

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has nominated Monsieur Gaston Jaccard to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Brussels and Luxembourg, in succession to Minister Henry Vallotton, who is vacating his post on having reached retiring age.

Minister Jaccard was born in 1894, and is a citizen of St. Croix (Vaud). He studied law at the University of Lausanne, where he obtained his doctorate. M. Jaccard entered the service of the Confederation in 1919, and occupied successively posts in Belgrade, London and Buenos Aires. In 1932, he returned to Berne, and two years later was appointed Consul General in Montreal.

From 1945-1948, M. Jaccard was Minister in Mexico, and afterwards in Warsaw. Since 1953, he has been Minister to Norway.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Gottlieb Gut has been appointed permanent Chargé d'Affaires in Bucharest, with promotion to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, in succession to M. André Parodi.

Dr. Gut was born in 1912, and is a citizen of Stallikon (Ct. Zurich). On the completion of his law studies, he entered the Diplomatic Service in 1944, and six years later (1950) was transferred to the Swiss Legation in Belgrade, where he was in charge of commercial affairs.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has asked the two Federal Chambers for a credit of 7½ million francs to be used for the following purposes: Purchase of a residence for the Swiss Ministers in Rio de Janeiro, Caracas and New Delhi. Purchase of a building for the Chancery in Washington, and a Legation building in Morocco.

The Confederation maintains 50 diplomatic missions abroad. (48 Legations, and 2 diplomatic representations), as well as 108 Consular representatives.

The net receipts for the month of July, 1956, of the Federal Customs administration, amounted to 61.7 million francs, or 8.5 million francs more than in July 1955.

The receipts for the first seven months of the current year, total 375.1 million francs, or 39.5 million francs more than in the same period of 1955.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 17.9 million passengers during the month of July, 1956, or 400,000 less than in July, 1955. Receipts: 35.5 million francs. (July, 1955: 36.3 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 2.21 million tons or 220,000 tons more than during the same period in 1955. Receipts: 41.6 million francs. (July, 1955: 39.1 million francs.)

### Cantonal

A service was held at the monument at Goldau (Ct. Schwyz) to mark the 150th anniversary of the landslide which buried two villages, and 457 persons. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A serious accident occurred in the Sihltal, near the railway station of Sihlbrugg, when a 30 m. ash tree fell on a moto-car containing three passengers, all of them were killed outright, whilst the driver received serious injuries. The victims are Frau Dr. Schroeder (born 1891), her daughter (born 1921), and Miss Ida Suter (born 1885) of Adliswil. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A smash and grab raid was made on a Jeweller's shop in the Sihlstrasse, Zurich. Goods amounting to 50,000.— frs. were stolen. [A.T.S.]

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on:

**Tuesday, October 2nd, 1956, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.**  
at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.**  
followed by a talk by Mr. Louis Baume, (son of Mr. A. C. Baume) on his recent travels to Singapore, Malaya and Hongkong, illustrated with coloured film.

L. A. CHAPUIS,  
Hon. SECRETARY.

Dr. Fritz Hess, from 1945-1949, General Manager of the Federal PTT administration, and since "Weltpostdirektor" has been nominated an honorary citizen of the commune of Wald. (Ct. Zurich.) [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Mme. Schmidt-Pfister of Winterthur has left the following legacies: to Musikkollegium, Winterthur 10,000.— frs., International Red Cross Committee in Geneva 5,000.— and to various charitable institutions 9,500 frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Morard, a former Professor of Philosophy at the St. Michel College, and the University of Fribourg, has celebrated his 50th jubilee as a priest. He is the author of a number of works on Philosophy. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Burglars smashed the shop windows of a Jeweller's firm at the Viaduktstrasse in Basle, and decamped with goods valued at thousands of francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Hans Buchli, Journalist and Author, residing in Berne, Central President of "Pro Raetia" has been nominated an honorary citizen of the commune of Rothenbrunnen-Domleschg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Switzerland beat Denmark by 121 points to 99 in an International Athletics match in Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Pierre Steinmann (La Chaux-de-Fonds) has been elected Director of the cantonal technical institute, La Chaux-de-Fonds, in succession to M. L. Hueguenin, who has retired from his post. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Albert von Tschanner in Pully at the age of 76. The deceased was born in Muri, nr. Berne. He was a pioneer of artificial silk manufacture in England, and sponsored first Dover-Ostend Ferry service. He was for many years employed by Brazilian railways.

Heinrich Braem, eminent architect, in Zurich, owing to a motor car accident, aged 69.

Albert Elmiger, in Littau, at the age of 70. The deceased was for 45 years a school teacher, and for 25 years President of the commune of Littau. He was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, over which he presided in 1938.

Joseph Heinrich Dietrich, Honorary citizen of the commune of Kirchberg (St. Gall), and for 40 years a school teacher, in Kirchberg, aged 83.

Charles Ziegler, technical manager of the "Zenith" watch manufacturing concern, and a well-known personality in watch manufacturing circles, in Le Locle, at the age of 65.

Domenico Giambonini, in his younger days a well-known rifle shot, in Faido, aged 88.

Ernst Kreidolf, a well-known painter, who on the occasion of his 70th birthday was honoured by the University of Berne with the degree of doctor *honoris causa*, in Berne, at the age of 70.

Dr. med. Albert Nadig, for 40 years Head of the Val Sinestra Spa, (Engadine), in Samedan, aged 83. [A.T.S.]

#### ARMY.

Divisional-Colonel Pierre de Muralt, since 1948 "Waffenchef der leichten Truppen" has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the current year. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Julius Müller (70) of Winterthur, founder of a number of important export concerns, and Hon. Japanese Consul-General.

Dr. med. Johann Benedict Joerger (70) of Chur, from 1930-1946, Director of the "Heil & Pflegeanstalt Waldhaus" near Chur.

Wilhelm Gimmi (70) of Zurich, a well-known painter. Many of his works are exhibited in picture galleries both in Switzerland and abroad.

Paul Bodmer (70) of Zurich, a painter of frescoes. In 1947, he was awarded the art prize of the town of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

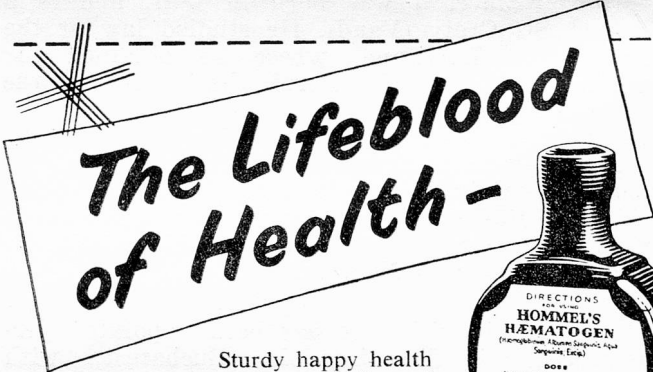
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#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Longatti-Steinlin of Herisau. [A.T.S.]

The Geneva Public Works Department plans to pull down the 100-year-old Palais Wilson — former home of the League of Nations — and build a Maison des Congres (House of Congress).

In 1936 the League moved to a new headquarters building, the Palais des Nations — now the European headquarters of the United Nations. The Palais




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Wilson has since been used for the offices of a number of international organisations.

\* \* \*

Switzerland is to be enabled to purchase 500 kilograms (more than 1,000lb.) of uranium, from the U.S. under a bilateral agreement for the peaceful uses of atomic energy concluded between the two countries and published in Berne.

\* \* \*

Swiss motorists have been warned that unless they remove dangerous mascots from their cars they may lose their licences. Decorations and mascots are blamed for many of the more serious injuries sustained by pedestrians.

\* \* \*

Switzerland with a population slightly under 5,000,000 has 2,708 millionaires, Swiss statistics reveal. They show that 1,808 persons declared a personal taxable fortune of 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 Swiss francs (£83,000 to £166,000) when they filled out their property tax forms; 702 reported their taxable fortune as being between 2,000,000 and 5,000,000 francs (£400,000) and 198 said their taxable fortune exceeded 5,000,000 francs. Leading the list is the Canton of Zurich with 996 millionaires.

\* \* \*

Raymond Lambert, the famous Swiss mountain guide and Himalayan climber, was married at Weinfelden, Switzerland, to Annette Simon, a teacher of medical gymnastics who is also a climber and skier.

Lambert, who is 41, plans to take his 31-year-old

bride on an expedition which he is leading next January to the Andes of Peru and Chile.

\* \* \*

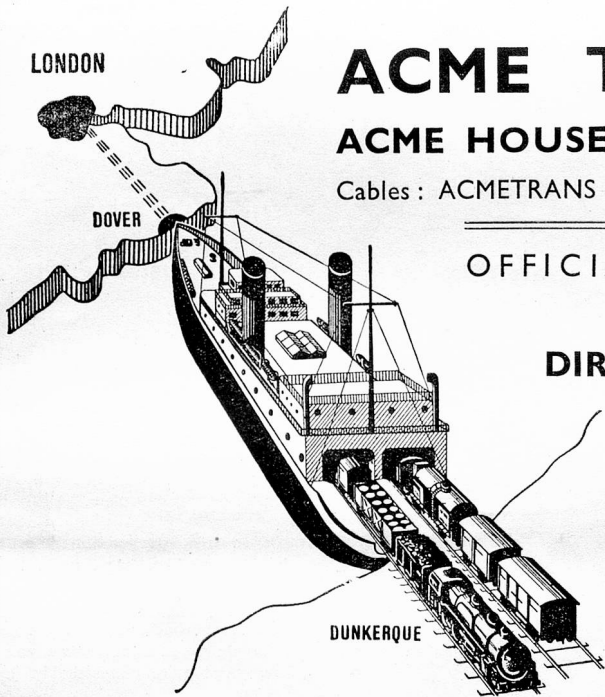
Switzerland's cost of living index last month at 175.6 (1939 equals 100) was the highest recorded.

\* \* \*

Two groups of Swiss and Italian business men have signed a £3,740,000 agreement to drive a road tunnel under the 8,000-foot-high Great Saint Bernhard pass, to link Genoa with Switzerland and Germany.

\* \* \*

One of the most enjoyable train rides in Switzerland is by the Bodensee-Toggenburg Railway, opened to traffic in 1910, and connecting the town of Romanshorn with the village of Neu St. Johann. No less than 85 bridges and 17 tunnels are added attractions on this scenic route. Lovely views of the orchards of the Thurgau region and Lake Constance open up time and again between Romanshorn and St. Gall; beyond St. Gall the railway crosses one of the highest and most imposing viaducts in Europe (325 ft.) spanning the Sitter Gorge. Other scenic features are the mountain ranges of the Saentis and the Churfirten. The Bodensee-Toggenburg Railway also holds an important position as a link in the direct rail thoroughfare connecting Lake Constance with Lake Lucerne. Together with the South-East Railway and the Federal Railways it provides the fastest and easiest connection from Romanshorn via Rapperswil on the Lake of Zurich to Arth-Goldau and from there to the trunk line of the St. Gotthard and



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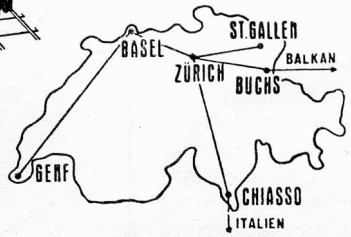
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\* \* \*

The Geneva authorities have recently decided to give the signal for the construction of a giant Congress House on Quai Woodrow Wilson, to replace the former Hotel National, which was later converted into Geneva's first League of Nations Palace. According to reports by the cantonal board of public works the new edifice, as to size and seating capacity will surpass everything built in Geneva so far. A convention hall accommodating an audience of 4,000 and two smaller auditoria with 1,000 seats each, several conference rooms, lobbies, a restaurant, a cinema and film-lecture rooms are main features of the building, which is to afford scenic views of Lake Geneva and the Mont-Blanc from its many terraces. A "Press House", which is to facilitate the work of foreign journalists in Geneva, is also to be built in the immediate vicinity of the convention centre. Geneva hopes to attract an even larger number of conventions than before thanks to these new facilities which are expected to substantiate the city's world-wide reputation as a convention capital for many decades to come.

\* \* \*

For holidaymakers at Flims, one of the best-known mountain resorts in Switzerland, it's still summertime, and Lake Cauma, with its warm springs providing a natural heating system and its protecting windshield-like pine forests, will continue for many more weeks to lure swimmers. For many natives however the winter season has already started; for Flims is also one of Switzerland's 150 winter sports resorts which each year offer to their guests a carefully prepared programme of events. While the final word to this effect has not yet been pronounced, various other signs show that Flims this coming winter will join the highest-ranking international meeting places. In the hotel field mention should be made of the Villa Belmont, which is part of the ideally designed group of "Park Hotel" buildings, being turned into an ultra-modern "Hotel Garni" (room-and-breakfast hotel) with restaurant. In this once aristocratic mansion a gay and truly democratic spirit will henceforth prevail. A smaller "Hotel Garni", the Villa Gentiana, will be annexed to the Schloss Hotel. The new aerial cableway Alp Narau-Cassonsgrat, which overcomes a difference in altitude of 2,600 ft. to untouched slopes ideal for spring skiing in the Piz Sardona, Piz Segnes and Piz Vorab areas, will begin operating end of this month. In combination with the Alp Narau chairlift, opened in 1947, a record "flying" time of only 31 minutes will be required to get into the magic world of high Alpine skiing from where ski runs up to 10 miles long lead down back to the front-door of your hotel.

\* \* \*

How many parents really can make up their minds to part with their children for the holidays? There are probably legions that decide either not to go on a holiday at all or take their beloved youngsters along as surplus luggage, so to speak. Children are a particular worry when it comes to going one's own way, such as visiting an art exhibition, or practising one's favoured sport which is sailing in high winds!

— The Tourist Office of Lausanne, a city offering innumerable holiday attractions, has now successfully solved this parents' problem by converting the Villa l'Eglantine, a municipal estate surrounded by a lovely park, into a children's paradise. Against payment of a modest fee, the offspring can be entrusted for a few hours or for the day to trained nurses and storytellers, which should make parents and children equally happy.

\* \* \*

More than one hundred years ago the glaciers of the Swiss Alps reached their peak of expansion. Since then a gradual retreat has been noted, which, however, was slightly interrupted for the first time in 1947. The most recent scientific research reveals a certain growth of glaciers today. Of the 76 glaciers observed in 1954/55 fifty (66%) decreased, while in the period of 1953/54 there were as many as 65 (89%). Seven (9%) remained stationary, as compared to three (4%) in the previous periods of analysis. Nineteen (25%) on the contrary have increased in length, in comparison to only five (7%) one year before. An interesting fact is that the average length of recession has decreased from 16.7 yards in the period 1953/54 to 6.5 yards in the most recent observation phase.

\* \* \*

The five excursion boats of the S.F.R. (Swiss Federal Railways) plying on Lake Constance have recently been equipped with wireless telephones. These installations will henceforth allow telephone communications between the boats themselves and the

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shore stations in Romanshorn, Lindau, Friedrichshafen, and Constance, as well as with any of the service telephones of the S.F.R. throughout Switzerland.

\* \* \*

A historic society was recently founded at Buerglen, the alleged birth-place of the Swiss national hero William Tell, in the aim of opening a Tell Museum in the summer or autumn of 1957. The village of Buerglen will celebrate its 1,100th anniversary next year.

\* \* \*

This coming winter it will be possible to enjoy winter sports and undergo a bathing cure simultaneously at Scuol-Tarasp-Vulpera, the health resort and vacation paradise in the sunny Lower Engadine (4,125 ft.). The mineral springs, which are saturated with carbonic acid, will for the first time be made available for drinking and bathing cures during the winter, and there will be no shortage either of winter sports facilities. The aerial cableway to the 7,079 ft. belvedere and mountain restaurant of Motta Naluns is one of the new local tourist attractions.

\* \* \*

The oldest Swiss Excursion steamboat, the "Giessbach", dating back to the year 1859, and one of her somewhat younger sisters have recently been withdrawn from the picturesque Lake of Brienz and sent to the scrap heap. The pride of the Lake Brienz fleet, which numbers now four motor units and one steamer, is the new double-deck motor cruiser "Interlaken", which has a carrying capacity of 550 persons and offers every possible modern comfort. Seven motorboats and four steamers ply on near-by Lake Thun.

\* \* \*

The tramway system in Montreux, actually the first in Europe, has been replaced by modern trolley buses. This year to the Casino-Beach has been added the Pavilion Hall, formerly a sports centre. This new Hall, very suitable for congresses and other important functions, each year houses the "September Musical", the principal Autumn music festival in Europe, and in view of its central position is easily accessible in a few minutes from all the hotels.

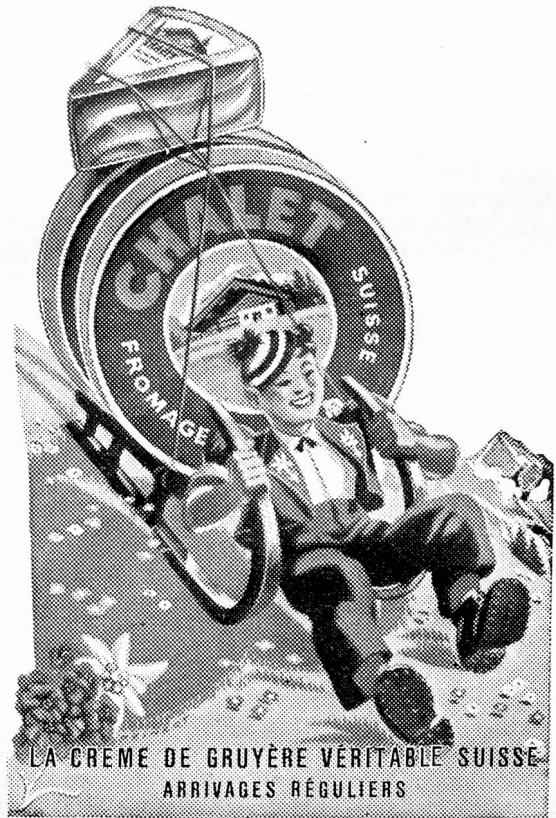
On the Casino-Beach, there is now a warm water swimming-pool, heated by infra-red rays, where one can enjoy the fresh air and the Lake of Geneva until October, a unique experience of this nature in Switzerland.

Beyond the swimming-pool is the water skiing centre, with slalom, jump and two fast motor-boats specially constructed for this sport. The illuminated Casino-Beach forms an enchanting framework for evening dances in the Casino.

\* \* \*

An interesting experiment is being made in the Anniviers valley in Canton Valais for conveying milk to the village of Grimentz from the alpine pasture about 1,300ft. above. With the approval of the Swiss Federal Office of Agricultural Tests, a Geneva firm devised a plastic pipeline, which has been buried at a depth of one foot. It is three-quarters of a mile long and makes it possible to run off some 156 gallons of milk in 45 minutes.

Until now the milk collected on the pasture has been used on the spot for making cheese, as its transport by men or mules often spoiled it.



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