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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Distribution of the 196 seats in the National Council, the Lower House of the Swiss Parliament, altered little in the recently held general elections.

The Socialists, previously the largest party, lost two seats and now have 51, the same number as the Radicals. The Catholic-Conservative party, with two losses and two gains, maintained its position as the third largest party.

The Communists had a net loss of one seat, having made good one of their losses by topping the poll in Geneva, and will have three representatives in the new House.

Party strength after the elections, which were held on the basis of proportional representation, were:

Socialists	51	(2 losses)
Radicals	51	(1 gain)
Cath.-Cons.	47	(no change)
Peasant & Bourgeois	23	(1 gain)
Independents	10	(no change)
Liberals	5	(no change)
Democrats	4	(1 loss)
Evangelicals	2	(plus 2)
Communists	3	(1 loss)

About 65 per cent of the all-male electorate went to the poll.

Partial elections to the Council of States, the Upper House of Parliament, showed no notable changes and maintained its comfortable centre majority.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of September 1959 totalled 92.4 million francs, of which amount the Confederation receives 60.9 million francs or 3.8 million francs more than in September 1958.

During the first nine months of the current year the receipts amounted to 529.3 million francs, which is 4.5 million francs more than during the same period in 1958.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 20.1 million passengers in September 1959, or 800,000 fewer than in September 1958. Receipts: 34.4 million francs. (September 1958: 35.7 million francs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 2.35 million tons, or 180,000 tons more than in the same period in 1958. Receipts: 45.0 million francs (September 1958: 41.5 million francs)

* * *

Cantonal

Walter Martin (25) a geological student of Zurich was killed when climbing the south ridge of the Salbitschin. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mgr. Dr. Raimund Tschudi (Uster) has been elected Abbot of the cloister of Einsiedeln, in succession to Dr. Benno Gut, who is taking up an appointment in Rome. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Josef Zumbühl (37) cabinet-maker of Gerliswil, father of two young children, lost his life on a climbing excursion in the Pilatus district. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A shop window of Allemann, jewellers at the Bahnhofstrasse in Zurich, was smashed and goods valued at 40 to 50,000 — francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Danish Ambassador in Berne, Madame Bodil Begtrup, has paid an official visit to the town of Zurich. On this occasion, the Danish Institute for cultural relations in Zurich, gave a reception in her honour, which was attended by members of the cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 20th, 1959, together with remittance for 10/-.