

News at random

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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss electorate voted on the 11th of this month, for the tenth time since the end of the second world war, on the scheme for supplying the Federal Government with the financial means it needs.

Whilst on former occasions the electorate voted against the proposal of the Government, this time it accepted it by 418,960 votes against 348,361.

Here are the particulars of the poll:

		New Finance Scheme	
		Yes	No
Zurich	...	90,875	70,493
Berne	...	59,398	59,687
Lucerne	...	25,167	12,441
Uri	...	3,505	2,997
Schwyz	...	8,028	4,553
Obwalden	...	2,462	843
Nidwalden	...	2,055	1,436
Glarus	...	3,986	2,620
Zug	...	3,648	2,254
Fribourg	...	10,010	4,725
Solothurn	...	15,735	17,886
Basle-Town	...	14,830	13,820
Basle-Country	...	9,471	9,614
Schaffhausen	...	7,397	6,554
Appenzell A.Rh.	...	5,163	3,993
Appenzell I.Rh.	...	1,434	318
St. Gall	...	33,231	23,449
Graubunden	...	13,231	7,261
Aargau	...	34,773	38,299
Thurgau	...	16,374	12,539
Ticino	...	10,050	7,868
Vaud	...	19,391	19,374
Valais	...	9,911	6,412
Neuchâtel	...	8,691	11,412
Genève	...	10,144	7,512
Total		418,960	348,361

52.2 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

The Federal Supreme Court, sitting in Berne, pronounced its judgment in the case of Police Inspector Max Ulrich, who was charged with espionage and violation of official secrecy.

Ulrich, who had pleaded guilty, was sentenced for treason and breach of secrecy to two and a half years' imprisonment less 365 days already spent under arrest; he was deprived of his citizen's rights for two years, and forbidden for ten years to hold any public office. Ulrich was also ordered to pay the expenses of the trial and the investigations leading to it, and to be immediately dismissed from the Federal Police.

Judge Theodor Albrecht, president of the court, said in summing-up that Ulrich had admitted his guilt. He said Ulrich maintained he had acted in order to get back certain documents which he alleged the late René Dubois, former Attorney-General who committed suicide in March 1957, had handed over to the French intelligence service. "It has never been proved that Dubois, in fact, did hand over these documents," Judge Albrecht said.

Ulrich had done great harm to the prestige and confidence of the Swiss Federal Police and the office of the Attorney-General, the Judge said, and the suicide of Dubois had nothing whatsoever to do with this loss of confidence.

Ulrich admitted during the trial that he gave the French intelligence service information concerning North Africans in Switzerland at the time of the Suez crisis, but maintained he acted in the interests of the Swiss security service.

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The Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.8 million passengers during the month of March 1958, or 1.5 million more than in March 1957. Receipts: 26.3 million francs (1957: 24.3 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.77 million tons, which is 470,000 tons less than during the same period in 1957. Receipts: 37.6 million francs (1957: 43.6 million francs).

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of April 1958 totalled 84.8 million francs, of which amount the Confederation receives 64.4 million francs, or 1.4 million francs more than in April 1957.

During the first four months of the current year the receipts amounted to 225.8 million francs, which is 10.6 million francs less than during the same period in 1957.

* * *

Dr. Josef Haenni, Vice-Director of the "Eidg. Amtes für Verkehr" Berne, has been appointed Director of this office in succession to Dr. R. Cottier.

* * *

Cantonal

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden was held at Wil. The members of the Government of the canton of Uri attended as guests *in corpore*. All members of the Government were re-elected. National Councillor Dr. Josef Odermatt (Buochs) was elected "Landammann", and E. Zraggen (Hergiswil) as "Landesstatthalter". [A.T.S.]

* * *

This year's "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Obwalden was held on the Landenberg above Sarnen. Amongst the visitors was Federal Councillor Lepori. Dr. G. Odermatt (Sarnen) was elected "Landammann", and L. von Moos as "Landesstatthalter". Cantonal-judge Infanger was elected a member of the Government in succession to Hermann Amrhein, who is retiring; also newly elected as a member of the Government was Ch. Dillier (Sarnen) in succession to Dr. Hans Ming. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The show-window of a jeweller's establishment in the Hertensteinstrasse Lucerne was smashed with a brick, and goods to the value of 10,000.— francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At the General Meeting of the Zurich Municipal Theatre administration the financial position was described as serious. The financial year 1956/57 registered a deficit of 744,000.— francs. The present season is estimated to close with a further loss of at least 500,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Rudolf Meier has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Zurich for the period 1958/59. [A.T.S.]

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On the occasion of the recent 90th jubilee of the Winterthur Co-operation Society the Board has voted a donation of 30,000.— francs towards the costs of erecting a sports pavilion. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A rowing-boat occupied by nine men capsized half-way between Brienz and Iseltwald on the lake of Brienz. Two men, Mathias Wyss (26), and Hans Michel (20), apprentice, both of Brienz, were rescued, whilst the five other occupants of the boat were drowned. The deceased were: Herbert Zurbuchen (26), machinist, his brother Hanspeter Zurbuchen (19), apprentice, Rolf Krieger (18), apprentice, Johann Mathier (16), apprentice, and Christian Baumann (32), stonemason, all of Brienz. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Hans Lüthi, chief editor of the paper "Schweizer Politische Korrespondenz", published in Berne, has relinquished his post. He is succeeded by Mr. Josef Jaeger, since 1947 a member of the editorial staff. [A.T.S.]

* * *

All former members of the Bernese Government have been re-elected; they are: Bauder (Liberal) with 78,957 votes, Brawand (Socialist) 63,418 votes, Buri (Peasant & Bourgeois Party) 78,486 votes, Giovanoli



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(Socialist) 61,360 votes, Gnaegi (Peasant & Bourgeois Party) 79,010 votes, Huber (Socialist) 63,034 votes, Moine (Liberal) 78,928 votes, Moser (Peasant & Bourgeois Party) 77,709 votes, and Siegenthaler (Peasant & Bourgeois Party) 77,827 votes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The strength of the various parties in the newly elected Grand Council of the canton of Berne, numbering 200 seats, is as follows: Peasant & Bourgeois Party 80 (81), Socialists 68 (73), Liberals 37 (35), Catholic Popular Party 12 (9), Duttweiler Party (Landesring) 2 (1), Evangelical Popular Party 1 (0), and Liberal Socialist Party 0 (1). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Eduard Freimüller (Socialist) has been elected Mayor of the town of Berne with 15,176 votes. His opponent Paul Duebi (Peasant & Bourgeois Party) received 10,118 votes. Dr. Freimüller succeeds the late Otto Steiger. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The theological faculty of the University of Zurich has honoured Frau Gertrud Kurz-Hohl (Berne) with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* for her great work on behalf of refugees. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The tribunal of the Saane district (Ct. Fribourg) sentenced a motorist who was drunk when driving — causing the death of a pedestrian — to three months' imprisonment (!). [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the eleven days' duration of the Basle Fair nearly 800,000 visitors went through the turnstiles.

[A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Glarus was held at Glarus. Amongst the official guests who attended the open-air parliament were the members of the Government of the canton of Zurich *in corpore*, and Army-corps commander Georg Zueblin. Mr. Franz Landolt-Rast was elected as "Landammann".

* * *

[A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell I.Rh. took place at Appenzell. National Councillor Dr. Albert Broger was re-elected as "Landammann", and all the members of the cantonal Government were confirmed in their offices. Dr. Robert Steuble (Appenzell) was elected a member of the Cantonal Court in succession to Mr. Albert Fuster, who has relinquished his post. [A.T.S.]

* * *

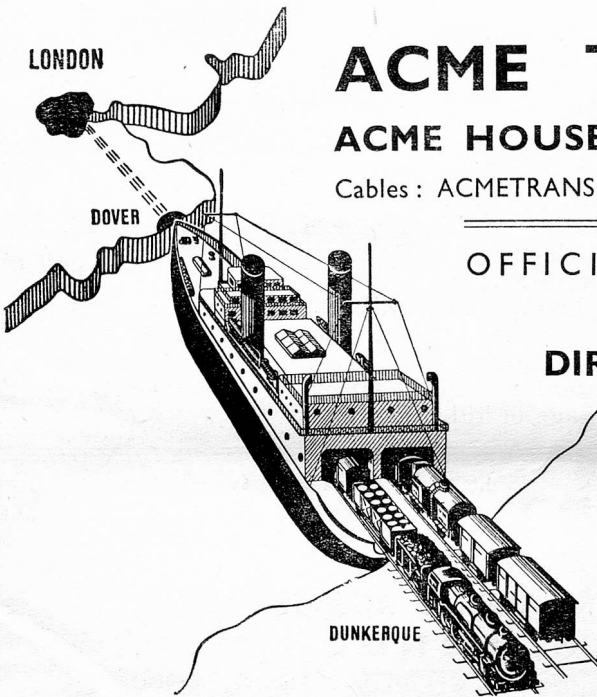
The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. took place in Trogen and was opened by "Landammann" Bodmer (Trogen), who extended greetings to the members of the Government of the canton of Zurich, who attended the open-air parliament as guests. All the members of the Government were re-elected. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The President of the West German Republic, Professor Heuss, has sent a donation of 3,000.— marks towards the cost of the erection of a memorial to the Swiss writer, Robert Walser, of Herisau. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Ferdinand Fuerer, the newly elected President of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, has been made an honorary citizen of the town of Rapperswil. [A.T.S.]



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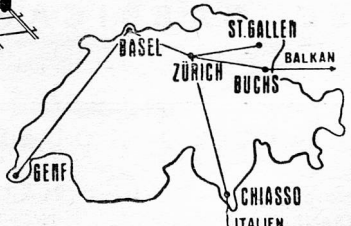
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During the year 1957 1,078 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Grisons (1956: 1,088). 530 persons were injured (1956: 477), of whom 26 died as the result of their injuries (1956: 16). [A.T.S.]

The "Saentis Airlift Company" has registered a record year in 1957. 190,882 passengers were carried (1956: 164,029). Receipts: 607,872.— francs (1956: 534,319.— francs). [A.T.S.]

The "Teigwarenfabrik & Hafermühle Robert Ernst, A.G." Kradolf (Ct. Thurgau) has celebrated its 100th Jubilee. [A.T.S.]

A book-keeper employed at the chocolate works "Séchaud & Fils S.A." Montreux, was arrested and charged with embezzling 50,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Emilie Vuichoud, of Montreux, has celebrated her 104th birthday anniversary. She is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

The mineral-water concern "Henniez Lithinée S.A.", of Lausanne, has celebrated its 50th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Marcel Brawand, President of the commune of Vevey, has been elected a member of the National Council in succession to M. René Vilard, who has given up his seat. [A.T.S.]

A motor-boat driven by the owner, Robert Blum (25), of Lausanne, capsized on Lac Léman near Lausanne. Two of the passengers swam to the shore, whilst the owner was drowned. [A.T.S.]

The tribunal of Lugano sentenced a motorist, who under the influence of alcohol caused the death of one woman and seriously injured another, to ten months' imprisonment (conditional). (!) [A.T.S.]

Two motorists appeared before the tribunal of Boudry (Ct. Neuchâtel) charged with negligent driving which caused a serious accident to pedestrians. One of the motorists, who did not stop after the accident had occurred, was sentenced to a fine of 500.— francs, whilst the other had to pay a fine of 300.— francs. Another motorist, who had been previously charged with careless driving whilst under the influence of alcohol, causing two accidents, appeared again before the tribunal; this time he was sentenced to forty days' imprisonment. [A.T.S.]

M. Marcel Gard (Radical), has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Valais for 1958/59, and M. Oscar Schnyder (Conservative) Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

The Christian-Catholic paper "Le Sillon", published in Geneva, has celebrated its 50th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Don, Nicolas Perrier alias Ernest Perrier, Prior of the Benedictine-cloister Pierre-qui-vire, at the age of 76. Before entering into Holy Orders the deceased was a member of the Government of the canton of Fribourg and the National Council. Perrier was for many years President of the Swiss Conservative Party.

Dr. Hans Karcher, one of the oldest medical practitioners in Basle, aged 84.

Dr. Pater Konrad Loetscher, at Engelberg, at the age of 84. He was for many years a teacher of natural science at the "Stiftsschule" Engelberg.

Dr. Walter Heuberger, from 1925 to 1953 "Staatsschreiber" of the canton of Aargau, in Aarau, aged 73.

Friedrich Heeb, in Zurich, at the age of 74. The deceased was formerly editor of the "Berner Tagwacht", the "Winterthurer Arbeiterzeitung" and the "Volkrecht", and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich from 1929 to 1943.

Dr. h. c. Karl Jakob Luethi, for many years librarian of the "Schweizerische Landesbibliothek", in Sigriswil, aged 82. In 1931 he donated his valuable bible collection to the Swiss Confederation. The deceased was the founder and head of the "Schweiz. Gutenbergmuseum". The University of Berne (theological faculty) honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Josef J. Kiener, from 1920 to 1937 manager of the branch office Lucerne of the Swiss National Bank, in Lucerne, aged 82.

Walter Gygi, sculptor, in Zurich, aged 76.

Dr. h. c. Alfred Ganz, industrialist, in Lucerne, at the age of 84.

Colonel August Rilliet, a former commander of the Geneva regiment, in Geneva, aged 79.

Mme. Katharina Barratto, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Schaffhausen, in Neuhaus a. Rheinfall, at the age of 101. [A.T.S.]

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ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. Paul Schnyder (80), of Basle. The "Jubilar" has for the last forty years conducted several Male Choirs in Lucerne, Basle and Basle-Country.

Mr. Paul E. Wenger (70), of Geneva, rector, and for forty years a teacher at the University of Geneva.

Dr. h. c. Otto Zipfel (70), of Berne, formerly a Director of the "A.G. Saurer" Arbon and at present delegate of the Federal Council for "Atomenergie".

Brigade-Colonel Dr. med. Paul Vollenweider (70), of Berne. He was from 1931 to 1935 "Divisionsarzt" of the 2nd Division, and from 1936 to 1945 "Oberfeldarzt" of the army. Colonel Vollenweider was from 1945 to 1955 Director of the Federal Health Office.

Werner Laesser (70), of Wiliberg (Ct. Aargau), from 1930 to 1953 Director of the Federal Wheat administration. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY.

The tribunal of the 4th Division (Basle) has sentenced a 20-year-old recruit — who, after having been granted leave on several occasions for ill-health, refused to join his unit — to ten months imprisonment.

New Swiss anti-tank and anti-aircraft guided rockets, developed by the Oerlikon company, have been demonstrated near Zurich.

During mine throwing practice at Adelboden, an accident occurred which caused the death of Lieutenant Josef Kihm (23), machine designer, of Wallbach (Ct. Aargau). [A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Professor Dr. med. h. c. Alfred Gysi-Giger, of Zurich, has left the amount of 670,000.— francs to various public utility institutions. Of this amount the town of Aarau (his birthplace), and various institutions of the canton of Aargau, receive together 580,000.— francs.

The recently deceased Julius Ruoff, of Schaffhausen, an employee of the Swiss Federal Railways, has left the amount of 108,000.— francs to various charitable institutions of the town and canton of Schaffhausen.

The late Frau Margrit Hatz, of Chur, has left 5,000.— francs each to the "Bürgerheim" and the "Waisenhaus" Chur-Masans.

The late Frau Witwe Katharina Broechin-Kletti, of Rheinfelden, has left the amount of 10,000.— francs to the commune of Rheinfelden towards the cost of erecting a new home for old people. [A.T.S.]

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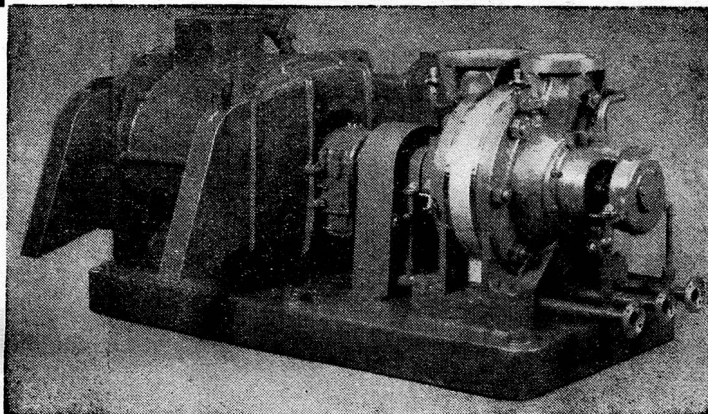
DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baillods of St. Imier, Mr. and Mrs. Gion Giaden of Lumbrein, Mr. and Mrs. Brack-Schaffner of Umikon near Brugg, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stoeklin-Lienhard of Zug, Mr. and Mrs. J. Camenzind of Gersau, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tobler-Schiess of Schoenengrund (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. A. Cuenin-Girardin of St. Ursanne.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Despraz-Bernard of Lutry have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65 years). [A.T.S.]

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Between 15th June and 14th September 1958 Mr. Arnold Glatthard, the well-known Alpine Guide, will hold rock and ice climbing courses at Rosenlaui, Bernese Oberland. Applicants should apply to the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458, Strand, London, W.C.2, for full particulars.

* * *

The finest precision clock ever built was unveiled recently at Neuchâtel, Switzerland's traditional watchmakers' workshop. 'Lachesis', as it was baptised by its creators, is the first to measure time in accordance with the extremely constant oscillation of ammonia molecules. It even exceeds in accuracy the quartz clock, which had been the best so far. 'Lachesis' will be an exhibit in the Swiss pavilion at the Brussels World Fair.

* * *

The Swiss Post Office, in an endeavour to let its clients benefit by technical developments as soon as tests have been successfully passed, has recently introduced the new "Autoruf". Two VHF Stations situated on the Chasseral (nr. Bienne) and the Säntis (Eastern Switzerland) receive signals dialled on the ordinary telephone apparatus and pass these on to motor-cars equipped with a receiver tuned in to the special wave-length. All sets receive the signal but only the intended receiver will produce an optical or acoustic reaction. The motorist will then ring up a pre-arranged telephone number. The system has great advantages for doctors, haulage contractors, maintenance engineers, commercial travellers, etc.

The world's highest building made of bricks will soon be completed in the Zurich suburb of Schwamendingen (population 28,000), it was announced recently at a meeting of the Swiss Brick Manufacturers' Association. The building will be 175 feet high and will contain sixty-eight flats in eighteen storeys. A pioneer in the field of brick building, Mr. A. Gfeller, the Bale architect who designed Bale's three model thirteen-storey buildings in 1949, said that bricks are "economical and suitable" for the construction of large apartment houses, whereas for tall office buildings steel skeletons have proved more successful. There are four large factories in Switzerland which produce a special type of bricks meeting all requirements of tall buildings.

* * *

The Lake Geneva Steamship Company have announced that their boat "L'Italie", which has a capacity of 1,000 passengers, will be ready for the coming Summer season. Modern diesel engines have replaced the old boilers. Between 1st July and 31st August 1958 "L'Italie" will leave Geneva at 10.45 and arrive at Lausanne-Ouchy at 12.50, Vevey at 13.36, or Montreux at 13.55. On the return journey the boat will leave Montreux at 14.30, Evian at 15.30, Thonon at 16.04, and will reach Geneva at 17.35.

CRONACA NOSTRANA.

La Nuova Società Elvetica, la Pro Ticino e la Pro Grigioni Italiano hanno organizzato, sabato, 10 maggio scorso, a Berna, una *giornata della Svizzera Italiana*. Gli organizzatori intendono, con simile manifestazione che dovrebbe ripetersi ogni anno, ricordare ai confederati il significato e la funzione della Svizzera italiana nella Confederazione elvetica. La sala del Gran Consiglio bernese era gremita di folla allorché il presidente centrale della N.S.E., prof. Egli, ha inaugurato l'assemblea, ricordando l'importanza della riunione e salutando, fra le autorità presenti, il cons. fed. Giuseppe Lepori, il Cancelliere della Confederazione Oser, il giudice federale Pometta. Il problema dell'italianità è stato illustrato negli aspetti storico-politico-spirituale dai professori Von Salis e Guido Calgari, docenti al Politecnico federale di Zurigo, e nel suo aspetto economico dal prof. Basilio Biucchi dell'Università di Friburgo e dal dott. Bernardo Zanetti, vicedirettore dell'Ufficio federale dell'industria, delle arti e mestieri e del lavoro. E' poi seguita una discussione nella quale sono intervenuti in particolare il prof. Foglia, il cons. di Stato di Zugo Huerlimann, lo scrittore Maurice Zermatten, il cons. di Stato grigione on. Lardelli, Gian Gaetano Tuor e Guido Locarnini. Al termine della discussione è stato diramato un appello al popolo svizzero che si chiude con un pensiero di Carlo Spitteler: "In Svizzera non facciamo a meno di nessuno."

DA DESTRA E SINISTRA.

BELLINZONA — Il 21 aprile scorso si è aperta la Sessione primaverile del Gran Consiglio ticinese con un discorso inaugurale del Presidente, on. Piero Barchi.

— Il 18 maggio, se tutto procederà secondo i piani prestabiliti, il Ticino, per la prima volta sarà collegato attraverso le Alpi con l'emittente televisiva nazionale dell'Uetliberg. Per il momento il collegamento sarà

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