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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The two Federal Chambers have elected National-Councillor, Dr. A. Favre, to the post of Federal judge in succession to the late Dr. Couchepin.

Dr. Favre was born at Sierre in 1897. He studied law at the Universities of Paris, Berlin and Fribourg, and afterwards practiced as a lawyer and notary at Sierre. In 1930, he was appointed Professor of law at the University of Fribourg. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1943.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 17.71 million passengers during the month of August 1952, or 1.71 million more than in August, 1951. The receipts amounted to 29.51 million francs. (August, 1951: 25.39 million francs).

Goods traffic declined by 199,000 tons and is returned as 1.57 million tons carried. Receipts: 32.08 million francs. (August, 1951: 31.70 million francs).

The Swiss Government has now ordered the formation of a committee to work out a first draft of the proposed new Custom tariff.

The question of a higher scale of Customs duties has been under consideration for some time.

### Cantonal

Franz Gerber, Garden nurseryman, of Thalwil, aged 29 and his wife, aged 25, were killed when ascending the "Kleinen Mieten." [A.T.S.]

Lucerne's 620 year-old wooden "Chapel" bridge has been re-opened and reinforced with steel girders since its fourth arch began to sag. The roof was painted in the 18th century with 154 scenes taken from the lives of Saints Leodegar and Mauritius, patrons of Lucerne, and from the history of the old city.

[A.T.S.]

A Swiss banking group has granted a credit of 18 million francs to "Swissair" for the purchase of

three new large American long distance air liners, type DC-6B, delivery of which will be made at the end of next year. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car carrying four passengers collided between Winterthur and Zurich with another car. Three passengers travelling in the car from Winterthur were killed. The names of the victims are: Rudolf Alswede (Zurich) aged 47, Mme. Bertha Benz (Zurich) aged 53, and Mme. Elise Blödorn (Zurich) aged 71. The fourth passenger, a daughter of Mme. Benz, received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernest Marples, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Housing, has been recently in Zurich looking into the housing question.

Some 2,000 houses built on a Swiss prefabricated method are to be put up in Britain this year. Instead of beginning with the outside walls, some of these buildings are started from the inside and enclosed later with brick, stones and plaster.

M. René Jacquod, aged 46, has been elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) in succession to National Councillor A. Favre, who has been appointed a Federal judge.

M. Jacquod is a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Charles Schäublin, Industrialist, has been elected an honorary citizen of Malleray. Mr. Schäublin had, some time ago, given an amount of 500,000.—frs. towards the costs of building a new secondary school. [A.T.S.]

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