

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17,82 million passengers during the month of April, 1954, or 250,000 more than in April, 1953. Receipts: 25,68 million francs. (April, 1953: 25,39 million francs).

Goods traffic registered 1,60 million tons transported, or 103,000 tons more than at the same period in 1953. Receipts: 31,45 million francs. (April, 1953: 31,17 million francs).

* * *

The Federal authorities have decided to make effective from July 1st the law on the Swiss National Bank passed by Parliament last December.

The law makes certain radical changes from existing legislation. It formally requires the National Bank not only to regulate monetary circulation and to facilitate payments traffic, but also to carry out a credit and monetary policy designed to further the best interests of the country.

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The summer session of the two Federal Chambers (National and States Council) opened on June 11th in Berne.

* * *

The Weaving-School Wattwil (Ct. St. Gall) has presented to the President of the Swiss Confederation a large collection of table linen for the "v. Wattenwyl House" in Berne. (All official dinners and receptions given by the Swiss Government are held in this building).

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 1st August, 1954
3 to 5.30 p.m. (Doors open at 2.30 p.m.)

at the

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After the celebration a Dance will be held from 6.45 - 11 p.m.
in the VAUXHALL BEER GARDENS nearby

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: on Sunday 1st August, 1954

Joint Protestant Service in French and German at 11 a.m. at Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Catholic Service at 11 a.m. Solemn Mass and Sermon in German and English, at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1.

Cantonal

Burglars broke into a Jeweller's shop in the Pilatusstrasse, Lucerne, and got away with watches and jewellery valued at several thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

The British Consul General in Zurich, C. Marriott has, in collaboration with the Swiss-British Society given a reception at the "Kongress-Haus" in honour of Sir Lionel Lamb, British Ambassador in Berne. Amongst the guests were Dr. Meierhans and Dr. Koenig, members of the cantonal Government, as well as the Mayor of the town of Zurich, Dr. Landolt.

In reply to an address of welcome by Dr. Max Wildi, President of the Swiss-British Society, the Ambassador referred to the cordial relations which exist between his country and the Confederation. [A.T.S.]

The chief bookkeeper of the Swiss T.V. studio at Zurich, Sergio Walter has been arrested shortly before he and three accomplices were about to take off by plane for South America with £50,000 of Swiss T.V. funds. Thanks to the action of a Zurich Bank Manager, who had become suspicious of the various transfers of money, the fraud was detected before the gang was able to leave Switzerland. The entire amount of 503,000.— Swiss francs has been recovered. [A.T.S.]

The late Master-Baker Hermann Buchmann of Zurich-Wiedikon has left various legacies to charitable institutions amounting to 55,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The parish of Beatenberg (Ct. Berne), has nominated Pastor Gottfried Buchmüller, a former clergyman of the parish, an honorary citizen, in recognition of his services as author of the "Beatenberger-Chronik". [A.T.S.]

Mr. Fritz Meyer (Socialist) Berne, has resigned his seat in the National Council, he is succeeded by Mr. Christian Rubi, of Wengen, belonging to the same party. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Felix Suter, a teacher of Zug, who recently died, has left legacies to various charitable institutions amounting to 25,000.—frs.. [A.T.S.]

The 50th anniversary of the Basle Port has encouraged members of the Foreign Diplomatic Corps in Berne to visit Basle. After visits having been paid by the British and American Ambassadors, it was now the turn of the Italian Ambassador, Monsieur Egidio Reale, who, after inspecting the port attended an address on "Italien und die Einheitsbestrebungen Europas" given by Sig. Paolo Taviani, a member of the Italian Government. [A.T.S.]

The firm of Alfred J. Amsler & Co., Schaffhausen, makers of mathematical instruments, employing 300 workhands, has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Schaffhausen for the year 1953, close with a credit balance of 52,568.—frs. [A.T.S.]

Over Whitsun several mountaineering and skiing accidents occurred in Switzerland. Albert Schmid (20), of Obermeilen, and Margrit Bollier (19, of Horgen, crashed to their deaths over a precipice on the Zindelspitze.

On the Clariden glacier, a climbing couple, Mr. and Mrs. Büttner-Fischer, of Zollikon-Zurich, lost their way and spent the night in the open before the husband went for help, he returned with a rescue party to find his wife dead from exposure.

Near Mauvoisin (Canton Valais) a climber, Mr. Zimmermann, was killed outright by a falling rock. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Henri Debrunner, Merchant of St. Gall, who recently died has left an amount of 200,000.—frs. to the town of St. Gall for charitable and cultural purposes. [A.T.S.]

The late Christian Aliesch, of Schiers (Ct. Grisons) has left an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the hospital of Prattigau.. [A.T.S.]

Mme Maria Philomena Kottmann-Eigensatz, of Menziken has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

Gold coins of great historical value were stolen from the Vindonissa — Museum in Brugg. [A.T.S.]

Up to June 1st, 2,044 sections with 44,364 marksmen for the 300 m. distance and 1,124 groups numbering 11,361 marksmen for the 100 m. distance, have notified their intention to attend at the Federal Shooting Competition which will take place at Lausanne from July 8th-25th, 1954.

For the pistol shooting competition, 375 sections numbering 4,695 marksmen are registered. [A.T.S.]

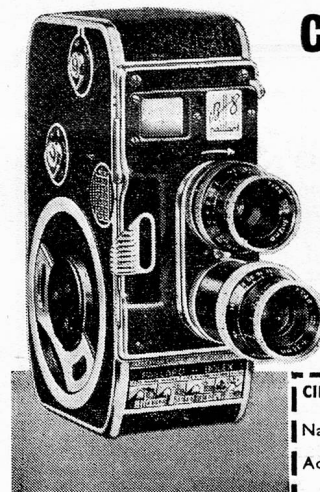
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Two trains collided near Bellinzona, completely blocking the main St. Gothard line into Italy. The collision occurred between the stations of Claro and Crisciano, about five miles north of Bellinzona. One of the passengers, Mme Elise Zanetti (47), of Bellinzona, was killed, and several injured. [A.T.S.]

Frances Debrot, of Lausanne, aged 36, piloting a Piper machine, crashed on the Crête-du-Loche in the Neuchâtel Jura. He was taken in a serious condition to the hospital at La Chaux-de-Fonds, where he later succumbed to his injuries. The plane was totally destroyed. [A.T.S.]

The "Comptoir de Neuchâtel" which opened recently, was visited by 101,438 persons. The next "Comptoir" will take place in 1956. [A.T.S.]

Two persons were killed, when a motor-car driven by Pierre Niquille, manufacturer of Fleurier, collided with a tree at Travers, the latter received serious injuries, and his passengers, Jean Robert Beaujon, clerk, and Raymond Moret, cabinet-maker, both of Fleurier were killed outright. (The driver of the car, M. Niquille, has since succumbed to his injuries).

[A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the *Dies Academicus* of the University of Geneva, the degree of *doctor honoris causa* was bestowed on Dr. Rudolphe Ferrière, one of the founders of the International Education Bureau. Professor Henri de Ziegler, has been elected rector of the University for 1954/55. [A.T.S.]

The well-known Geneva author, Hilaire Theurillat, has been awarded the Edgar Allen Poe Prize for his work "Corymbe". [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Josef Ineichen, in Lucerne, at the age of 88. The deceased was for 54 years active in the school service, firstly at the "Erziehungsanstalt" Sonnenberg and in Gerliswil, and from 1897 in Lucerne. He held the post as rector of the Municipal Primary Schools from 1914-1940. Ineichen sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne from 1919-1931.

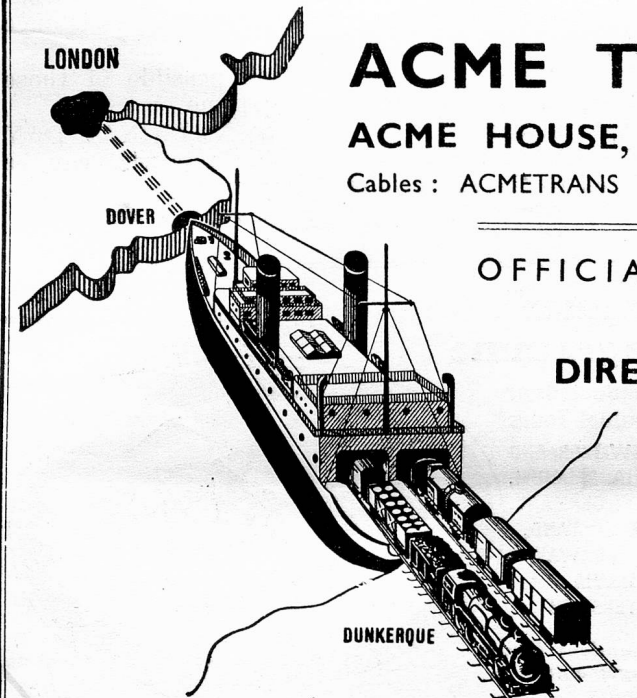
Gustave Jornot, a lawyer, and for the last 17 years President of the "Bureau genevois d'Adresses", in Geneva, aged 56.

Hans Joneli, in Basle, at the age of 76. The deceased was for many years a member of the Grand Council of Basle-Town, and later on a member of the "Landrat" of the canton of Basle-County. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversaries are mentioned in the Swiss Press:

Dr. h.c. Paul Piccard (80), Lucerne, from 1901-1917 Clerk of the Federal Court, Lausanne, and from 1917-1943 a member of the Federal Insurance Court, Lucerne, over which he had presided three times. In 1932, the University of Basle honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. Dr. Piccard is a brother of the well-known scientist Professor Piccard.

Albert Muret (80), of Pully, painter and author, and from 1932-1944 drawing-master and teacher of historical art at the *Gymnasium*, Lausanne, and one



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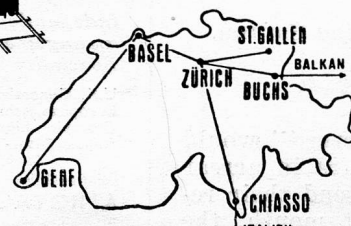
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Professor Hans Nabholz (80), of Zurich, until 1945, Professor of constitutional and economic history at the University of Zurich, and Honorary President of the "Allgemeinen Geschichtsforschenden Gesellschaft der Schweiz." [A.T.S.]

Gifts and letters of greeting from the Mayors of two Swiss cities were presented to the Mayor of New York at City Hall recently by Mr. Hugo Mayr, General Manager of Swissair in the U.S.A.

The articles were flown over on Swissair's first regular transatlantic freight flight and came from the Mayors of Zurich and Basel. Zurich's Mayor, Dr. Landolt, sent the Mayor of New York, Robert F. Wagner, an inscribed book about Zurich together with an invitation for Mayor Wagner to visit the historic Swiss city. He also sent a box of Swiss chocolates for Mrs. Wagner. From the Government of the Canton of Basel came a beautiful hand-coloured window pane containing the Basel coat-of-arms.

The Wynental Railway, a line in central Switzerland connecting Aarau with Rheinach and Menziken-Burg, celebrated recently its fiftieth anniversary. On the anniversary day all passengers on the morning train were offered hot coffee and rolls, and smokers were presented with locally-made cigars.

Switzerland allowed 200,000 foreign workers to take jobs in the country last year.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

(Service de Presse).

Un procédé de purification de l'eau, que le professeur suisse Nægeli a découvert et mis au point pendant de nombreuses années, utilise la ionisation de l'eau par l'argent, à l'aide d'un appareil catadyne, qui est un produit suisse. Cette invention va être mise en service dans les piscines des USA où elle a provoqué un très grand intérêt.

Le prix des amitiés françaises de Bruxelles, prix littéraire international, destiné à couronner le roman d'un écrivain de langue française (Français, Belge, Suisse, Luxembourgeois ou Canadien), a été décerné à l'écrivain vaudois C.F. Landry pour son roman "L'enfant coucou".

Au nombre des films documentaires et de propagande suisses, les bandes "Wasser in Gefahr" et "Südwest braucht Wasser" ont remporté un vif succès lors d'une projection spéciale devant les députés au Bundestag à Bonn. A l'exposition cinématographique de Milan, où 12 pays ont envoyé 180 titres, le film "Raviolis Roco", de la Central-Film, a remporté le prix de la "Federazione italiana della pubblicità".

(Semaine Suisse).

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

The Publishers of the "Swiss Observer" would be greatly obliged if subscribers, who are in arrear with their subscriptions, would kindly send their remittance before the end of the current month, the financial year ending on June 30th, 1954.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION.

The First of August Committee of the Swiss Colony in London have much pleasure in extending to all Swiss and their families in Great Britain a cordial invitation to join in this year's celebration of our NATIONAL DAY.

For a change it will be held in the Concert Pavilion, Battersea Park. Refreshments (hot sausages and roll and tea, or sandwiches, cakes and tea at 2/6) are made available at the nearby Pavilion of Vauxhall Beer Gardens. After the Celebration a Dance will be held at the same place, entrance 2/6 each.

Admission to the NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION will be by ticket only, obtainable free of charge on application by post to the First of August Hon. Secretary, Miss S. Morosi, 20, Briston Grove, Crouch Hill, London, N.8. As supplies are limited it is advisable to obtain refreshment tickets in advance from the same address, by a remittance of 2/6.

No ticket can be sent unless a 2½d. STAMPED and ADDRESSED ENVELOPE is enclosed with the application. The full names of all persons for whom tickets are required must be stated.

The tickets will be issued after July 15th, but applications should be sent now — the sooner the better. The Theatre holds some 1,500 people. Tickets will be issued in strict rotation. Early application is therefore advisable to save disappointment.

It will greatly help the Committee if ticket holders who find themselves prevented from attending the celebration will be kind enough to return their unwanted tickets AT ONCE to the above address for the benefit of other fellow countrymen.

Programmes will be on sale at a minimum of 6d. and badges at 1/6 each. It will be of great assistance if correct amount is tendered when purchasing.

It is hoped that as many as possible of those attending will wear national costume.

Only holders of tickets to the NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION (which should be retained) can be admitted to the subsequent dance on payment of 2/6.

THE COMMITTEE.

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