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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 21.9 million passengers during March 1959, or 2.5 million more than in March 1958. Receipts: 31.2 million francs (March 1958: 28.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.81 million tons, or 26,000 tons less than in the same period in 1958. Receipts: 36.2 million francs (March 1958: 37.4 million francs).

* * *

The Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration made a payment in 1958 of 70 million francs to the Federal Exchequer. This amount represents 2.5 per cent of the total receipts of the Exchequer (Bundeskasse).

* * *

Cantonal

National Councillor Josef Schweizer (Socialist), of Arth Goldau, has intimated that he will not put his candidature forward at the next Parliamentary elections. He has been a member of the National Council since 1947. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Schübelbach (Ct. Schwyz) has bestowed honorary Citizenship upon States Councillor Dr. Fritz Staehli. [A.T.S.]

* * *

This year's "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Obwalden was held on the Landenberg above Sarnen. Mr. Leo von Wyl (Kaegiswil) was elected a member of the cantonal Government. The posts of "Landammann" and "Landsstatthalter" will be occupied by States Councillor Ludwig von Moos and Hans Gasser (Lungern) respectively. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden took place at Wil; amongst the invited guests were the President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Paul Chaudet, the members of the Government of the canton of Grisons, the Ambassadors of the U.S.A., India and Japan, army-corps commander Nager,

divisional colonel Ruenzi, and National Councillors R. Bratschi, Dr. Haeblerlin, Hans Albrecht, Franz Arnold and Dr. Weibel. Walter Vokinger (Stans) was elected a member of the cantonal Government, Remigi Blaettler (Hergiswil) was elected "Landammann", and Dr. Josef Odermatt (Buochs) "Landesstatthalter". [A.T.S.]

* * *

The first Swiss Horticultural Exhibition (G/59) was opened in Zurich on 25th April by M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation. The exhibition will remain open until 11th October 1959.

A fire which broke out recently at the "Palais Rotonde" caused considerable damage. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Heavy damage — thought to exceed 1 million francs — was caused by fire at the houses No. 28 to 30 Limmatquai, and 1 Laternengasse, Zurich. The workshop of the "Musikhaus Hug & Co.", and the premises of the firm Weber-Strickler, perfumiers, have suffered most of the damage. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Open Parliament ("Landsgemeinde") of the canton of Glarus took place at Glarus. "Landammann" Franz Landolt-Rast, before dealing with the Agenda, welcomed the official guests, amongst them Federal Councillor Dr. Th. Holenstein, army-corps commander Annasohn, Chief of the General Staff, and Colonels J. Jenny and Max Baeschlin. All the members of the cantonal Government were re-elected, and so were the two representatives in the States Council, Dr. Rudolf Stuessi and Dr. Heinrich Heer. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The widow of the late Federal Councillor Giuseppe Motta, Madame Agostina Motta, née Andreazzi of Dongio (Ct. Ticino), has died, in Berne, at the age of 83. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

MONTHLY MEETING

on Tuesday, 16th June 1959 at 6.30 for 7 p.m.
at Dorchester Hotel, W.1. (Dinner at 7 p.m.)

Members wishing to be present should send their slip to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, 15th June 1959.

THE COMMITTEE.

At the end of March 1959 the population of the town of Berne numbered 164,191. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Oberhofen, near Thoune, has bestowed honorary citizenship on Mr. Ernst Frutiger, in recognition of services rendered as President of the commune during twenty-four years. [A.T.S.]

A motor-cyclist, of Font (Broye District), attempted to overtake a detachment of soldiers returning to barracks; unable to do so he drove right into the column, killing one, and seriously injuring another. The motor-cyclist himself was badly hurt. The soldier killed was Fns. Michel Willemin (27), of Noirmont. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Fribourg for 1958 show a deficit of 1,487,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The offices of a builder's establishment in Fribourg were entered by thieves, who got away with the contents of the safe amounting to 20,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The recent election for the "Landrat" (80 members) of the canton Basle-Country shows the following results: Socialists, 24 seats (4 losses); Action Canton Basle, 11 seats (7 gains); Liberals, 24 seats (1 gain); Catholic Popular Party, 11 seats (2 gains); Peasant and Bourgeois Party, 8 seats (2 losses); Independent, 1 seat (3 losses); "Landesring", 1 seat (no change). [A.T.S.]

All the members of the Government of the canton of Basle-Country have been re-elected. Here are the figures of the poll: Dr. Ernst Boerlin (Liberal) 13,946 votes, Dr. Paul Guertler (Catholic Christian Socialist) 13,374 votes, Max Kaufmann (Peasant and Bourgeois Party) 13,210 votes, Heinrich Abegg (Socialist) 10,981 votes, Dr. Léon Lejeune (Socialist), new, 9,413 votes. [A.T.S.]

The "CIBA, A.G." Basle has celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation. At a reception which took place at the "Stadt Casino" Basle, Dr. Robert Kaeppli, President of the Board, welcomed the numerous guests, amongst them Federal Councillor Dr. Ph. Etter, the members of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town *in corpore*, the President of the National Council, three Nobel Prize winners, and representatives of industrial and commercial concerns, universities, schools, cantonal and municipal authorities, etc.

At a banquet held at the "Stadt-Casino", Dr. A. Wilhelm, Vice-President of the Board, referred in his address to the history and development of CIBA. He also dwelt on the close and happy relationship which

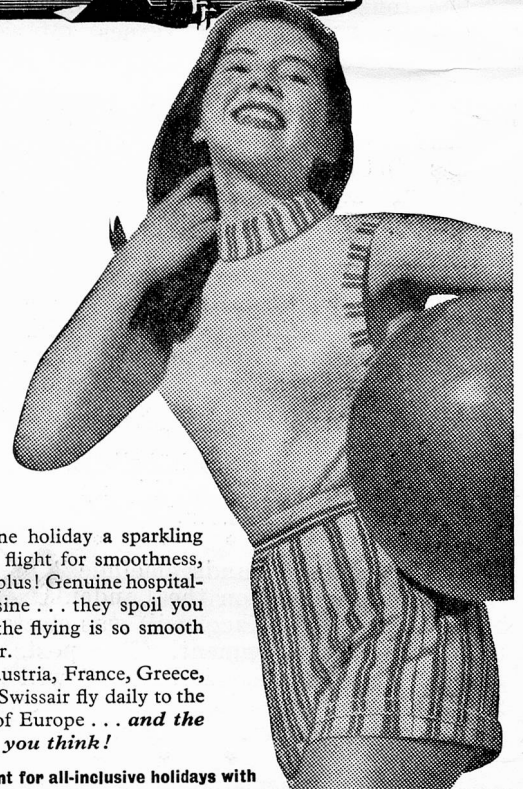
exists between the firm and the town of Basle; as a memento he presented, on behalf of CIBA, to the "Kunstsammlung" Basle, fifteen drawings of eight Masters of the 15th and 16th centuries, amongst them being Martin Schongauer, Albrecht Duerer and Tobias Stimmer.

Mr. Wullschleger, President of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town presented, on behalf of the guests, congratulations on the firm's 75th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell A. Rh. took place at Hundwil. The "Open Parliament" was attended by all the members of the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel, Dr. E. Dietschi, President of the National Council, Mr. Wichser, General Director of the Swiss Federal Railways, and Colonel Gygli, commander of the 7th division.

National Councillor Jakob Langenauer (Rhetobel) was elected "Landammann". [A.T.S.]

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The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell I. Rh. was held at Appenzell, and the members of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town were the official guests. Mr. Doerig was elected "Landammann", and Joh. Koch (Gonten) as "Landeshauptmann". All the members of the Government were re-elected. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Neuhausen a. Rheinfall has bestowed honorary citizenship on Mr. Jakob Huebscher and Mr. Albert Steinegger, both teachers at the "Realschule" Neuhausen for nearly forty years. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Gallus Eugster, representing the Conservative Christian Socialist Party of the canton of St. Gall in the National Council, will not be a candidate at the approaching election for a new National Council. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two shop windows of the jewellery establishment Jaeggi at Arosa were smashed by stones, and goods valued at 6,000.—francs were stolen. Two youths were later arrested by the police, the stolen articles having been found in their possession. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Basle-Town for 1958 close with a credit balance of 3.5 million francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. August Schirmer (Baden), representing the Liberal Party of the canton of Aargau in the National Council, will not stand as a candidate at the coming Parliamentary elections. [A.T.S.]

Fräulein Barbara Wolfensberger, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Winterthur, has celebrated her 102nd birthday, at the "Altersheim" in Eschlikon. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Polish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Joseph Kosziutski, paid a courtesy visit to the Government of the canton of Ticino at Bellinzona. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. med. Wilhelm Meyer-Hartmann, of Baden-Wuerenlos, has been appointed to the post of "Kantonsarzt" in succession to the late Dr. E. Rebmann. [A.T.S.]

* * *

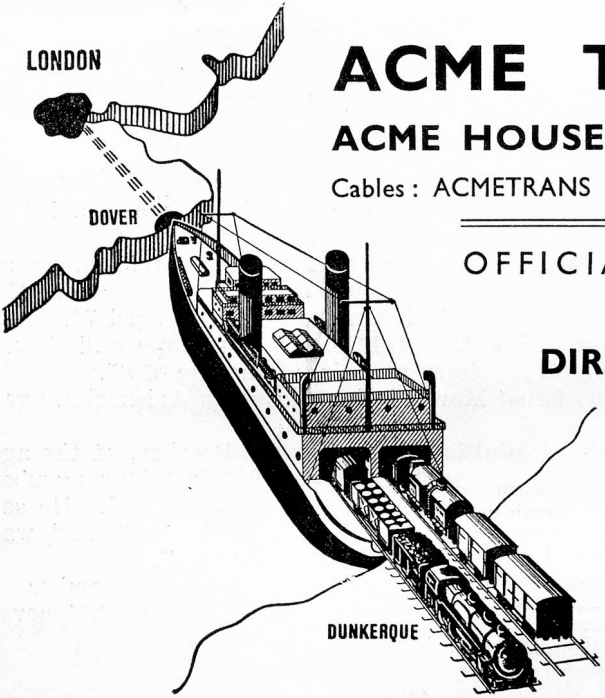
The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Vaud, Mme. Emilie Vuichoud-Girard, has celebrated her 104th birthday, in Montreux. She was born on 7th May 1855. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Oscar Schnyder (Conservative) has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Valais for 1959/60, and M. Marius Lampert, Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two balloonists — a German and a Swiss woman — who left Berne in an attempt to float over the Alps to Italy were found by searching aircraft on Laquin glacier (7,200 ft.) near the Simplon pass, after they had been reported missing. A Swiss mountain pilot landed on the glacier and made two trips to take them to safety. The balloonists were unharmed, apart from suffering minor frost-bite. [A.T.S.]



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M. Louis Rebord, of Martigny, has been appointed Director of the Martigny-Orsières and Martigny-Chatelard railways, in succession to the late Cyrille Sauthier. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The canton of Neuchâtel 25 million francs loan at 3 per cent has been over-subscribed, and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Damage estimated at more than 400,000.— francs was caused by a fire which broke out in a wing of the castle of Neuchâtel, in which Government offices are housed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Pan-American Airways" have decided to build a first class Hotel near the UNO building in Geneva, at a cost of 32 million francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The members of the Government of the canton of Geneva have received an official visit from the West-German Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Ernst Guenther Mohr. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Rockefeller Foundation has made a donation amounting to \$200,000.— to the "Institut de haute études Internationales" of the University of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. jur. Walter Froehlicher, at one time artillery chief of the 4th division, in Solothurn, at the age of 63.

Lorenz Lehr, cellist, and teacher at the "Konservatorium" Berne, in Berne, aged 70.

Dr. Willy Schweizer, in Berne, at the age of 65. The deceased joined the editorial staff of the "Neuen Berner Zeitung" in 1928. In 1945 he was appointed chief editor in succession to Dr. Markus Feldmann, who at that time became a member of the cantonal Government.

August Herzog, portrait and landscape painter, in Ermatingen (Ct. Thurgau), aged 74.

Waldemar Deonna, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Geneva, and Director of the Historical and Art Museum, in Geneva, aged 79.

Gottlieb Frick, well-known landscape and flower painter, in Affoltern a. Albis, at the age of 85.

Dr. Ernst Martz, industrialist, in Arlesheim, aged 80.

Albert Wulliamot, farmer, in Bercher, at the age of 79. The deceased was from 1913 to 1953 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. He sat in the National Council from 1922 to 1936, and was editor of the paper "Le Pays Romand".

Adrien Dethiollaz, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, at Geneva, aged 75. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Adolf Schild (80), of Grenchen, head of the watch-manufacturing concern "A. Schild, A.G." Grenchen, and co-founder of "Ebauches, S.A."

Olga Meyer (70), of Zurich, authoress, and from 1938 to 1954 editor of the "Schweizerischen Lehrerinnen Zeitung". [A.T.S.]

DIVIDENDS.

George Fischer A.G. Schaffhausen, 10 per cent; Schweizerische Industriegesellschaft Neuhausen am Rheinfall, 24.— francs brutto, or 16.80 netto per share; Ludwig von Roll'schen Eisenwerke A.G., 8 per cent "brutto" dividend, or 600.— francs per share; Gebrüder Sulzer, A.G. Winterthur, 9 per cent, and 2 per cent jubilee bonus. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Petermann-Roth, of Montier; Mr. and Mrs. M. Beeler-Mullis, of Flums-Grossberg; Mr. and Mrs. Linus Gmürboeni, of Amden (Ct. St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. J. Fischbacher-Brunner, of Auslikon; Mr. and Mrs. Jules Bovy of Geneva; Mr. and Mrs. Müller-Temperli, of Freudwil near Uster; Mr. and Mrs. F. Suter-Wunderli, of Zurich-Wollishofen.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Hug-Zeller, of St. Gall, have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65).

[A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Bruno Kaiser (18) was killed and two persons were seriously injured when a motor-car skidded and overturned near Magden (Fricktal).

A motor-coach, carrying eighteen people from Le Locle to Neuchâtel-Bienne, crashed into a stone wall at Neuville, owing to the failure of both hand and foot brakes. Mr. Charles Messerli (78), of Le Locle, was killed, and several other passengers were injured.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

The Federal Council has asked Parliament to vote a credit of 761,000.— francs for building alterations to the "Swiss House" in Milan. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Whilst the export of Swiss watches during the first three months of the current year showed an increase, receipts compared with the first trimestre in 1958 are 35 million francs lower — a drop of 14.5 per cent. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Vatican announced recently a 26 per cent reduction of the Swiss Guard. Since 1914 this has been composed of 6 officers, 1 chaplain, 12 N.C.O.s, 2 standard bearers, 2 drummers, and 110 halberdiers — a total of 133 men.

The Guard is now to be composed of 100 men. They will have better pay and service conditions. Their uniforms, designed by Michelangelo, will remain the same.

* * *

As a result of a prolonged price conflict between petrol marketing organisations, the following new prices have been fixed:

Standard Petrol, 46 cts. per litre (3/6d per gallon); Super Grade, 53 cts. per litre (4/- per gallon); Diesel Oil, 41 cts. per litre (3/1d per gallon).

Switzerland therefore offers to motorists the lowest-priced petrol in Europe.

* * *

When the European Railway Administrations decided in 1955 to build the famous T.E.E. trains, the electrification of the lines concerned was not completed. Diesel traction had to be adopted as a temporary measure. In the meantime, great strides have been made in the electrification of the European main lines. Progress has also been made by the constructors of electric locomotives. Traction vehicles, which can be utilised not only in Switzerland (15,000 volts AC), but also in Italy (3,000 volts DC) and France (25,000 volts AC or 1,500 volts DC) can now be built.

The Board of the Swiss Federal Railways have recently ordered five new electric T.E.E. trains of five coaches each (including restaurant car). These trains should be available by 1961 and are intended to create new fast connections between Zurich and Milan and Milan-Lausanne-Paris.

* * *

The Grindelwald-First Chairhoist Company have announced the resumption of regular services as from 7th May 1959. Between 8.30 and 12.00 and between 14.00 and 17.30, the two-seater chairs are on the move without interruption.

* * *

25th April marked not only the opening day of the unique 1st Swiss Horticultural Exhibition in Zurich, but also the revival of a riverboat service on the river Limmat. These very flat motor boats operate a direct connection between Zurich Main Station and the two shores of the lake where the exhibition is displayed. One of the boats is named "Stapi", which is the nickname Zurich's youngsters have given their well-liked Mayor Dr. Emil Landolt. Riverboat lines on the Limmat, leading as far as the mineral spa of Baden, were very popular before the construction of the first railways more than a hundred years ago.

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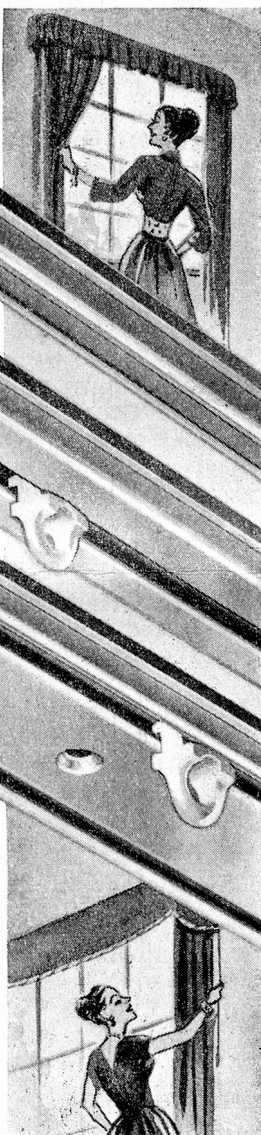
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Thanks to the construction of a road tunnel, the Great St. Bernard — which used to be known chiefly as the home of the St. Bernard dog bred by the kindly, animal-loving monks — is likely to become one of the most travelled North-South connections through the Alps by 1961. Not only will Switzerland by then possess a fine network of motor highways; rapid and safe access will also be assured from abroad. Thus, from the German side the "autobahn" will be extended to Basel, while an Italian "autostrada" will have been completed from Genoa to the Aosta Valley, south of the Great St. Bernard. In the world-famed resort of Montreux, on the Riviera of Lake Geneva, great hopes are justly being placed in the new scenic highway.

The local Tourist Offices of Lausanne and Lucerne announced recently that the hotel associations of their respective cities have now introduced the all-inclusive system in their Summer 1959 hotel lists. All prices indicated there will therefore include such "extras" as taxes, heating and service charges. This measure will eliminate all unpleasant surprises which may occur to tourists when paying their hotel bills. The all-in system is welcomed both by the travelling public and the tourist offices, and it is hoped that other resorts will emulate this example soon.

Swiss Institute of Transport and Communications is the official denomination of a new museum which will be inaugurated in Lucerne on 1st July 1959. The museum is to feature vehicles of all kinds in the original size, replicas, informative shows on travel, transportation and communications by rail, road, air and sea, etc., as well as a conspicuous library with books, trade magazines, documents, photos, etc., accessible for studies in the field of travel and tourism.

The International June Festival in Lausanne will again provide a full programme with three main items, namely the French première of the comedy "An angel comes to Babylon" by Friedrich Duerrenmatt, guest performances by the Belgrade Opera of Borodin's "Prince Igor" and Gounod's "Faust", and the London Festival Ballet, which will be accompanied by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Geoffrey Corbett.

The traditional "Geneva Festival" or "Fêtes de Genève" will this year coincide with a number of other festivities, among them the 400th anniversary of the University and the open-air performances celebrating the 450th birthday of Calvin. Although somewhat shortened (the Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 15th and 16th August), it will nevertheless retain its old brilliance. The programme features a battle of flowers under the motto "1900", a nocturnal lake festival, confetti battles, as well as concerts and balls in the open.

The 12th International Film Festival of Locarno, Ticino, will take place from 9th to 19th July 1959.

St. Gall's Children Festival, the spectacular Youth Festival, will this year be held on 30th June. Nearly 9,000 children will again participate. The girls are all dressed in white St. Gall lace, and the boys in white shirts and coloured trousers. Large numbers of visitors are attracted to St. Gall by this gay event, which is held every two years.