Bulles, S.A." in Bulles, and after breaking two safes open escaped by car with a sum of 27,500.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. and jur. E. Schifferli of Fribourg has been nominated an honorary Professor of the University of Madrid. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Jur M. Bernstein has been elected a judge at the Appeal Court Basle. [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 22nd, 1957, together with remittance for 10/-.

The 15-million-franc loan at 4½ per cent of the canton of Basle Country was heavily over-subscribed; allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

Two tourists from Zurich, members of the Davos section of the Swiss Alpine Club, on the ascent to the Saentis from the Wildhaus, lost their way owing to a heavy snow-fall and failing light. One of them fell into a ravine breaking a leg. His companion did not dare to leave the spot of the accident to secure help, and the men had to spend the night amidst snow and a cold wind. By daybreak the uninjured man was able to reach a hut from where he got in telephone communication with the Saentis station. A rescue party was organised by members of the Saentis section of the Swiss Alpine Club. After a few hours they were able to find the two tourists, who by this time were half frozen and in very poor condition, and brought them to safety. Both were taken to the district hospital at Herisau. [A.T.S.]

The OLMA exhibition in St. Gall has closed its doors after a duration of eleven days. 292,000 persons visited the exhibition, exceeding last year's figure by 2,000. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Allan Hoover, son of a former President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, at present on a journey through Europe, has paid a visit to Oberkulm (Ct. Aargau), the birthplace of his forefathers. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 60th birthday of the folklore author, Mr. Adolf Haller of Turgi, the Government of the canton of Argau has donated an amount of 3,000.— frs. to him as a birthday present. [A.T.S.]

General Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army from 1939 to 1945, celebrated his 83rd birthday on 21st October, and on 29th October his diamond-wedding anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Schwarzsee Hotel, which stood at the foot of the Matterhorn at a height of 8,393 ft., has been completely destroyed by fire. The ski house which is nearby was not damaged. The hotel was built in 1880 by the Seiler family and it has been run by the Seilers ever since. [A.T.S.]

1957 has been a record year for the tomato harvest in the canton of Valais. 7 million kgs. have been gathered (1956: 4.7 million kgs.). [A.T.S.]

One of the factories of the Surchard Chocolate works in Serrières (Ct. Neuchâtel) has been destroyed by fire. The damage caused is estimated to be between 2 and 3 million francs. [A.T.S.]

Burglars removed a safe containing 4,000.— frs. from the offices of the Y.M.C.A. in Geneva. The safe was later found broken open. Two men (Hungarians) were arrested; they had still 2,000.— frs. in their possession. [A.T.S.]

A twenty-one-year-old employee of a commercial concern in La Chaux-de-Fonds after embezzling an amount of 22,000.— frs. escaped to France. He was arrested by the French police at the town of Morteau. [A.T.S.]

M. Aymon de Senarclens, for the last twelve years a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, has announced that he will not be a candidate at the approaching re-elections of the Government. He was at one time a member of the National Council [A.T.S.]

M. François Perreard, who has been a member of the Geneva Government for the last 21 years, has declared that he will not seek re-election. [A.T.S.]

**ARMY.**

Owing to Asian Flu the Federal Military Department has announced that the convocations issued at the beginning of last month for the "Wiederholungskurse" have been withdrawn.

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Army-Corps commander Marius Corbaz, "Ausbildungschef" of the Swiss army, and Army-Corps commander Richard Frey (3rd army-corps) have tendered their resignations. The Federal Council in accepting them has expressed their thanks for the eminent services they have rendered.

Army-Corps commander Corbaz is an Honorary citizen of Vendlincourt, and brother of Mr. A. Corbaz, of 20, Gloucester Court, Kew Road, Kew. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.**

The late Mrs. Lina Joerg-Winzenried of Deisswil (Ct. Berne), has left an amount of 177,000.— frs. to various public service institutions. The "Frauenverein" Berne receives 100,000.— frs. towards the costs of a home for elderly people.

\* \* \*

Mr. André Flueckiger, industrialist, of St. Imier, has donated an amount of 200,000.— frs. to various charitable institutions.

\* \* \*

The late Mr. Josef Armin Kellersberger, a former "Postinspektor" in Baden, has left an amount of 16,900.— frs. to the commune of Baden and 3,500.— frs. to the "Jugendfürsorgeverein" of the district of Baden.

\* \* \*

Miss Lily Alder, who recently died at St. Gall, has bequeathed the amount of 225,000.— frs. to a number of charitable and cultural institutions. [A.T.S.]

**DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.**

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Lauber of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Mr. & Mrs. Tanner-Roos of Malters (Lucerne).

[A.T.S.]

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**TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.**

In spite of intense propaganda by the police and municipal authorities to reduce traffic accidents, the number of these is still increasing alarmingly:

Two brothers in a small sports car collided with a locomotive of the Bremgarten-Dietiken railway at a level-crossing in Bremgarten. Bruno Notter (18), of Zufikon (Ct. Aargau), was killed, whilst his brother was seriously injured.

Five persons were seriously injured, and one was killed, when two motor-cars collided at the Staatsstrasse in Gossau (Ct. St. Gall). The deceased was Anton Egger (43), nurseryman, of Hitzkirch-Richensee (Ct. Lucerne), father of several children.

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**ONE OF THE ACROW GROUP OF COMPANIES**

Louis Godet (26), an employee of the Swiss Federal Railways, lost his life when his motor-cycle collided with a signpost on the road from Payerne to Domdidier.

Two persons were killed at Leibstadt (Ct. Aargau) when a lorry ran into a stationary motor-car. The victims were Walter Schoepf (54), manufacturer, and his wife Elsa (51).

The following lost their lives, as the result of being run over by motor-cars or motor-cycles: Katharina Pelet (14) of Lausanne; Jean-Louis Vonlanthen (49), mechanic, of Geneva; Mrs. Anna Bircher (51) of Alikon, Mrs. Marie Schmucki (58) of Uznach, Bertha Hueppi (74) of Eschenbach, Matteo Foresti (49) of Bellinzona, Mrs. Sanenharni (70) of Lugano, Walter Schrag (11) of Andelfingen; Clara Ritter (53), a nurse, of Bienne; Adrien Favre (52) of Saxon, Henri Zentrieggen (57) of Unterbach (Ct. Valais), Alfred Gruenig (70) of Berne, Robert Guignet (39) of Coreaux (Ct. Vaud); Paul Maurer (49), locksmith, of Filzbach (Ct. Glarus), and his wife (51); Liselotte Suter of Zurich; Baptist Muelebach (76), merchant, of Lucerne; Julie Ciza (69) of Geneva.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*  
**VARIOUS.**

The Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine has been awarded to Professor Daniel Bovet, head of the pharmacological section at the Institut Superiore di Sanità in Rome, for his production of a synthetic form of curare, the substance used by the South American Indians to poison their arrows.

Professor Bovet was born in Neuchâtel in 1907. He studied science in Geneva and later transferred his scientific activity to the Pasteur Institute in Paris, where, in 1946, he became head of the laboratory for therapeutical chemistry. Professor Bovet is at present working to find something against asthma and migraine.

R.

**SWISSAIR INCREASES FLEET.**

Swissair has ordered a fifth Douglas DC-7C "Seven Seas" long-range airliner for delivery in early 1959. Four DC-7Cs ordered previously were delivered last autumn and this summer and are now operating on the company's North and South Atlantic routes.

In view of its rapidly expanding freight traffic Swissair has also ordered a Douglas DC-6A freighter aircraft for delivery towards the end of 1958.

The additional DC-7C is intended to provide yet more long-haul capacity until the introduction into service of DC-8 jetliners in 1960.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE.**

Our next issue will be published on Friday, November 29th, 1957. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: G. E. S. Brenni, H. Berli, W. Flori, Peter Odermatt, O. Lauber, R. J. Keller, Gottfried Keller, A. C. Baume, A. R. Tissot, W. Weber, Ls. Chapuis, J. B. Brutsch, E. Dubois, Ch. Strubin, J. J. Boos, X. Speckert, W. Deutsch, Th. Erb, Charles Fer, J. D. Bernoulli, W. Preiswerk (Basle).

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