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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is very much regretted that, through circumstances beyond our control, considerable inconvenience may have been suffered by our Readers and Advertisers through the recent printing dispute, during which period three numbers of the "Swiss Observer" have not been printed. The relative adjustments have been made to Subscribers' and Advertisers' accounts.

#### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Pierre-Henri Aubaret, at present Consul-General in Wellington, to the post of Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Indonesia, in succession to Monsieur Arnold Sonderegger, who has been transferred to Denmark.

The new Ambassador was born in 1913, and is a citizen of Geneva. He studied Law at the Universities of Berne and Geneva, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1940. Monsieur Aubaret successively held posts in London and Delhi. In 1955 he was appointed Consul-General in Wellington. In 1957 he was for six months Head of the Swiss delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea. (We extend heartiest congratulations to M. Aubaret, who during his stay in London made many friends.—Ed.)

The Swiss Legation in the Philippines has been raised to the status of Embassy, and Monsieur Walter Hofer, hitherto Swiss Minister in Manila, has received Ambassadorial rank.

Ambassador Hofer was born in 1905 in Ballmoos (Ct. Berne). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1926, and successively held posts at Milan, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vienna, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago de Chile, Algiers and Tenerife.

The Ambassadors of Denmark (Madame Bodil Gertrud Begtrup) and the Philippines (Monsieur

Tomas de Castro) and the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Monaco (Monsieur Henry Socum), have presented their credentials to Monsieur Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17 million passengers during the month of May 1959, or 800,000 less than in May 1958. Receipts: 28.3 million francs (1958: 29.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2 million tons, which is 80,000 tons less than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 39.6 million francs (1958: 41.1 million francs).

Customs receipts for the month of May 1959 totalled 83.1 million francs, of which amount the Confederation receives 58.7 million francs, or 2.1 million francs less than in May 1958.

During the first five months of the current year the receipts amounted to 228.6 million francs, which is 4 million francs less than during the same period in 1958.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the University of Geneva, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Swiss Ambassador in Washington, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

The election for the new National Council (196 members), which is due every four years, will be held on Sunday, 25th October, 1959.

The Federal Council has given a dinner, at the castle of Chillon (Ct. Vaud), to the foreign diplomats accredited to the Confederation.

### CITY SWISS CLUB

#### MEETING

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THE COMMITTEE.

**Cantonal**

The passenger steamers "Stadt Luzern" and "Uri" collided near the "Alpnacherlandbrücke" in Lucerne. Both steamers were damaged and were out of service for several days. (A.T.S.)

Dr. Robert Zumbühl (Liberal) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich with 60,791 votes; his opponent, Dr. Bruno Flueler (Christian Socialist) received 36,052 votes. (A.T.S.)

The "Sprüngli Haus" on the Paradeplatz in Zurich has celebrated its Centenary. (A.T.S.)

Mr. Albert Sieber, formerly Vice-President of the "Verkehrsverein" Zurich, has been elected President in succession to the late Dr. Cony Staehelin. (A.T.S.)

Burglaries occurred at jewellery establishments at the Markt and Kramgasse in Berne. Goods to the value of 120,000.— francs were stolen. (A.T.S.)

Mr. Rudolf Schulthess (56), since 1939 a member of the teaching staff, and since 1950 Vice-Director, of the "Kantonale Technikum Burgdorf", has been appointed to the post of Director. (A.T.S.)

The Centenary of the "Kursaal" Interlaken was recently celebrated with a banquet at the "Kursaal", at which the Government of the canton of Berne took part *in corpore*. (A.T.S.)

Flight-Lieutenant Felix Friederich (30, of Payerne, was killed when his "Venom" machine crashed on taking off at the Payerne airport. (A.T.S.)

The well-known restaurant "Sensebrücke" in Flamatt (Ct. Fribourg) was totally destroyed by fire. The damage caused exceeds 80,000.— francs. (A.T.S.)

A courtesy visit by the Turkish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Fahrettin Kerim Goekay, was paid to the Government of the canton of Fribourg. (A.T.S.)

The "Caisse de maladie, Avenir" in Fribourg has celebrated its Centenary. (A.T.S.)

Two motorists, previously fined for driving when under the influence of alcohol, received sentences of three months' imprisonment for the same offence from the Basle Police Court. (A.T.S.)

The Yugoslav Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Smodlaka, paid an official visit to the town of Basle. He was received at the Town Hall, and afterwards paid a visit to the "Kunstmuseum" and the Rhine Ports. (A.T.S.)

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The well-known "Basler Handelsgesellschaft, A.G.", which was originated by the "Basler Mission", has celebrated its 100th jubilee. (A.T.S.)

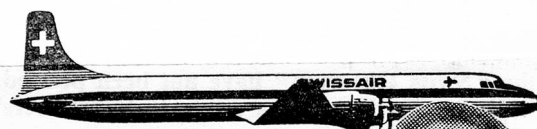
Mr. Alex Hug, of Vaduz, lost his life on an ascent in the Grialetsch district near the Rothhornfurka (Ct. Grisons). (A.T.S.)

Damage amounting to between 600,000.— and 700,000.— francs was caused by fire which broke out at the "Holzbauwerk" in Ilanz. (A.T.S.)

A masked man, brandishing a revolver, entered the ticket office of the Klingnau-Doettingen railway station (Ct. Aargau). He forced the cashier to open the safe, from which he took 3,500.— francs and then left. (A.T.S.)

A tractor driven by Aldo Barudoni (45), of Chironico, with his son Aldo (14) as passenger, crashed into a ravine near Chironico (Ct. Ticino); both father and son were killed. (A.T.S.)

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Dr. Jur. Giordano Beati (31), of Chiasso, has been elected as Chancellor of the canton of Ticino. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

Mr. Léon Bernard (43), of Lausanne, an employee of the Swiss Federal Railways, and his wife Edith, were drowned when their sailing boat overturned outside Vevey. Their 18-year-old son, Yves-Edouard, was saved by the steamer "La Suisse". (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The "Crédit Foncier Vaudois" has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation. Amongst the many guests at a banquet which was held on the occasion, was M. Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Mr. Dietschi, President of the National Council. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The "AIDA 59" exhibition (International Food Exhibition), which was held at Lausanne, closed its doors after 185,000 persons had passed through its turnstiles. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

Dr. med. Alexandre June (57), a medical practitioner in Geneva, lost his life in the "Petite Gorge" district on the Salève. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. h.c. Arnold Gugelmann-Legler, in Langenthal, at the age of 79. The deceased was for many years Head of the textile concern "Gugelmann & Cie., A.G." Langenthal, and for thirty-four years he was a member of the Board of CIBA, Basle. In the army he held the rank of a cavalry Colonel.

Dr. Albert Lardelli, in Chur, aged 71. A prominent lawyer and politician, he was for thirteen years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and for eight years a member of the Cantonal Government. The deceased sat in Parliament (States Council) for twenty-two years.

Dr. Alfred Comtesse, a former Manager of the CIBA works, Monthey, in Geneva, at the age of 75. The deceased was the son of the late Federal Councillor Robert Comtesse.

Maurice Meyer, lawyer, and since 1930 President of the Board of "Publicitas, A.G.", in Pully, aged 71.

Jean Krebs, advocate, and a former Director of the "Caisse cantonale d'assurance populaire" Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 67.

Professor Dr. Werner Fehlmann, a teacher of natural science at the *Gymnasium* Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen, aged 72.

Carl Johann Weyermann, formerly editor of the "Toggenburger Anzeiger", in Wil, at the age of 80.

August Dechant, conductor and composer, in St. Gall, aged 86.

Hermann Jaquet, from 1924 to 1930 a member

of the Government of the canton Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 67.

Konrad Gehring, a former teacher, and Head of the "Freilandheim" above Rüdlingen, in Schaffhausen, aged 78.

Dr. Ernst Jenny, for many years a teacher of the German language and singing at the "Humanistischen Gymnasium", Basle, in Basle, at the age of 85.

Professor Dr. phil. Kollros, from 1904 to 1909 a teacher at the University of Neuchâtel, and from 1910 to 1948 Professor of Geometry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, aged 81.

Auguste Fiedler, Founder and President of the Board of the concern "Fiedler, S.A.", La Chaux-de-Fonds, in Neuchâtel, at the age of 87.

Mme. Vivy Barck, since 1942 foreign correspondent for Turkish affairs of the "Neuer Zürcher Zeitung" in Berne.

Professor Dr. Franz Stadler, for forty years Professor of Historical Art at the University of Zurich, and author of a number of scientific works and biographies, in Zurich, aged 82.

Eugène Simon, lawyer, and from 1933 to 1945 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Lausanne, at the age of 68.

Dr. phil. and Dr. med. h.c. Paul Laeuger, in Gentilino nr. Lugano, aged 63. The deceased was honoured in 1944 with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Basle for his work in Chemistry.

Fräulein Barbara Wolfensberger, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Winterthur, in Winterthur, at the age of 103. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Dr. Hans Steiner (70), of Zurich; since 1939 *Ordinarius* for Zoology at the University of Zurich, and Founder and Director of the "Tiergartengesellschaft" and the Zoological Gardens Zurich.

Dr. phil. S. D. Steinberg (70), of Lucerne, journalist and author. Amongst his works are best known his books of poetry published under the title "Klingende Erlebnis", and his book "Der kleine Spiegel".

Former Federal Councillor Dr. Enrico Celio (70), of Biasca and Quinto. After attending the local schools and the College at Balerna he completed his early education at Milan and Einsiedeln. Afterwards he studied Literature and Law at the Universities of Florence, Milan and Freiburg i. Ue. Returning home, Dr. Celio was entrusted with the editorship of the Catholic-Conservative paper, "Popolo e Libertà", and later practised as an advocate in Biasca. In 1924 he was for the first time elected a member of the National Council, but in 1932 he had to relinquish his seat on being elected a member of the Ticinese Government. On the death of Federal Councillor G.

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Motta, he entered in 1940 the Federal Government. He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1943 and 1948. In 1950 he resigned from the Federal Council and became Swiss Minister in Rome, which post he vacated in 1955, on reaching retiring age.

Karl Haenny (80), of Bipschal-Ligerz, eminent sculptor and portrait and landscape painter.

Jakob Hecht (80), of Basle, "Nestor der Rheinschiffahrt". Professor Theodor Heuss, President of the West German Republic, on the occasion of his birthday has honoured him with the "Verdienstkreuz des Verdienstordens der Bundesrepublik Deutschland".

Dr. Carl Peter (60), of Basle. He was from 1933 to 1944 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, and since 1944 has been a member of the Government of the canton of Basle-Town.

[A.T.S.]

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### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Frau Hauser-Hauser, widow of the late Federal Judge Victor Hauser, has left 15,500.— francs to the "Ferienkolonie" Waedenswil.

Mr. and Mrs. Jakob Iseli-Meister, of Spiez (Ct. Berne), have donated 200,000.— francs to the "Verein für das Alter" of the district Niedersimmental.

The "Evangelische Kirchgemeinde Wildhaus", of Obertoggenburg, has received a donation of 10,000.— francs from Dr. ing. Max Koenig, of Oberdorf.

The "Krankenhaus" Uster has received from an anonymous donor the amount of 5,000.— francs.

The late Mr. Jakob Traugott Senn-Christen, of Unterkulm (Ct. Aargau), has left a legacy of 30,000.— francs to the commune of Unterkulm towards the costs of erecting a home for old people.

[A.T.S.]

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### CENTENARIANS.

The following have recently celebrated their 100th birthday: Jakob Pfund, "Oberlehrer" in Hallau (Ct. Schaffhausen); C. Henri Hensler, of the "Altersheim" Lindenhof, St. Gall; Mme Elisa Jacot-Nicoud, of La Chaux-de-Fonds; Frau Johanna Annasohn-Grünnefelder, of Uttwil. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Odiet-Schmidlin, of Basle; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Merz-Egger, of St. Gall; Mr. and Mrs. J. Dillenz-Oechsle, of Kreuzlingen; Mr. and Mrs. A. Zenklusen, of Simplon-Dorf; Mr. and Mrs. E. Traber-Baechtold, of Goldach (St. Gall); Mr. and Mrs. A. Monnier, of Corcelles.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Schoch-Merk, of Winterthur, have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65).

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motorist on overtaking a car and two motor-cycles, on the road between Lenzburg and Wohlen, was involved in a head-on collision. The car was hurled against a tree and caught fire. The driver, Fräulein Ruth Schwab (27), of Thun, was killed.

Two persons lost their lives when a motor-cycle with a pillion rider collided with a train on a level-crossing in Zuchwil (Ct. Solothurn). Those killed were: Fritz Zürcher (55), engineer, and Marc Carnal (55), engineer.

Paul Schneider (33), trolleybus employee, of Bienne, was killed when his motor-cycle collided with a lorry at Pontresina. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

#### VARIOUS.

The "Exposition officielle des Beaux Arts" Paris has awarded the Gold Medal to the Swiss painter, Conrad Meili. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government at the time put at the disposal of the administration of the Swiss pavilion at the Brussels World Exhibition a credit of 7,670,000.—francs. According to recent report issued by the "Zentrale für Handelsförderung" only 5,680,000.—francs were called upon. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

Professor Dr. Hans Goldmann, *Ordinarius* for Ophthalmology at the University of Berne, on the occasion of the Congress of the Association for Research into Ophthalmology held in Atlantic City was presented with the Proctor Medal. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

St. Gall, the charming metropolis of North-eastern Switzerland, well-known "centre of fashion amongst lakes and mountains" and, according to some experts, the city which harbours the largest number of pretty girls in Switzerland, is going to stage an especially spectacular show of elegance this autumn, from 9th to 13th September. Apart from its traditional International Horsemanship Meet, St. Gall will this year organize the Pre-Olympic Training Test, and the world's best in both "concours hippique" and "breaking-in" are expected to participate. As these two outstanding sports events coincide with the 200th anniversary of one of St. Gall's most important firms in the embroidery industry, especial stress will be laid on fashion shows and other arrangements attracting the gentle sex.

\* \* \*

Berne, the capital of the Swiss Confederation and one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe (population 160,000), is now again linked to the international air-traffic network by daily Swissair flights to and from Zurich Intercontinental Airport. A 4,000-foot concrete runway was recently inaugurated at the city's airport of Belpmoos after the condition of the original lawn runway some time ago had proved so unsatisfactory that Swissair had been compelled to cancel all flights to and from Berne. Belpmoos is considered here as just a "provisional stage"; plans for a new airport with possibilities for medium-range aircraft may be realized within a few years.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, 11th September 1959. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: C. Pulfer, Th. Erb, H. Knoll, A. Gallusser, E. Laechler, O. Vonarx, H. O. Ernst, J. W. Frick, A. Renou, F. Bassi, Th. Siegfried, C. Nater, J. A. Steiner, J. P. Locher, V. L. Battailard, A. Gandon, Mrs. L. R. Clements, L. Moore, J. C. Wetter, F. C. Lichtensteiger, A. Kiener, H. Ott, F. B. Tschudy, G. Bruschweiler, P. E. Jenny, C. E. Seinet, Ch. L. Chapuis, F. Streit, E. M. Hamilton, G. Reubi, Mrs. M. Lyddon, J. Stettler, R. Schweizer, Agenzia Danzi, Locarno, Miss A. Baumgartner, Miss F. Blaser.

(To be continued.)

#### J. J. SCHNEIDER. †

We deeply regret to record the passing, on the 8th instant, of Mr. John James Schneider, at the age of 78 years. He died in hospital, where he had been, rather seriously ill, for the past seven weeks, but his end came quite peacefully and he breathed his last in the presence of his daughter, his only child.

Mr. Schneider, known to his intimates as 'Jack', was born at Bâle in March 1881, where he attended the local elementary and higher schools. On leaving, he entered an apprenticeship with a well-known firm of upholsterers and interior decorators.

Next, our friend emigrated to Frankfurt, to attend a school which specialised in training young interior decorators, where cutting, calculating and other matters were taught. He then entered employment in Berlin, when young Mr. Schneider was sent for several journeys on large Liners to the U.S.A., supervising and maintaining the installation of carpets, furnishings, etc.

In 1906 he arrived in London. For the first few years he was engaged with a car firm, in charge of the upholstery department. Later on, having married an English lady in 1913, he established himself in business on his own account and opened a factory for cane furniture and basketware. In the course of years, however, the fashion and demand for this type of furniture died out and Mr. Schneider was reluctantly compelled to liquidate his business.

In March 1930 the Swiss Mercantile Society held a special Meeting, at which Mr. Schneider was elected Secretary, a position which he took over on 1st April of that year and held with distinction until the end of 1952. He put his heart and soul into his work, and was of great assistance, not only to the Society, its Council and Committees, but also to the teaching staff and students. In the latter he took a particular and fatherly interest, and regularly conducted them on sightseeing tours through the London he loved and knew so well. During the war years, when the College had perforce to close its doors, Mr. Schneider was invited by his friend, the late Mr. P. F. Boehringer, to join the staff of the Frederick Printing Co. Ltd., where he soon acquainted himself with his new duties and did very good work, assisting also in the publication of the 'Swiss Observer'.

Mr. Schneider resumed his duties as Secretary of the S.M.S. Ltd. at 'Swiss House' as soon as its doors opened again after the war for the re-admission of students.

In 1952, whilst on his holidays at Stornoway in the Hebrides, our friend was stricken with a streptococcus infection in his legs and had to be flown back to London, where he was obliged to enter hospital immediately. This illness unfortunately hastened the day of his retirement, which, to everyone's regret — particularly his own — had to take place on 31st December 1952. Thus his successful Secretaryship came to an untimely close.

Mr. Schneider was also an ardent Freemason and held the rank of a Grand Officer in the Craft, the Royal Arch and Mark. He was one of the originators and founders of the Helvetica Lodge and its Secretary from the time of consecration to the day of his passing, which means during the long span of 32 years.

In all circles where Jack Schneider had been active, he will be very greatly missed, for he always gave of his best. Moreover, he had a great capacity for friendship and was essentially 'a man's man'. All his many friends will ever remember him with gratitude and affection.

The funeral took place on Thursday, 13th August, at Golders Green Crematorium, and was attended by many of his old friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. Miss Doris Voegelin, Vicarress of the Swiss Church in London, who, after reading the appropriate passages of Scripture, gave a beautiful, moving and uplifting address, in which she stressed the many gifts with which the dear departed had been blessed and which made his long life such a rich one. Mr. A. C. Stahelin, an old and close friend, also spoke in eloquent terms, bringing home to those who knew Jack Schneider well, how much he had given them in many different ways and how greatly he would be missed. Mr. Stahelin also mentioned Miss Schneider's exemplary devotion to duty and assured her and her mother of the real sympathy of all their friends.

To Mrs. Schneider, unfortunately in rather poor health, and to her dutiful and devoted daughter, we express our deepest sympathy in their bereavement. W.D.

## THE FAILURE OF JURASSIAN SEPARATISM.

By PIERRE BÉGUIN.

An important Popular Referendum took place recently in the canton of Berne. The voters had been called upon to express their opinion on an Initiative, which had been launched by the so-called Jurassian Separatist Movement, which demanded that a plebiscite should be organised in the seven Jurassian districts, in the canton of Berne, in order to establish in a definite manner whether the Jurassians really wanted a scission with the canton of Berne and the constitution of a twenty-sixth canton, that of the Jura. The Initiative was rejected, not only by the whole of the Bernese electorate, but also by the Jurassians themselves.

This vote has helped towards gauging the extent of the Jurassian separatist movement.

In order to understand the importance of the vote which has taken place, it is necessary to know that the canton of Berne is composed of two principal parts: on the one hand there is the Ancient Canton, which speaks German and practises the reformed religion, whilst on the other hand there is the Bernese Jura, where the people speak French mostly and are Roman Catholics. The Bernese Jura was only attached to the canton of Berne in 1815, by virtue of the international treaties signed at that time. Before that it had belonged to the bishopric of Basle. For more than a century no difficulties arose between the two parties in the canton of Berne. Then, however, following upon various circumstances, the Jurassian minority manifested a separatist tendency. It was thus that the Separatist Party launched the Initiative on which the electors belonging to the two parties voted. At first glance this vote only appeared to touch upon a question of procedure, but in reality it concerned the very heart of the matter, as it was very evident that the adversaries of the plebiscite were opposed to any separation, whilst its partisans were in favour of the constitution of a Jurassian canton, and thus, of a scission with Berne.

It had already been foreseen that the Initiative launched by the Separatists would be rejected by the *German-speaking* party of the canton of Berne, but what proved very interesting were the results of the voting in the Bernese Jura, the French-speaking district in the canton of Berne. As we have already stated, the Initiative was rejected by the Jurassians themselves, by 16,000 as against 15,000 votes. Furthermore, it is indicative that the Separatists, who only obtained 15,000 votes, had had their Initiative supported by as many as 21,000 signatures. This means that hundreds of citizens, who, for reasons of prestige, for economic motives or for reasons connected with public opinion in their small towns, although they had not dared to refuse their signature publicly, had cast a "no" into the secrecy of the ballot-box. Finally, we learn that of the seven Jurassian districts, four rejected the Initiative.

The conclusion may therefore be drawn that separatism is not borne on the crest of a deep wave of opinion and that it has now, so to speak, "lost the rubber".

Nevertheless, the fact must not be overlooked that, in the Bernese Jura, the votes were pretty well equal, and that three districts voted definitely in favour of the separatist Initiative. Thus, a problem subsists. It could be solved, however, if the victors and the vanquished in this Referendum joust were to make an effort with a view to regaining the means whereby they can once more live together in harmony. As a matter of fact, up to now, it has always proved possible, in Switzerland, to find

a solution for the problems of various minorities. It is up to the Jurassians and the Bernese, therefore, to show us that they also are capable of surmounting divisions and of living together in peace and amity. This is the sincere wish of their other Confederates.

### VARIOUS.

Flight-Captain Otto Heitmanek has left "Swiss-air" to go into retirement. He was the only remaining pilot who had been with the Company since its foundation in 1931. Heitmanek was born at Ragaz in 1903 (of Zurich origin), and in 1925 entered the pilots school, after which he became a military pilot. He was for three years employed as "Verkehrspilot" in the United States of America. During his employment with "Swissair" Heitmanek has flown 5,302,784 kilometres and has been in the air about 19,000 hours. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

In the month of June 1959 Switzerland has exported 3,344,000 watches, or 555,000 more than in June 1958, the value of which amounts to 93,900,000.—francs; (June 1958: 90,100,000.—francs). (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

The World Health Organisation is to build a new headquarters in Geneva. It was decided at the World Health Assembly to accept an offer of loans totalling £2,500,000 from the Swiss Federal and Geneva Governments. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

During the recent Federal Gymnastic Festival in Basle 27,555 litres of milk were consumed. (A.T.S.)

\* \* \*

Negotiations between Danish Government circles and representatives of Swiss Banks have led to the conclusion of an Agreement, according to which the Kingdom of Denmark will float a 4½ per cent loan of 50 million francs in Switzerland. A Swiss banking consortium has taken this loan over.



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delle Centovalli, che segnano nella vita delle Ferrovie Regionali Ticinesi l'inizio di una nuova era; una nuova era che sarà di progresso e di soddisfazioni per tutta la zona locarnese e per il turismo in generale. Pensiero che correva nella mente di tutti quando l'elegante e modernissima composizione dai colori bianco-celesti si apprestava a lasciare il piazzale Stazione FFS di Locarno, carica di fiori e di bandiere e di signori austeri, in rappresentanza delle Autorità civili e giudiziarie, dei rappresentanti della stampa, della Radio e della TV e di una folta schiera di invitati. Salutato dall'applauso di alcune scolaresche il treno si mosse leggero e senza scosse scivolando quasi sulle rotaie dirigendosi, fra lo sguardo incuriosito e interessato della gente, verso il lungolago e verso Intragna punto di congiungimento con l'altro treno "Ticino" che doveva condurre a Locarno gli invitati provenienti dall'Italia e dalla Svizzera romanda.

— Il Parco dei Bambini della città di Locarno troverà sede al limite del Bosco Isolino, tra la strada che vi s'inoltra partendo dalla via F. Ballerini ed il Minigolf, su uno spiazzo un po' sopraelevato e che serve già ora da rudimentale campo da gioco. Il progetto la cui realizzazione è preventivata in Fr. 28,000, comprende la formazione di un viale d'accesso, la sistemazione del terreno, una somma minima per il taglio di piccole piante, la costruzione di gabinetti, la posa di una fontana, di panchine, di vari attrezzi e di altri accessori.

OSSASCO — Martedì, 9 giugno, scoppiava un incendio che favorito da un forte vento prendeva consistenza e distruggeva completamente 2 case d'abitazione di proprietà dei sigg. Eredi fu Carlo Leonardi situate all'entrata sud del villaggio. L'Ufficio postale ed il Caseificio sociale che si trovano ubicati nelle case venivano completamente distrutti. Il pronto intervento dei Pompieri di Bedretto, Airolo e Quinto, rinforzati dai militi della Comp. Gran. Fort. 18 agli ordini del magg. Ludwig non poterono domare la furia dell'elemento scatenato. Le fiamme hanno pure distrutto 2 casine di proprietà del sig. Giovanni Orelli che si trovavano a circa 100 metri lontane dal sinistro. Da un primo bilancio i danni si manifestano ingentissimi: si calcolano in decine di migliaia di franchi.

*Poncione di Vespero.*

#### VARIOUS.

According to the Annual Report of the Swiss Road Transport Associations, the number of motor vehicles in regular use in Switzerland, at the end of September last year, amounted to 726,000. In addition, 13 to 14 million foreign cars come into Switzerland for a transitory stay each year. To these must be added some 15,000 motor vehicles belonging to the army, and 41,000 agricultural tractors. There are still some 117,000 horses with their vehicles which pass along Switzerland's roads. There are also about 1.8 million cyclists in Switzerland. Approximately 50,000 persons are employed in the motor-car industry.

The SUISATOM A.G., which has been formed by a number of Swiss electricity firms, has sent in a request to the Government of the canton of Aargau for the granting of a licence for the setting up of a subterranean atomic energy research plant on the left bank of the lower Aare, north of Villigen. Building work is to start in 1960, and it is hoped that operations can begin in 1963.

The Swiss Government has decided to submit a proposal to the Federal Chambers in regard to participation, on the part of the Confederation, in the building of a high-temperature experimental reactor, on Winifried Heath in England. Swiss Government participation in the international reactor project will amount to roughly four million francs.

The Celanese Corporation of America has acquired from the Oerlikon Machine Works a plant for the manufacture of high grade rocket fuel, in Ashville, North Carolina.

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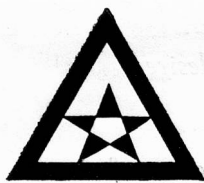
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