

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

A Swiss Government proposal to amend the constitution so as to give women the vote in federal elections was rejected in a referendum by some 654,924 votes to 323,306, and by all the cantons except Geneva, Vaud and Neuchâtel. Canton Vaud also decided by 33,000 votes to 30,000 to grant women a vote in cantonal questions. It is the first Swiss canton to enfranchise women.

Here are the particulars of the poll:

| Cantons                 | YES            | NO             |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Zurich . . . . .        | 71,859         | 126,670        |
| Bern . . . . .          | 55,640         | 101,697        |
| Lucerne . . . . .       | 10,294         | 37,734         |
| Uri . . . . .           | 885            | 5,183          |
| Schwyz . . . . .        | 1,968          | 11,860         |
| Obwalden . . . . .      | 565            | 3,376          |
| Nidwalden . . . . .     | 807            | 3,331          |
| Glarus . . . . .        | 1,455          | 6,159          |
| Zug . . . . .           | 2,046          | 6,327          |
| Fribourg . . . . .      | 7,985          | 18,780         |
| Solothurn . . . . .     | 11,350         | 26,702         |
| Baselstadt . . . . .    | 17,013         | 19,372         |
| Baselland . . . . .     | 8,896          | 14,969         |
| Schaffhausen . . . . .  | 4,782          | 10,212         |
| Appenzell A.Rh. . . . . | 1,517          | 8,224          |
| Appenzell I.Rh. . . . . | 105            | 2,050          |
| St. Gall . . . . .      | 12,436         | 51,912         |
| Graubünden . . . . .    | 5,473          | 19,732         |
| Aargau . . . . .        | 17,919         | 60,825         |
| Thurgau . . . . .       | 6,721          | 26,986         |
| Ticino . . . . .        | 10,695         | 18,209         |
| Vaud . . . . .          | 32,947         | 31,252         |
| Valais . . . . .        | 8,255          | 18,745         |
| Neuchâtel . . . . .     | 13,938         | 12,775         |
| Geneva . . . . .        | 17,755         | 11,842         |
|                         | <b>323,306</b> | <b>654,924</b> |

66.2 per cent. of the electorate went to the poll.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Richard Aman, Counsellor of Embassy, and until recently Head of the Swiss Delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea, to the post of Chef du Protocol at the Political Department in Berne, in succession to M. André Dominicé, who has been transferred to Moscow with the rank of Counsellor of Embassy.

The new Chef du Protocol is 45 years of age, and after having studied Law at the Universities of Zurich and Paris entered the service of the Federal Political Department in 1946. He held successively posts in Brussels, Warsaw, Paris and Tokyo.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government has appointed Mr. Hermann Baehler to the post of Swiss Consul in Toronto. He succeeds Mr. Isidor Sembini, who is vacating his post on reaching retiring age.

Consul Baehler, at present Swiss Consul at Istanbul, was born in 1904 at Olten, and is a citizen of Buchholterberg (Ct. Berne). In 1923 he entered the service of the Swiss Federal Railways, and previous to the last war occupied a post at their London Office. In 1943 Mr. Baehler was transferred to the then Swiss Legation in London, from 1952 to 1955 he held the post of Swiss Consul at Accra, and since 1955 he has been in charge of the Swiss Consulate at Istanbul.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Afranio de Millo-Franco, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Brazil, has presented his credentials to M. P. Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that a  
**SOIRÉE FAMILIALE**  
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will take place on:

**Wednesday, February 25th, at 6.30 for 7 p.m.**  
**at the Dorchester Hotel (Orchid Room),**  
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After dinner, **Albert Ferber**, will give a pianoforte récital. Tenue de ville.

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Hon. Secretary.

The receipts for the month of December 1958 of the Federal Customs Administration amounted to 75.1 million francs. The Confederation (Bund) receives from this amount 53.4 million francs, or 1.9 million francs less than in December 1957.

For the whole of 1958 the receipts amount to 688.6 million francs (1957: 698.1 million francs).

### Cantonal

A cashier employed at the branch office of the "Leih & Sparkasse vom Linthgebiet" in Baesch (Ct. Schwyz), on opening the Bank premises, was attacked by a stranger and robbed of 9,000.— francs.

The thief, Klemens Pfund (31), a butcher's assistant, of Rapperswil, was later arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

During 1958 2,047 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Lucerne. 1,327 persons were injured, 48 of them mortally. [A.T.S.]

Dr. E. Vaterlaus, a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich, will shortly retire from his post for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

A youth of 18 or 19 entered a bookshop at the Froschaugasse Zurich, and, brandishing a revolver, demanded the handing over of the contents of the till. The proprietor, an elderly man (82), refused, whereupon the intruder knocked him down and decamped with 600.— francs. The thug was later arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the 1957 Music Festival which took place in Zurich show a deficit of 40,720.— francs. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1958 8,608 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Zurich. 171 persons were killed, and 5,000 suffered injuries. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Zurich on 1st January 1959 numbered 433,352. [A.T.S.]

On 31st December 1958 the population of Porrentruy (Jura Bernois) numbered 7,243, and that of Delémont numbered 8,918. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Max Bergner (24), of Zofingen, received fatal injuries when ski-ing near Untertrübsee (Ct. Schwyz). [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the "Mava-Platten" works of Max Walter at Herisau (Ct. Appenzell a Rh.) caused damage amounting to 200,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

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The Langenthal-Jura, and the Langenthal-Melchnau railways have amalgamated and will be known in future under the name Oberaargau-Jura railway. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Haegglingen (Ct. Aargau) has honoured Fräulein Maria Kalt (61) with honorary citizenship for 40 years of service rendered as a school-teacher. [A.T.S.]

Over half a million francs damage was caused by a fire which broke out at the "Haslenmühle" in Gossau (Ct. St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Reutlinger (64), since 1943 a member of the Government of the canton of Thurgau, is retiring for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hermann Graf, of Paradies (Ct. Thurgau), President of the Diessenhofen District Court, is succeeding the late Otto Wartmann in the National Council. He is a member of the Peasant Party. [A.T.S.]

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M. Edouard Sandoz, a sculptor living in Lausanne, has made a donation of 100,000.— francs to the " Dr. Armand Delachaux Fund " of the Sandoz Hospital in Lausanne, in remembrance of his recently deceased brother, M. Maurice Ives Sandoz. [A.T.S.]

Professor Auguste Piccard has been honoured with the degree of Honorary Doctor of Science by the Ecole Polytechnique of the University of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of an upholstery firm in Baden and removed a safe containing several thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

The " Honorary Guest " at the 40th Comptoir Suisse, which will take place from 12th to 27th September in Lausanne, will be Austria. [A.T.S.]

Damage estimated to reach 150,000.— francs was caused by a fire which broke out at the " Mechanischen Werkstatt Jules Rielle " at Wissigen nr. Sion. [A.T.S.]

M. Jacques Cornu (52), of La Chaux-de-Fonds, has celebrated his 25 years service jubilee as general secretary of the " Syndicat patronal des producteurs de la montre de La Chaux-de-Fonds ". [A.T.S.]

M. Marc Zuffrey (33), has been appointed Director of the Agricultural School in Chateaneuf, in succession to M. Albert Luisier, who has entered into retirement. [A.T.S.]

M. Gaston Schelling (60), since 1949 Mayor of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

The number of traffic accidents reported in 1958 in the canton of Solothurn amounted to 1,185; 980 persons were injured, 40 of them fatally. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Uri for 1958 close with a credit balance of 166,212.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Two persons were killed in an explosion which occurred at a garage in the Avenue Beaulieu-Maupas in Lausanne. Those killed were Georges Reymond and Jean-Pierre Mottaz, both of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Basle numbered 221,158 persons on 31st December 1958. [A.T.S.]

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Alfred Stauffer, in Münchenbuchsee, at the age of 92. The deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne from 1910 to 1918. On relinquishing his seat in 1918, he was elected a member of the cantonal Government, to which he belonged until 1937.

Heinrich Mayer, proprietor of the " Evangelischen Verlagsbuchhandlung ", and a well-known publisher, in Basle, aged 75.

Dr. jur. R. Stalder, States Prosecutor of the canton of Berne, in Berne, at the age of 55.

Max Tuerler, from 1933 to 1957 " Stadtbaumeister " of Lucerne, in Lucerne, aged 67.

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Dr. Hermann Büchi, from 1914 to 1931 teacher of History at the "Kantonsschule" Solothurn, and until 1943 member of the editorial staff of the "Basler Nachrichten". From 1944 to 1951 the deceased occupied the post of Director of the "Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Schweizerischen Wirtschaft". He died in a clinic in Freiburg i. Br., at the age of 71.

M. Eugène Blum, founder and director of the watch manufacturing concern "Ebel", and also founder of the "Société des fabricants de montre en or", in La Chaux-de-Fonds, aged 83.

Jean Rieder, for many years president of the Tribunal Herens-Conthey, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, in Sion, at the age of 68.

Edmond Jeanneret, formerly manager of the Yverdon - St. Croix railway, in Lausanne, aged 80.

Hans Eberle-Muggli, president of the board of the "Handelsmühlen Eberle & Co. A.G.", Rickenbach, in Rickenbach, at the age of 66.

Professor Dr. Gottfried Guggenbühl, from 1928 to 1958 Professor of History at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Küsnacht, aged 71.

Dr. Julius Nievergelt, from 1940 to 1953 commander of the cantonal police force of Zurich, in Küsnacht, at the age of 70.

Fred Treyer, from 1943 to 1949 rector and English teacher at the "Kantonsschule" Lucerne, aged 79.

Dr. h.c. Emil Nuesch, teacher, and well-known expert on mushrooms, in Krinau, at the age of 82.

Paul Roetheli, general manager of USEGO, in Olten, aged 61.

Dr. Albert Linder, president of the "General Direktion" of the "Kreditanstalt Zurich" in Zurich, at the age of 58.

Otto Wartmann, in Frauenfeld, at the age of 68. The deceased had been a member of the National Council (Peasant Party) since 1935, and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Thurgau since 1923. He had held the post of President of the community of Amlikon for many years.

Willy Russ-Suchard, in Neuchâtel, aged 82. He was a well-known collector of pictures, and conservator of the Arts Museum in Neuchâtel.

Dr. Andrea Engi, since 1943 chief editor of the "Freien Rätier" Chur, and formerly editor of the "Davoser Zeitung", in Chur, at the age of 54.

Dr. phil. Gustav Egli, teacher of Latin, German and History at the "Kantonsschule" Winterthur, in Winterthur, aged 59.

Samuel Blumer, industrialist, in Schwanden (Ct. Glarus), at the age of 78.

Dr. med. Andreas Christ, since 1943 chief surgeon at the "Toggenburgischen Krankenhaus" Wattwil, and formerly head surgeon at the "Universitätsklinik" Basle, aged 60.

C. Ines Loos, authoress, in Basle, at the age of 76. Amongst her best-known novels are: "Matka Boska", "Die Rätsel der Turandot" and "Die Leute am See". [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES.

Minister Marc Peter (85), of Geneva, from 1919 to 1939 Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the United States of America. Before embarking on a career as a diplomat, Minister Peter, upon completing Law studies in Geneva and Berlin, became a reputed attorney in his native city. Later on entering politics, he eventually became President of

the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva. He also was at one time a Member of Parliament (National Council).

Rabbi Armin Kornfein (90), of Lakenbach (Burgenland), since 1895 teacher of religion at the "Israelitischen Religionsgesellschaft" Zurich.

Hans Johner (70), of Zurich, twelve times Swiss chess champion. He won the "Coupe Suisse" five times.

Jean Martin (80), of Geneva, a former director of the "Journal de Genève", and president of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Henry Mercier (85), of Geneva, historian and writer. Amongst his best-known works are the biographies of the Count du Luc, Hieronymus von Erlach, and Jean de Watteville.

Dr. Emil Norz (70), of Basle, from 1926 to 1950 director of the studio Basle of the "Landessender Beromünster". [A.T.S.]

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#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Bringolf-Huber, of Hallau (Ct. Schaffhausen); Mr. and Mrs. H. Hangartner, of Langwiesen (Ct. Zurich); Mr. and Mrs. F. Bürki-Gmünder, of Speicher (Ct. Appenzel a.Rh.); and Mr. and Mrs. Kueng-Schulz, of Oberwil (Ct. Basle Country). [A.T.S.]

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#### BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1958: Gewerbekasse Baden, 5½% (1957, 5½%); Volksbank Willisau, 5½% (1957, 5½%); Gewerbekasse Berne, 8% (1957, 8%); Schweiz. Spar und Kreditbank St. Gall, 5.1% (1957, 5.1%); Verband Schweiz. Darlehenskassen (System Raiffeisen), 4%; Solothurner Handelsbank, 7%; Schweiz. Volksbank, Berne, 7% (1957, 6%); Schweiz. Hypothekenbank, Solothurn, 5.5% (1957, 5.5%). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### CENTENARIANS.


Mme. Fanny Raymondin, of Lausanne (100); Georg Frei, of Hemberg (Ct. St. Gall), (100); Mme. Julie Grin-Jaccard, of St. Croix (100); Mme. Berthe Barbezat-Dupraz, of Lausanne (100); Mlle. Franceschina Pescia, of Manno nr. Lugano (100). [A.T.S.]

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#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

One person was killed and four seriously injured when a motor-car skidded and crashed into a railing between Zell and Gettnau (Ct. Lucerne). The name of the one who was killed was Rita Anna Sidler (19), of Hergiswil.

A motor-car with two passengers collided with a lorry near Solothurn. The car-driver and one of the passengers were seriously injured, and Mme. Alice Jeanne Moser (64), of Le Locle, was killed. [A.T.S.]



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