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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Eduard Feer, Swiss Minister to Brazil, will represent the Swiss Government at the installation festivities of Monsieur Getulio Vargas, the newly elected President of the Republic of Brazil.

Monsieur Mohamed Abd el Moneim Mustafa Bey, Egyptian Minister, accredited to the Swiss Confederation, presented his credentials to M. von Steiger, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Monsieur Francisco Lousada, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Brazil, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation.

M. Robert Spichiger, Honorary Swiss Consul in Managua (Nicaragua), has retired from his post. M. William Tièche, at present on the staff of the Swiss Consulate General in San Francisco will succeed him.

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Max Büchi, at present Consul in Tananarive, to be Consul in Manila, in succession to Consul Oscar Schneider.

Mr. Büchi, was born in 1901, in St. Gall and hails from Ettenhausen (Ct. Thurgau). He entered the Political Department in 1928 and he has successively held posts in Besançon and Cape Town.

Customs receipts during the month of December, 1950, amounted to 49.3 million francs or 4.1 million francs more, than in December, 1949.

Customs receipts during the year 1950 are returned as 587.3 million francs (1949: 486.3 million francs).

Cantonal

Forty-six people (1949:18) were killed and 860 injured, through traffic accidents during 1950, in the canton of Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

M. Joseph Alois Beck, has served for 25 years as a priest at the "Hofkirche" in Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Johann Halmer, from 1912-1937, Central President of the "Schweizerischen Bau-und Holzarbeiter Verband" has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1950, 7,957 traffic accidents (1949: 6,394) have been reported in the canton of Zurich, with a loss of life of 104 persons (1949: 82) and 3,477 (1949: 2,805) injured. [A.T.S.]

The cantonal government of Zug has awarded the "Kunstpreis" to Dr. Theodor Hafner, Editor of the "Zuger Neujahrsblätter". The prize amounts to 3,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Raphael Cottier, Director of the Central Office for International Railway Traffic, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Berne. [A.T.S.]

M. René Manoux, since 1943, a Member of Parliament (National Council) has resigned his seat. He was a member of the Socialist party. He is succeeded by Mr. Ch. Strebél, President of the Fribourg section of the "Handels-Transport & Lebensmittelverbandes". [A.T.S.]

From the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1950, 711 (1949: 615) traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Solothurn with the loss of life of 27 persons. 591 persons received injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Carl Brunner, Manager of the Cantonal Bank of St. Gall is relinquishing his post on reaching retiring age. He has been in the service of the Bank for 35 years. [A.T.S.]

The "Kunstpreis" of the town of Basle for 1950, amounting to 10,000.—frs., has been awarded to the author Siegfried Lang. [A.T.S.]

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R.A.C.

The well-known Basle author, Dominik Müller, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary in Uerikon (Ct. Zurich.) [A.T.S.]

The late Johanne Ernst Etzensberger, of Schaffhausen has left a legacy amounting to 200,000.—frs. to the town of Schaffhausen, for the renovation of the Minster. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Gerold Guyer, a merchant now living in Rio de Janeiro, but born in Waldstatt (canton Appenzell a. Rh.) has sent the sum of 10,000.—frs. to the commune of Waldstatt to be used for their school fund. [A.T.S.]

The late "Ratsherr" Anton Klaser, of Sonnenau (Ct. Appenzell) has left an amount of 20,000.—frs. to the "Krankenhaus" in Appenzell. [A.T.S.]

M. R. Jaquillard, Chief of Police of the canton of Vaud, is shortly relinquishing his post; he has been in the service of the cantonal administration for 33 years. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1950, 855 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Neuchâtel, with a loss of life of 32 persons and 480 injured. [3.2.7.]

Army

Captain Hermann Kasser (born 1911) was killed when his machine crashed near Rudolfstetten (Ct. Berne). [A.T.S.]

—oOo—

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Dr. Albert Junod, a former Swiss Minister at St. Petersburg, in Zurich, at the age of 86.

The deceased was born in 1865 in Paris, and was a citizen of Mutrix (Ct. Vaud). On the completion of his studies, he was for a number of years a tutor in Russia and Italy and later on occupied an important post at the Federal Economic Dept. in Berne. From 1918-1920, M. Junod held the post of Swiss Minister in St. Petersburg and on his return was appointed Professor of Geography at the University of Neuchâtel, of which he was a *doctor honoris causa*.

Otto Huber, a partner in the textile firm "Gebrüder Huber", of Kirchberg (Altöttingen). Mr. Huber was a Member of Parliament (National Council), from 1936-1939, and sat in the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall from 1912-1945.

Richard Campell, founder of the "Engadiner Brauerei" of Celerina, and for many years President of the commune of Sûs (Ct. Grisons), in Celerina, at the age of 84.

Professor, Dr. Martin Rikli in Zurich, aged 83. The deceased was from 1899-1930 a teacher at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. For over 30 years he held the post of Conservator of the botanical collection of the ETH.

Mme. Maria Boschetti-Alberti, a well-known school-teacher, in Agno (Ct. Ticino).

Mme. Julia Schnetzler-Vincent for 23 years President of the "Frauenverein" Lausanne, in Lausanne, at the age of 89.

Professor, Dr. H. Rupe-Lutz, from 1903-1937, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 85.

Josef Huber, for 43 years "Gemeindeammann"

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of Berg, near Rorschach, and for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall.

Dr. Erwyn Voellmy, teacher of mathematics at the *Gymnasium* in Basle, and a well-known chess player, in Basle, at the age of 65.

Pasteur William Poulin, from 1895-1910 rector of Genthod and from 1911-1935, Pasteur in Plainpalais, in Geneva, aged 86.

M. Cuérel, from 1915-1935, "Regierungsstatthalter" of Morges, in Morges, at the age of 92.

César Gross, Banker, and formerly President of the Tribunal Saint-Maurice, in Saint-Maurice, at the age of 73.

Ferdinand Porchet, from 1920-1944 a member of the government of the canton of Vaud, at the age of 73.

Professor, Dr. Gustav Binz, a former Professor of Philology at the University of Basle, and Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Landesbibliothek" in Basle, aged 86.

Professor, Dr. Otto Juzi, from 1915-1943, Professor of Law at the University of Zurich, at the age of 75. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for the year 1950:— Solothurnische Leihkasse, Solothurn: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Gewerbekasse, Baden: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Schweizerische Hypothekenbank: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Ersparniskasse, Olten: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Solothurner Handelsbank: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Gewerbekasse Bern: 7 per cent. (1949: 6.75%); Bündner Privatbank: 4 per cent. (1949: 4%); Zuger Kantonalbank: 6 per cent. (1949: 6%); Bank in

Burgdorf: 6 per cent. (1949: 6%); Gewerbebank, Zurich: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Schweiz. Spar & Kreditbank, St. Gall: $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (1949: $4\frac{1}{2}$ %); A. G. Leu & Co. A.G., Zurich: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%); Hypothekarkasse des Kantons Freiburg: 5 per cent. (1949: 5%). [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. A. Gyr-Koch, of Scans (Engadine); Mr. and Mrs. Rohner-Bänziger, of Buchberg, near Thal.

[A.T.S.]

The undermentioned have reached the age of one hundred years in Switzerland:—

Sister Karoline Bütler, of the cloister "Berg Sion" in Gummiswald, Mme. Müller-Gloggner, of Zofingen and M. Edouard Coandet, of Burg (Châtel-sur-Morat). [A.T.S.]

According to a recent survey, Swiss spending is divided as follows:—

Food and drink	...	23%
Clothes	...	9%
Rents	...	18%
Home articles and materials	...	4%
Doctors and medicines	...	4%
Lighting and heating	...	5%
Recreation, travel, etc.	...	13%
Insurance	...	9%
Taxes and sundry	...	4%

At December 12th, 1950, the official index figure which measures changes in the average level of retail

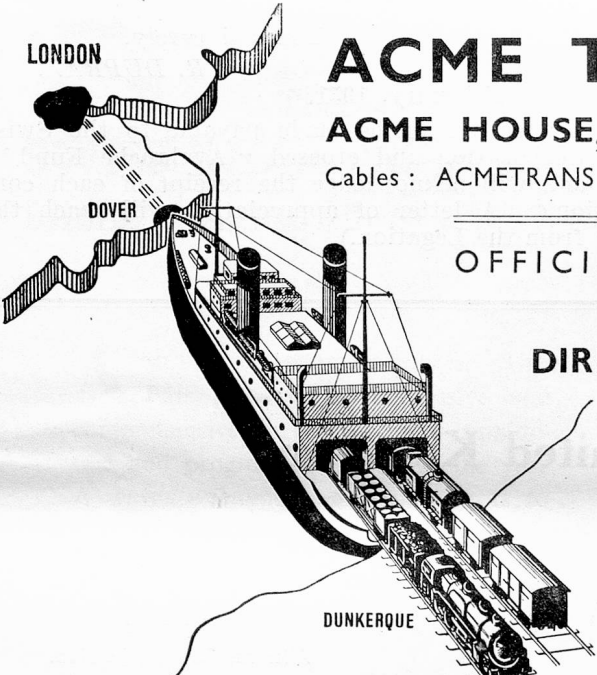
prices compared with the level at the base date, June 17th, 1947 (taken as 100), was 116, the same figure as at November 14th, 1950.

An important movement is at present in progress throughout the whole country and particularly in French-speaking Switzerland. Faithful to the memory of C. F. Ramuz, the C. F. Ramuz Foundation is anxious to assist new talent and is desirous of encouraging the best of the French Swiss authors in their labours which so often pass unnoticed. In awarding prizes in a judicious manner, the Foundation wishes to add to the renown of the whole country.

In the presence of a large attendance, the new Lobhorn Hut in the Interlaken district has just been inaugurated by the management of the Lauterbrunnen Section of the Swiss Alpine Club. Situated at a height of about 6,400 ft., facing magnificent scenery from which emerges the Eiger, the Moench and the Jungfrau, the new hut offers a dormitory for 24 persons.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, February 23rd, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. Wegmüller, J. Müller, J. Huber, J. Guggenheim, H. R. Tobin, F. E. Brunner, F. A. Rufener, P. Isacco, E. Fankhauser, E. Rietmann, C. Berti, Mrs. L. C. West, W. Deutsch, C. Rossier, A. Bebie, Mrs. M. Albrecht, H. Schmid.



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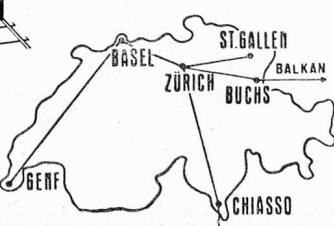
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