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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

In the newly elected National Council (Lower House), the 196 members belong to the following professions:

Members of cantonal and communal authorities	47
Presidents and Secretaries of Professions and Trade Unions	35
Lawyers	21
Farmers	23
Industrialists and Merchants	18
Journalists	14
Consulting Engineers and Architects	7
Teachers	6
Medical doctors and Veterinary surgeons	5
Law Courts Officials ("Gerichtspersonen")	4
Heads of Commercial and Industrial concerns	3
Employees ("Angestellte")	3
Functionaries ("Beamte")	3
Hoteliers	3
Bankers	2
Workmen ("Arbeiter")	2
Total	196

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of October 1959 amounted to 96.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 69.9 million francs or 9.7 million francs more than during October 1958.

Receipts for the Confederation during the first ten months of the year total 599.1 million francs or 14.2 million francs more than for the same period in 1958.

* * *

Cantonal

The Martin Bodmer Foundation has awarded the Gottfried Keller Prize (8,000. — francs) to the writer Maurice Zermatten. [A.T.S.]

A show window of a Jewellers' establishment in the Bahnhof Strasse Zurich was smashed by a man, but before he could get hold of any goods he was surprised by the police, whereupon he took to flight in a waiting motor-car, which was later on found abandoned. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A fire which broke out at the premises of the firm "Grossenbacher & Cie", Wine Merchants in Langenthal, caused considerable damage. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Freie Gymnasium" in Berne, which was founded in 1859 by Theodor von Lerber (a Bernese patrician) has celebrated its 100th jubilee. The school was at one time known under the name of "Lerberschule". [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 85th birthday anniversary of General Henri Guisan, commander-in-chief of the Swiss Army during 1939 to 1945, the Federal Council gave a dinner to him and Madame Guisan, at the "von Wattenwy Haus" in Berne.

* * *

The Literature Prizes of the Canton of Berne for 1959, have been awarded to the following: Friedrich Duerrenmatt, for his novel "Das Versprechen" (1,000. — francs); René Gardi, for his travel book "Tambaran" (1,000. — francs); Claire Françillon, for her novel "Festival" (1,000. — francs); Kurt Marti, for his book of poems "Boulevard Bikini" (1,000. — francs); Walter Adrian for his travel books "Palme & Minaret" (500. — francs); Karl Grunder, for his dialect novel "S'Wätterloch" (500. — francs). [A.T.S.]

CITY SWISS CLUB

Christmas Dinner

ON

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AT THE
DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.I
(ORCHID ROOM)

The "Spinnereien Aegeri", founded in Aegeri by Wolfgang Henggeler, have celebrated their 125th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

A monument to the memory of Federal Councillor Hermann Obrecht (1882-1940), was unveiled at Grenchen (Ct. Solothurn), the birthplace of the eminent Statesman. The monument is the work of the sculptor Ernst Suter (Aarau). [A.T.S.]

* * * *

A 70 year old farmer from Wildhaus (Toggenburg), on the way from market was attacked by a stranger and seriously injured. Putting up a fight, the attacker took to his heels. He was later on arrested by the police in the person of a 37 year old farmer from the same village. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

M. Bixio Bossi (Bellinzona) has intimated that he will not contest his seat at the December elections for the States Council. He was elected a member of the National Council in 1931, and changed over to the States Council in 1942. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

The town of Lugano has done away with its trams, they will be replaced by trolley buses. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

M. Arnold Bolle, advocate and notary has celebrated 50 years as a notary and lawyer in La. Chaux-de-Fonds. He sat at one time in the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel and the National Council. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

Two men entered the post-office of Cointrin (Geneva), and brandishing a revolver demanded the handing over of the contents of the safe (27,000.—francs). The post-master, a forty-eight year old man, courageously tackled the intruders with a lamp, whilst his wife ran out of the office to secure help.

On the arrival of the police, they were in turn threatened, wherefore they fired two shots. One of the bandits, a twenty year old man from Geneva was killed outright, whilst the other a twenty-one year old Valaisan was injured, and had to be taken to the cantonal hospital for an operation. A third man, who was waiting in a stolen car for the two thugs was arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

Two young men made an unsuccessful attempt to steal a bundle of bank notes of the value of 60,000.—francs from a "Change" office of a Bank at the tramway stopping place Rive in Geneva. They were intercepted by two clerks, and took to flight in a waiting motor-car, which was reported as having been

stolen. It has now been established that these men were identical with those who made an attempt at the post-office in Cointrin. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

M. Henri Gagnebin, since 1938, President of the organisation committee for International Music Competitions, has retired from his post. He is succeeded by M. Samuel Baudbovy, Director of the "Conservatoire" in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

Mlle. Elisabeth Röthlisberger, has celebrated her 100th birthday at the cantonal hospital in Geneva, on which occasion she was presented with the traditional easy chair. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

The University of Algiers — on the occasion of its 50th jubilee — has bestowed the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon M. Eugène Wegmann, Director of the Geological Institute of the University of Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

* * * *

The Literature Prizes of the town of Geneva have been awarded to Henri Tanner, for his work "Provence, notre amie", and to Louis Bolle for his book "Structures". [A.T.S.]



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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Jean Calame, for twenty years president of the commune of Fleurier, and from 1945 to 1949, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Fontanivent at the age of 67.

Colonel Fritz von Erlach, for many years "Forstmeister im Bernischen Mittelland", and from 1939 to 1951, President "Des Verbandes für Waldwirtschaft" in Berne aged 83. He was at one time in command of the 8th infantry brigade.

Dr. h.c. Hans Schulthess-Hünerwadel, President of the Board of the firm "Schulthess & Co., A.G.", booksellers, Zurich, in Zurich at the age of 87. In 1933 the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* for his historical works.

Friedrich Niggli, a well-known composer and pianist, in Zollikon (Zurich), aged 84.

Professor Eber Landau, formerly *Ordinarius* at the medical faculty of the University of Lausanne, and author of many scientific works, in Lausanne at the age of 81.

Adrien Droz, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in La Chaux-de-Fonds aged 65.

Dr. h.c. Christoph Bollinger, trade union secretary, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton Basle-Town, in Basle at the age of 67. In 1936, he was honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Basle. [A.T.S.]

ARMY.

Brigadier Hermann Bachofner, "Ausbildungschef" of the Swiss Air Force has tendered his resignation for health reasons. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. h.c. Carl Koechlin (70) of Basle, President of the Board of J.R. Geigy, A.G. Basle. The "Jubilar" joined this world famous concern (makers of DDT) as an apprentice when he was eighteen. Before that he had attended a "classical school", as was customary for the sons of old and wealthy Basle families.

After serving his apprenticeship, he was sent to France, to Germany and then to England and, in 1912 to the United States. On his return to Switzerland, he rejoined the firm. Dr. Koechlin is to-day one of the most outstanding figures in Swiss industry, Finance and Politics. He is Chairman of the Swiss Federation of Industry and Commerce, the Swiss Chamber of Commerce (Vorort), and a member of the Board of the Swiss National Bank. From 1918 to 1938, he sat in the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town. The Universities of Basle and Lausanne have honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Professor Otto Schlaginhaufen (80) of St. Gall, formerly Professor of anthropology at the University of Zurich, and President of the Society of anthropology and ethnology. [A.T.S.]

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

On the occasion of its 50th jubilee, the firm of Carl Maier & Co., manufacturers of electric apparatuses, Schaffhausen, has made a donation of 300,000.— francs to the Pension Fund of their employees, and 100,000.— francs to start a Fund providing scholarships for the children of their staff. [A.T.S.]

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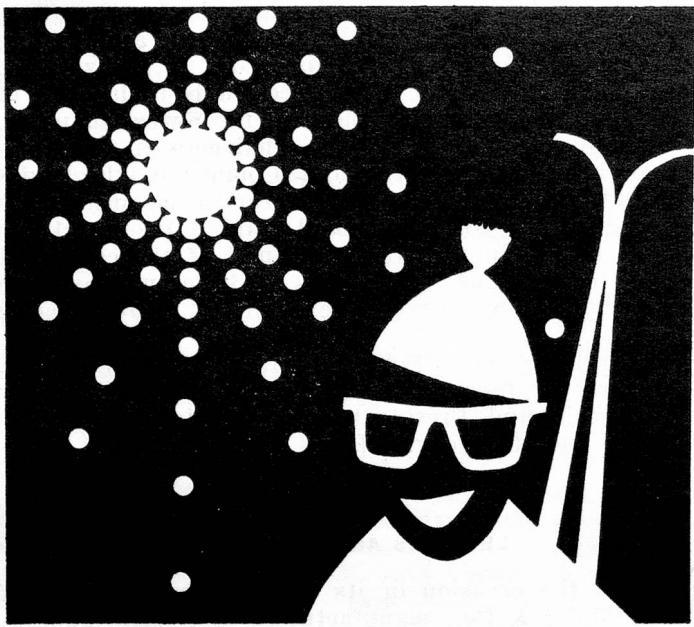
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Switzerland

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Clabien of Miège (Ct. Valais), Mr. and Mrs. von Almen of Grindelwald, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kamm-Menzi of Filzbach (Ct. Glarus), Mr. and Mrs. A. Marendaz-Tetaz of Lausanne, Mr. and Mrs. U. Himmelberger-Zellweger of Bühler (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. E. Schiess-Menet, Mr. and Mrs. Jules Surdez of Berne, Mr. and Mrs. G. Graf-Fitzi of Reute (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. J. Schneiter-Steiner of Lommiswil (Ct. Solothurn), Mr. and Mrs. G. Baertschi-Albrecht of Mels (Ct. St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

From November 1st 1959 the amount of currency allowed to U.K. residents is virtually unlimited. Banks and Travel Agents may supply foreign currency up to a maximum of £250 per person (including children) during any travel year for visits abroad. Further sums may be granted on application to the Bank of England. The amounts issued must be entered in the passport. V-forms will be abolished. This means that services such as: hotel accommodation, meals en route, couriers etc. may be provided against payment in Sterling. The respective costs need no longer be deducted from the amount of exchange authorised for travel, and passports need not be marked.

* * *

Adelboden will start its International Ski Season with the 6th International Ski Championship on January 3rd and 4th, 1960. As in previous years participation is limited to members of the national teams. Several nations will take the Adelboden slalom giant slalom race results into consideration when selecting their Olympic teams.

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