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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss National Bank in 1958 has made a profit of over six million francs. From this profit each canton receives 80 centimes per head of its population.

Monsieur Salvador Auguste Toriello, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Guatemala, has presented his credentials to M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.9 million passengers during the month of February 1959, or 200,000 more than in February 1958. Receipts: 23.5 million francs (February 1958: 22.8 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.67 million tons, which is 20,000 tons more than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 33.6 million francs.

### Cantonal

After an interruption of two years, the "Wilhelm Tell Festspiele" will be performed again at Altdorf, from 19th August to 13th September 1959. [A.T.S.]

A group of twelve skiers on descending the south-eastern part of the Jochpass (7,265 feet) above Engelberg started an avalanche and several of them were carried away. All were rescued alive except a 21-year-old student from Basle, Miss Monica Hoffmann.

[A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Nidwalden for 1958 close with a credit balance of 8,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Fritz Keller, chief editor of the "Luzerner Tagblatt", has retired from his post. He has been connected with the paper for the last 46 years. On his retirement he has been appointed a member of the Board. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Lucerne close with a deficit of 1,852,978.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Last month a valuable picture of the Rimini school (14th century), which was acquired in 1940 for 30,000.— francs by the "Kunstmuseum" Zurich, was stolen.

A Paris art dealer recently informed the museum, that the stolen picture was left with him for examination by a K. H. Bergk — of German nationality — with the object of selling it. The art dealer communicated with the police, who confiscated the picture. The would-be seller, however, did not return to conclude the deal. The picture has now been returned to the "Kunsthaus". [A.T.S.]

The Philippinian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Tomas G. de Castro, paid a visit to the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon", in Oerlikon, which concern has several important orders in hand for the National Power Corporation in Manila. [A.T.S.]

A 17-year-old student, Werner Kyburz, of Dullikon near Olten, lost his life on a ski-ing excursion to the Lauberhorn (Bernese Oberland). [A.T.S.]

The renowned "Hotel Schweizerhof" in Berne (Proprietor Mr. Jack Gauer), has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Frieda Amstutz, for 32 years a member of the editorial staff of the paper "Der Bund", Berne, has retired from her post. [A.T.S.]

The District Court of Greyerz (Ct. Fribourg) has sentenced two motorists to six months' imprisonment for having caused the death of a 19-year-old motorcyclist. The delinquents did not stop after the accident. [A.T.S.]

A deficit of 1,487,013.— francs is reported in the accounts of the canton of Fribourg for 1958. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Reinhard H. Fischer (39), at present chief surgeon at the cantonal hospital St. Gall, has been appointed chief surgeon at the "Krankenhaus" Wattwil (Ct. St. Gall), in succession to the late Dr. med. Andreas Christ. [A.T.S.]

The "Verkehrsschule" St. Gall, founded by Mr. Theodor Curti, has celebrated the 60th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the premises of the "Tuchfabrik Schild, A.G." in Liestal caused heavy damage. [A.T.S.]

For the first time since 1946 the accounts of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. close with a deficit — 73,600.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Paul Bruggmann (Christian-Socialist) is entering the National Council as representative of the canton of Grisons, in succession to the late Dr. R. Toggenburg. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the elections for the renewal of the Government of the canton of Grisons, only three of the former members obtained the required number of votes (11,290). They are: Dr. Andrea Bezzola (Dem.) 13,629 votes, Georg Brosi (Dem.) 13,512 votes, and Dr. Gion Willi (Cons.) 12,272 votes. A second ballot for Mr. R. Lardelli (Lib.) and Dr. Emanuel Huonder (Cons.) will be necessary. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Ernst Bachmann has been elected "Landammann" of the canton of Aargau for the period April 1959 to 31st March 1960. Dr. Paul Hausherr will occupy the post of "Landesstatthalter" during the same period. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Franz Deucher, of Steckborn, residing in Zurich, has been elected Head of the Surgical Clinic of the Cantonal Hospital, Aarau, in succession to Dr. med. Othmar Haeuptli, who has vacated his post. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the works of the "Saurer, A.G." in Arbon caused serious damage. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Vaud close with a deficit of 17,988,500.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The railway "Le Bouveret - St. Maurice (Ct. Valais) has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. [A.T.S.]

M. Gaston Schelling, since 1948 Mayor of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, is shortly retiring from his post. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Neuchâtel for 1958 show a credit balance of 2,118,662.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Theo Marti, a lecturer at the Medical Faculty of the University of Geneva, has been elected an Honorary Member of the "Société de médecine et d'hygiène" of Strasbourg. [A.T.S.]

The Ambassador of Yugoslavia in Berne, Monsieur Sloven Smodlaka, has paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

During the International "Salon des Automobiles", which was opened on 12th March in Geneva, 295,000 visitors went through the turnstiles. [A.T.S.]

Every four years the town of Geneva gives a prize to a Genevese writer, a representative of the "beaux arts", a musician, and a scientist. This year's prizes have been awarded to the following: Henri de Ziegler (writer), Jacques Probst (sculptor), Henri Gagnebin (till 1957 Director of the Geneva Conservatory), and Jules Favre (botanist, zoologist and geologist). [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

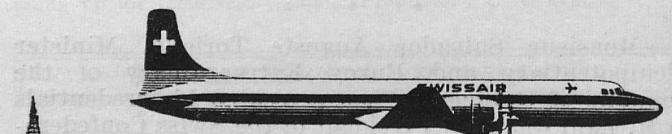
The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Werner Brandt, President of the Board of the "Fonderie Boillat, S.A.", Reconvillier, in Reconvillier, at the age of 85.

Hermann Lorleberg-Sidler, for 43 years manager of the Lucerne branch of the "Musikhaus Hug" Zurich, in Lucerne, aged 78.

Walter Fischer, teacher, writer and historian, in Zurzach, at the age of 60.

Dr. med. Edouard de Buman, in Fribourg, aged 86. The deceased was for 34 years gynæcologist at the cantonal hospital, and for many years Head of the Medical Department of the "Bürgerspital" Fribourg.



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Emil Reich, since 1954 a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich, at the Municipal Hospital Waid, at the age of 59.

August Rutishauser, wine merchant, in Scherzingen (Ct. Thurgau), aged 67.

Konrad Studer, Notary, in Solothurn, at the age of 95. The deceased was from 1908 to 1921 Director of the "Solothurner Volksbank", and afterwards administrator of the "Hypothekenversicherungskasse" Solothurn.

Dr. Josef Müller, from 1918 to 1942 President of the District Court St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 80.

Henri-Virgile Forestier, journalist, in Sitten, at the age of 67. He was for over 20 years correspondent of the "Schweiz. Depeschagentur", and collaborator of various Swiss papers, amongst them the "Feuille d'avis de Lausanne", "La Suisse", "Nouvelliste Valaisan", and the "Feuille d'avis de Sion".

Walter Rebsamen, since 1951 Director of the cantonal "Technikum" Burgdorf, in Burgdorf, aged 63.

Cony Staehelin-Stehli, lawyer, for 25 years President of the "Verkehrsverein" Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 71. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**ANNIVERSARIES.**

Dr. h.c. H. Ammann (80), of Schaffhausen, the eminent bridge builder. Since 1904 he had established himself in the United States of America. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in 1930.

Professor Gebhard Uttinger (80), of Zurich, architect and painter.

G. Vogt-Schild (80), of Solothurn, founder of the "Buchdruckerei Vogt-Schild", Solothurn, and publisher of the "Solothurner Zeitung".

States Councillor Sydney de Coulon (70), of Bevaix. The "Jubilar" was from 1931 to 1933 manager of "Asuag" (Allgemeine Schweiz. Uhrenindustrie A.G.), and since 1933 has been general manager of "Ebauches S.A.", Neuchâtel. In 1947 he was elected a member of the National Council, and two years later (1949) he entered the States Council, of which he is still a member.

Mgr. Charles Comte (80), of Geneva, Priest at Confignon (Ct. Geneva).

Johannes Winzeler (80), of Stein a. Rh., a former member of the States Council. He was Mayor of the town of Stein a. Rh. from 1930 to 1952.

Carl Bruggmann (70), of Vevey, formerly Swiss Minister in Prague, and afterwards Swiss Minister at Washington. [A.T.S.]

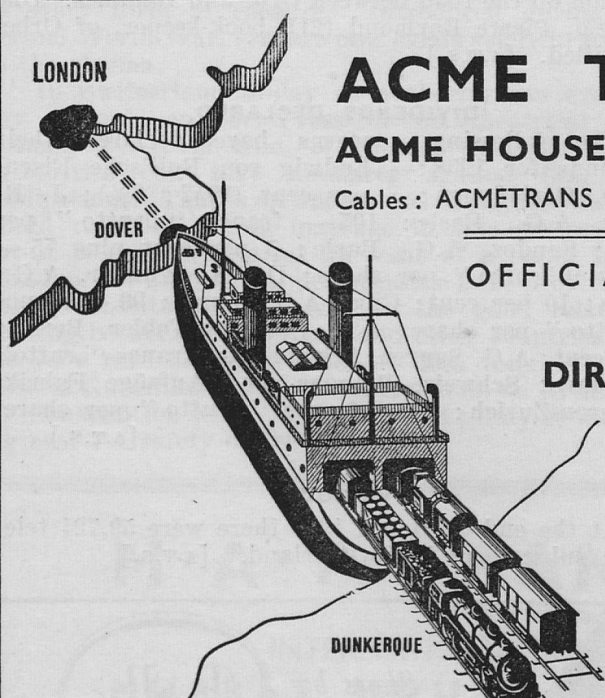
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**DONATION.**

Dr. Henry Fauchesse, of Morât (residing in Basle), has donated to the Morât Museum his valuable collection of paintings of the families Faucherre, Vissaula, Engelhard and Chaillet, who, in the 18th and 19th centuries played an important role in the public life of the town of Morât. [A.T.S.]

**DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.**

Mr. and Mrs. Christof Ullrich-Etter, of Zurich, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Chappuis-Hof, of Delivier.



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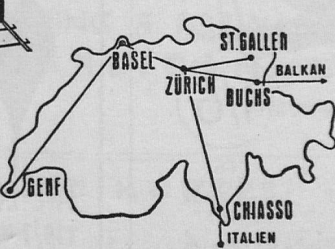
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#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Various serious traffic accidents are reported from Switzerland.

A motor-cyclist, Johann Flueck (46), of Moosseedorf (Ct. Berne), collided with an engine of the Berne-Zollikofen-Solothurn railway near Zollikofen. He was killed outright.

Mr. Daniel Martin (45), of Lausanne, was fatally injured when his car collided with another.

A motor-car driven by Mr. Maurice Romy (52), a watchmaker and commercial traveller, of Bévillard, crashed into a hedge near Le Fuet. He was killed.

Mr. Hans Burkhalter (40), of Emmen (Ct. Lucerne), received fatal injuries when his motor-cycle collided with a motor-car.

A cyclist, Albert Weilemann (72), farmer, of Heuggart, ignoring a traffic signal, collided with a motor-car and was thrown off his bicycle. He was taken to hospital, where he later died.

A motor-cycle driven by Adolf Geissmann (33), of Hegglingen, collided with a motor-car at the Mellingerstrasse in Baden. The driver of the motor-cycle was killed, and his pillion rider, his seven-year-old son, received serious injuries.

One man was killed and one was seriously injured when a motor-cyclist crashed into a tree at Rietbach (St. Gall). The man killed was Jakob Frei (34), of Ennetbühl.

Between Bauriet and Staad, a cyclist, Jakob Heller (47), a farmer, of Rheineck, was run over by a motor-van, receiving fatal injuries.

A motor-cyclist collided with 64-year-old Franz Iten, an insurance agent, near Unterägeri. Franz Iten was killed.

Two motor-cyclists were involved in a head-on collision on the road between Orbe and Baulmes. One of them, Pierre Reymond (21), book-keeper, of Orbe, was killed. [A.T.S.]

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#### DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

The following concerns have declared their dividends for 1958:— Ludwig von Roll'sche Eisenwerke, Gerlafingen: 8 per cent (1957: 8%); J. R. Geigy, A.G., Basle: 105.— francs "brutto" per share; Sandoz, A.G., Basle: 5 per cent plus 75.— francs "brutto" per share; Dr. A. Wander, A.G., Berne: 10 per cent; Ciba, A.G., Basle: 90.— francs "brutto" per share; A.G. Chocolat Tobler, Berne: 8 per cent; A.G. Saurer, Arbon: 45.— francs "brutto" per share; Schweiz. Wagons- und Aufzüge Fabrik, Schlieren-Zurich: 25.— francs "brutto" per share. [A.T.S.]

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#### VARIOUS.

At the end of March 1959 there were 59,724 television subscribers in Switzerland. [A.T.S.]



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