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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Switzerland's electorate voted against compulsory Civil Defence service for women and against State controlled Television.

Only slightly more than half of the 1,500,000 electors voted. On the issue of compulsory Civil Defence service for women, 360,773 were in favour and 387,739 against. Concerning the proposal of Government control over television, as well as radio, 319,634 were in favour and 427,859 against.

Here are the particulars of the poll:

	Civil Defence		Radio and Television	
	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Zürich	77,175	75,039	51,481	100,344
Bern	57,208	52,230	41,413	68,312
Lucerne	18,761	11,707	17,646	12,988
Uri	2,404	2,029	2,436	2,061
Schwyz	3,714	5,204	3,933	5,010
Obwalden	1,552	920	1,321	1,159
Nidwalden	1,799	1,344	1,589	1,541
Glarus	3,806	2,719	1,140	5,392
Zug	3,042	2,403	2,767	2,716
Fribourg	8,072	8,947	9,279	7,739
Solothurn	13,062	12,121	11,285	13,244
Baselstadt	9,610	11,906	8,146	13,346
Baselland	8,160	8,617	5,804	10,858
Schaffhausen	6,910	6,701	4,795	8,870
Appenzell A.Rh.	4,783	4,380	1,461	7,703
Appenzell I.Rh.	902	736	933	724
St. Gall	27,556	25,983	16,555	34,352
Graubuenden	11,890	7,452	5,790	13,707
Aargau	33,889	35,162	26,134	43,171
Thurgau	15,831	14,039	12,662	17,072
Ticino	6,949	5,673	8,807	3,868
Vaud	21,829	47,668	41,053	28,445
Valais	12,975	19,071	17,571	14,716
Neuchâtel	3,362	13,573	9,438	7,519
Genève	5,532	13,951	16,295	3,002

50.8 per cent of the electors went to the poll.

The National Council, the lower House of the Swiss Parliament, has approved a Government credit of 136 million francs for military projects, including fortifications, underground workshops, warehouses and fuel storage tanks.

The Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone administration has made a net profit of 58.8 million francs in 1956.

Monsieur Alfred Fischli, Counsellor of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Brussels, has been appointed head of the Information and Press Service at the Federal Political Department in Berne, in succession to Dr. René Keller, who has been transferred to Paris as 1st Counsellor of Legation.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 19.2 million passengers in the month of January 1957, or 1.1 million more than in January, 1956. Receipts: 24.00 million francs (January 1956: 23.6 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.92 million tons, an increase of 230, tons over the same period in 1956. Receipts: 37.2 million francs (January 1956: 32.6 million francs).

Monsieur Jorge Govantes y Aguirre, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Cuba, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Hans Streuli, and to the Foreign Minister, M. Max Petitpierre, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, April 30th, 1957, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.,
at Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Agenda: Minutes of last meeting.

Admissions.

Resignations.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Elections.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than, Monday, April 29th, 1957.

THE COMMITTEE.

Cantonal

The 25 million francs loan at 3½ per cent issued by the "Luzerner Kantonalbank" has been considerably oversubscribed. [A.T.S.]

A three-seater De Havilland Moth aeroplane belonging to the Aero-Club Zurich crashed near the Kloten airport. The pilot, Walter Naegeli (38), of Zurich, was killed. The two passengers, Markus Bosshard (34), a school teacher of Zug, and Hans Ghilmetti (18) also of Zug, received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Frederic Graf (Socialist) has been elected President of the commune of Moutier with 859 votes. His opponent, the candidate of the Liberal-Radical party, received 656 votes. [A.T.S.]

A brown bear was shot dead by police at Fribourg after escaping from the local Zoo and mauling a man in the street. [A.T.S.]

During the month of February 1957, 131 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Basle-Town. Two persons were killed and 83 injured. [A.T.S.]

A goods train consisting of 10 trucks standing at Gelterkinden suddenly started moving, racing towards Sissach at the speed of 60 m.ph. The runaway train hit the rear of a goods train causing £50,000 worth of damage. The driver of the goods train was treated for shock. [A.T.S.]

The loan of 20 million francs at 3½ per cent issued by the States Bank, Fribourg, has been heavily oversubscribed and allocations had to be reduced [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Helene Champoud an inmate of the Julie Hofmann Hostel, Lausanne, has celebrated her 100th birthday on which occasion she was presented with the traditional easy-chair by the cantonal Government.

Mlle. Champoud in her younger years was governess to the children of Prince Kinsky in Vienna, Lord Hamilton, and the Duke of Manchester. [A.T.S.]

Three persons were killed when a motorist, Armand Genetti, of Ardon, ran over three pedestrians near Saxon (Ct. Valais). The names of the victims are Mme. Brun (47) of Saxon, Mme Carruzzo (53) of Saxon, and Léon Brun (43), a farmer, of Saxon. The motorist has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

The strength of the various parties in the newly elected Grand Council of the canton of Valais is as follows: 84 Conservatives (1 gain), 30 Radicals (4 gains), 10 Socialists (2 losses) and 6 Peasant Party (3 losses). [A.T.S.]

All the five members of the Government of the canton of Valais have been re-elected. They are: Carl Anthamatten (Conservative) 23,522 votes, Marcel Gross (Conservative) 24,379 votes, Marius Lampert (Conservative) 24,941 votes, Oscar Schnyder (Conservative) 23,630 votes, and Marcel Gard (Radical) 22,180 votes. [A.T.S.]

M. Samuel Destraz (Essertes) has been appointed Prefect of the Oron district (Ct. Vaud) in succession to the late M. Robert Porchet. [A.T.S.]

M. Georges-Henri Martin, for 15 years foreign correspondent of the "Tribune de Genève" in the

United States of America, has been appointed assistant editor-in-chief of that paper. [A.T.S.]

The Geneva motor show was opened on 14th March by Dr. Hans Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]

A smash-and-grab raid took place at a Jeweller's in the Rue du Montblanc, Geneva; goods to the value of 10,000.—frs. were stolen. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Madame Frida Hilty-Groebli, author of many dialect works, in St. Gall at the age of 65.

Dr. med. Johann Benedikt Joerger, from 1930 to 1946 head of the "Kantonalen Heil-und Pflegeanstalt Waldhaus" near Chur. The deceased was also well known as an author of plays, stories and poems. He died in Masans near Chur, aged 71.

Professor Augusto Sartori, well-known painter of frescos, in Bellinzona at the age of 77.

Johannes Steiner, the Doyen of Swiss actors, in St. Gall, aged 77. The deceased had been since 1930 acting at the Municipal Theatre of St. Gall. Previously he had been acting at the theatres of Munich, Dresden and Hamburg.

Jean Uhler, a former member of the Grand Council of Geneva, at Geneva at the age of 82. He at one time played an important role in the political life of the town of Geneva.

Karl von Schumacher, founder and editor of the "Weltwoche", Zurich, in Lucerne, aged 62. He took his law degree at the University of Berne and in



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1919 entered the diplomatic service. From 1925 to 1932 he was a member of the editorial staff of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", and founded the "Weltwoche" in 1932.

Henri Jaccotet, from 1925 to 1937 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and from 1936 to 1939 a Member of Parliament (National Council), in Payerne at the age of 76.

Otto Schmid, in Veytaux, aged 84. The deceased, an architect by profession, has been in charge of the restoration of about 40 castles in Switzerland, amongst them the Chillon castle. He was from 1929 to 1941 President of the commune of Veytaux and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In the army he held the rank of Colonel (Corps of engineers).

Dr. Eduard Heberlein, from 1945 to 1956 President of the Board of the firm "Heberlein & Co. A.G." Wattwil, at Wattwil at the age of 83.

Ernst Schweri, in Chur, aged 74. He was conductor for 46 years of the "Männerchor" Chur and for 36 years of the "Caecilienverein". He was the founder of the "Churer Musikschule" and from 1937 to 1950 Music teacher at the "Bündner Kantonschule". [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARY.

Professor Ernst Duenner (70) of Zollikon, from 1924 until his retirement, Professor for "Elektromaschinebau" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and for 20 years President of the "Fachkollegien für elektrische Maschinen, für Transformatoren und für Traktion im Schweiz. elektrotechnischen Verein".

Dr. Robert Blass (70) of Zurich, Danish Consul and afterwards Consul General. For two years (1945 to 1947) he was President of the "Schweiz. Anwaltsverband" and since 1952 President of the Board of the "Elektrizitätswerk Rheinau.A.G."

Dr. med. Kurt Binswanger (70) of Zurich, a noted specialist in psychology and neurology, and lecturer at the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Buechi-Moesli of Flawil, Mr. & Mrs. J. Bernhard-Müller of Fribourg, Mr. & Mrs. A. Kiefer-Bertolf of Basle.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Allmend-Jornod of Le Locle have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65 years). [A.T.S.]

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VARIOUS.

Here are some balances of the accounts for 1956 of the following cantons:

Appenzell I.Rh. *credit* balance 24,838.— frs.; Glarus *debit* balance 351,500.— frs. Zug *credit* balance 24,880.— frs.

The Swiss pilot L. Kunz has succeeded in landing a helicopter on Piz Zupo (13,120 ft.) in the Bernina group.

On March 1st, 1957, there were 22,643 television subscribers in Switzerland.

Five Swiss cave explorers trapped in the "Hell Hole" Grotto near Muotatal, Southeast Switzerland, for five days, emerged safely. As soon as the water level fell low enough they waded through a section which had been flooded when rain seeped through the mountainside. They had lived on emergency provisions left in a dry part of the caverns.

DC-8 FLIGHT SIMULATOR FOR SWISSAIR.

The Board of Directors of Swissair has decided to order a DC-8 Flight Simulator for delivery in the summer of 1959. It will allow intensive crew training to be carried out for more than six months before the arrival of the first of three Douglas DC-8 jet liners which the Company has on order. The simulator will cost £385,000.

Dealing with the accounts for the last year, the Board has recommended a dividend of six per cent for 1956 (same as for 1955).

Total revenue for 1956 was 159 million Swiss

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francs, against 130 million in 1955. Expenditure, after larger appropriations for amortisation and reserves, was 156.3 million (1955: 128 million).

Net profit totalled 2,645,490 francs, to which is to be added the previous year's carry-over of 226,117 francs.

SWITZERLAND'S ECONOMIC LIFE IN 1956.

The year 1956 was, economically speaking, one of the best Switzerland has ever experienced. Production, income and consumption hit new highs. As for employment, there were more jobs open than there were unemployed persons to fill them, and there was an increased demand for workers from abroad.

Also in 1956, Swiss imports increased tremendously, while exports maintained a level which experts term "satisfactory". The *foreign trade* leaves Switzerland in the red, with a passive balance of about twice that for 1955.

Prosperity, with its advantages, as well as its disadvantages, is still continuing. Most Swiss firms reached the ceiling of their production capacity in 1956, and rare are the industrial sectors for consumer goods where this was not the case. Swiss *capital-goods industries* continued on a high level and the fact that there has been little expansion here is attributed to the observation that the turnover had reached a maximum at the beginning of the year. Manufacturers of *consumer goods*, particularly the textile industry, were able to make up for relative lost time and only the shortage of labour is accountable for the fact that the equilibrium was not completely re-established.

Swiss imports have risen sharply as a result of the increase of the *buying power* of the population. The turnover of *Swiss retailers* for the current year was up by about seven per cent.

The surplus demand for labour and goods, and the insufficient supply of both, have naturally had repercussions on *wages and prices*. Wage demands of the workers applied for a larger share in the profits due to the period of prosperity, as the rise in the cost of living has already been compensated for. The government and the country's economic circles have organized consultative conferences between labour and management to study the situation and prevent spiralling prices and wages. The *cost of living* has gone up by two per cent this year, after having remained stable during the three preceding years.

The increase in imports, the considerable investments and the intense industrial activity in Switzerland this year, have contributed largely to the need for capital and brought on a tightening down on the *money market*. At the end of the autumn season, the situation was tenser than it had been for many years. Interests have gone up slightly and this movement was favoured by anti-inflationist measures taken by the government and by banks. Contrary to the situation in other countries, there are no signs of a letting up in the current period of prosperity in Switzerland, except in the construction branch. For this reason, the National Bank of Switzerland has preferred to keep on practising a flexible policy of credit restriction, in order to maintain the stability of currency and the equilibrium of the nation's economy.