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pointed out, believe in maintaining a sound balance between demand and supply and have never allowed bureaucratic protectionism to interfere with natural market requirements.

\* \* \*

**Switzerland has 47 airports.**

Switzerland has no less than 47 airports equipped for landings and take-offs of non-military planes. Only three of them, it is true, are international airports with permanent customs services, i.e. Zurich-Kloten, Geneva-Cointrin and Basel-Blotzheim. Airports with limited customs services are at Berne-Belp, Lausanne, Sion, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Samedan near St. Moritz, Locarno-Magadino, Lugano-Agno, Altenrhein near St. Gallen and Porrentruy. Moreover there are 34 public airfields where private aircraft may land after the pilots have consulted a customs airport as to terrain conditions.

\* \* \*

The price of petrol in Switzerland has been reduced by 2d. a gallon. Ordinary will now cost 3s. 4d a gallon and super grade 3s. 7d.

\* \* \*

The first railcar of a new series has been delivered for the Chur-Arosa railway in Switzerland. These modern and more powerful cars will gradually replace the older types, which date back to 1914. Track improvements at Göschenen Station will permit normal speeds through the station and facilities available for the loading and unloading of cars and coaches will be greatly improved. This station is the northern transhipment point for road vehicles passing by rail through the Gotthard Tunnel when the road across the pass is impracticable.

The office of Secretary to the **SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY** and its **COLLEGE** will shortly become vacant. The appointment is a full-time one and includes attendance at committee and council meetings in the evening. Proficiency in English, German and French is essential. Ability to teach shorthand (Stolze-Schrey system) is an advantage. Candidates should write by April 23rd to: The Chairman of the Council, Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd., 34/35 Fitzroy Square, London W.1, marking the envelope "Private".

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**ANOTHER " AFFAIRE ".**

The various happenings recorded in the Swiss Press during the past few months in the Federal Services are causing great anxiety, and one wonders what will come next.

The suicide of the Federal Attorney General, M. R. Dubois, has caused a considerable sensation in Switzerland, coming after the recent imprisonment of the Director of the Federal Customs Administration and the dismissal of his principal assistant, the suicide after misappropriation of funds by the chief of the Federal Office for dealing with Swiss residing abroad, the dismissal of the chief of the post office finance division for breach of trust, and the participation of a military attaché in commission realized on the purchase of Centurions from Britain.

It is no secret that for some time investigations were afoot concerning serious indiscretions which had been committed, it is alleged, by an Inspector of the Federal Police in tapping the Egyptian Legation's phone during the Suez crisis, and passing on secret diplomatic information to a foreign Embassy in Berne. Mr. Dubois by his status as Attorney General was entrusted with these investigations, which apparently took the usual course until it became known that he had committed suicide after the police questioned him about possible connection in this matter. By his death, the enquiries have suffered a set-back owing to the fact that he was, no doubt, *au courant* with the relevant facts. His death has, however, not put an end to the enquiries. The Federal Tribunal and the Government have entrusted Dr. Hans Walder, State Prosecutor of the canton of Zurich, with further investigations, together with Mr. Hans Fürst, President of the District Court of Horgen.

There does not seem to have ever been any question of money reward for the action of Mr. Dubois, which probably was solely the result of his abhorrence of totalitarian methods.

\* \* \*

M. René Dubois was born in 1908. On completion of his law studies he qualified in 1934 as an advocate. In 1934, he was appointed as district commissioner by the League of Nations in charge of the arrangements for the elections in the Saar district.

He entered the service of the Confederation in 1936 where he made a rapid career. Thirteen years later (1949) Dubois was elected substitute to the Attorney General, and in 1955 he was elected Federal Attorney General.

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