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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

The Federal Parliament has approved the £13 million order for 100 Hawker Hunter turbo-jet fighters. The Government has also announced a proposal to buy British jet engines for 100 Swiss built fighter aircraft.

* * *

Federal-Councillor G. Lepori, head of the Federal Post & Railway Department, has left for India on a two weeks private visit.

* * *

The Swiss electorate in a ballot held on January 26th, rejected by 549,842 votes to 191,934 the "Kartell Initiative" (Abuses of economic power). Only 50 per cent of the electorate went to the poll.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of December 1957, totalled 74.9 million francs, of this amount the Confederation receives 55.3 million francs or 5.1 million francs less than in December 1956.

The receipts for the year 1957, total 698 million francs or 31.4 million francs more than during the same period in 1956.

Cantonal

A bust in memory of the well-known author and restaurateur Ernst Zahn, who died in 1952, was unveiled at Göschenen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Uri for 1957, close with a credit-balance of 278,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

At the end of December 1957, the town of Zurich numbered 428,173 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A limited company under the name "Migros Bank" has been formed in Zurich with a share capital of 10 million francs (fully paid up). The company is to be run as a Bank. President of the Board is Mr. Gottfried Kleiner, and amongst the five Directors is National Councillor Duttweiler. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1957, 8,317 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich. (1956: 8,243).

5,015 persons were injured (1956: 4,909) of whom 150 succumbed to their injuries (1956: 147). [A.T.S.]

* * *

383 traffic accidents were registered during the year 1957 in the canton of Zug. 18 persons were killed and 245 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Colonel Reinhold Kaeser has tendered his resignation as chief medical advisor of the Swiss Red Cross. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mlle. Magdalena Seiler of Boenigen (Ct. Berne), has celebrated her 100th birthday at the Interlaken district hospital. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The oldest woman inhabitant of the canton of Solothurn, Mrs. Sophie Meyer-Kaiser of Eppenberg, has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

1,257 traffic accidents occurred during 1957 in the canton of Solothurn, 1,139 persons were injured, and 30 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The population of the town of Schaffhausen on the 31st December 1957, numbered 29,412. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The oldest inhabitant of the commune of Hemberg and the Toggenburg, Georg Frei, has celebrated his 99th birthday. [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

A Card Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 4th, 1958.** As no circulars will be sent out for this meeting will members kindly note the date and advise the Dorchester Hotel of their intention to be present by the day previous to the Meeting. (This can be done by telephoning Miss Martin at the Dorchester Hotel, Telephone: MAYfair 8888).

Th. von SPEYR,
Hon. Secretary.

The commune of Amriswil (Ct. Thurgau) has honoured Mr. Hermann Gremminger, well-known chronicler and champion for the retention of old historical costumes, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, with honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The new airlift connecting Verdasio and Rasa in the Centovalli has been opened. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Pierre Bucher has been elected to the post of President of the District Court of Aigle in succession to M. Charles Gillieron. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mlle. Françoise Vorradori (32) of Gordola (Ct. Ticino) was killed when two motor-cars were involved in a head-on collision near Locarno. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Frau Schifferli-Schifferli of Remetschwil (Ct. Aargau) has recently given birth to her 19th child. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Ernst von Rothen (Conservative), President of the commune of Raron, has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Valais, in succession to the late Karl Anthamatten. [A.T.S.]

* * *

According to figures just published the largest communes of the canton of Neuchâtel are: La Chaux-de-Fonds (38,751 inhabitants), Neuchâtel (31,786), Le Locle (13,664), Peseux (4,653), Fleurier (3,790), Couvet (3,348) Corcelles-Cormondreche (2,757), Boudry (2,523), Colombier (2,522), St. Blaise (2,031), and Le Landeron-Combes (1,900). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The American Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Henry J. Taylor, paid a courtesy visit to the rector of the Geneva University, Professor Paul E. Wenger, and presented him with a collection of historical books. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Gottlieb Berli, in Basle at the age of 77. The deceased was a member of the "Bürgerrat", and the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town. From 1949 to 1953, he held the post of President of the "Bürgerrat".

Arnoldo de Marchi, consulting engineer, in Astano (Ct. Ticino) aged 97. He was the founder and chief architect of the town of Junin in Argentina, returning to Switzerland in 1946.

Karl Roth, composer of a large number of "Basler Trommel & Pfeiffermärsche" in Basle at the age of 79.

Brigade-Colonel Adolf Furrer, a former Director of the "Waffenfabrik" Berne, in Minusio aged 85.

Dr. h.c. Armand Gonvers-Sallaz, Geometrician, and from 1913 to 1957, head of the registration office for land of the town of Lausanne. (Grundbuchamt) in Lausanne aged 75. The University of Lausanne honoured him in 1947 with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Charles-Ulysse Corlet, author in La Chaux-de-Fonds at the age of 51.

Dr. med. Hermann Wille, for many years head of the "Heil-und Pflegeanstalt" Münsterlingen (Ct. Thurgau) in St. Gall aged 90.

Mme. Josette Donnet-Biollay, the oldest

inhabitant of the canton of Valais, in Monthey aged 101.

Auguste Girond, a former conductor of the Kursaal orchestra Montreux, and Professor at the Conservatoire Lausanne at the age of 85.

Dr. h.c. Hans Eggenberger, formerly chief engineer of the Swiss Federal Railways, in Berne aged 80. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich honoured him in 1937 with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Rudolf Graber, a former teacher at the Gymnasium Basle, and author of the "Basler Fährungsgeschichten" in Basle at the age of 59.

Pastor Abel Burckhardt, at one time "Stadtpfarrer" in Glarus, in Basle aged 87.

Gabriel Chamorel, formerly Professor of theology at the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne at the age of 87.

Dr. Erhard Branger, at one time Director of the Rhätischen Railways, "Landammann" of the commune of Davos, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Chur aged 77.

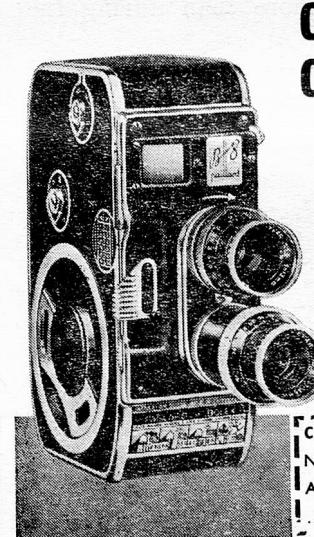
ANNIVERSARIES.

Emil Leuenberger (80) of Zurich, a former President of the Socialist Party of the town of Zurich, a well-known personality in Trade Union circles, and a member of the "Kantonsrat".

Maurice Matthey (80) of Le Locle, well-known landscape painter.

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Edmond Bille (80) of Neuchâtel, eminent landscape painter, and since 1939, an honorary citizen of the commune of Siders (Ct. Valais).

Hermann Odermatt (70) of Beckenried, since 1919, a member of the editorial staff, and since 1933, editor in chief of the "Neuen Zürcher Nachrichten", and a member of the "Kantonsrat". [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Mlle. Anna Dünnenberger of Weinfelden has left the amount of 30,000.— francs to various charitable institutions.

Mr. Alexander Jakob Keller, who recently died in Schaffhausen, has left the sum of 114,000.— francs to different institutions, and his collection of pictures to the Museum zu Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen.

The late Heinrich Guyer of Regensdorf (Ct. Zurich) has left a legacy of 10,000.— francs to the church community of Regensdorf. [A.T.S.]

* * *

BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1957: Solothurner Handelsbank, Solothurn: 7 per cent (1956: 7 per cent), Volksbank Willisau, A.G.: 5½ per cent (1956: 5½ per cent), Bank für Hypotheken & Kleinkredite, A.G., Zurich: 5 per cent, Banque Populaire de la Gruyère: 6 per cent (1956: 6 per cent), Verband Schweizerischer Darlehenskasse (System Rafeisen): 4 per cent, Schweiz. Spar & Kreditbank, St. Gall: 5.1 per cent (1956: 5.1 per cent), Gewerbekasse Bern: 8 per cent (1956: 8 per cent), Gewerbekasse Baden: 5½ per cent (1956: 5½ per cent).

* * *

VARIOUS.

Eight members of a new Himalayan expedition under the leadership of Werner Stäuble (Zurich) have recently left Switzerland. The expedition has a private character and is financed by private persons, its object is to climb the Dhaulagiri (8,222m.) in the Himalayan chain, which so far has not been conquered. It is the 3rd Swiss attempt, former attempts by French, German and Argentinian expeditions have proved unsuccessful.

* * *

Zweisimmen has built the longest aerial cableway in the whole of Europe. 163 two-seater gondolas are ready to whisk tourists to the Rinderberg, at an elevation of 3,500 ft. above the village in a three-mile long magic-carpet ride.

On March 19th, 1958 the Giant Slalom sponsored by Federal Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer will take place for the second time at Mürren (Bernese Oberland). The competitions are open to all.

* * *

From June next onwards the new TEE (Trans Europe Express) connection Geneva-Milan will cover more than 200 mile long distance in about four hours, stopping only three times, at Lausanne, Brig and the Italian frontier town of Domodossola. The customs formalities will take place in the trains.

* * *

A major tourist attraction in the picturesque lake-side town of Neuchâtel is the Fine-Arts Museum with its famous automatons or mechanical dolls. Operated by intricate watch-movements, a "writer", a "musician" and a "designer" will perform their true-life little jobs with amazing precision, thus giving credit to the several generations of proficient watch-makers who have lived and toiled in the Jura Mountains of Switzerland since these tiny man-made creatures were born. The three little "artists" are named after their constructor, the "Jaquet-Droz automatons", and their world-wide popularity is demonstrated in the many greeting cards which the dolls receive each year at Christmas from fans all over the globe, some of them being simply addressed to "Monsieur Jaquet-Droz, Automaton, Neuchâtel, Switzerland". In addition to the scheduled appearances of the automatons, more than two-hundred special performances had to be given last year for admirers from the USA, France, Germany, Italy and other countries.



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