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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Customs receipts for the month of June 1960 total 106 million francs; of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 73 million francs, or 10.4 million francs more than in June 1959. The receipts for the first six months of the current year, earmarked for the Confederation, amount to 421.3 million francs, or 76.1 million francs more than during the same period in 1959.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Fritz Walther to the post of Director of the Federal Insurance Office, in succession to Dr. Emil Boss, who is vacating his post.

Dr. Walther was born in 1901 and hails from Krauchthal (Ct. Berne). He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and the University of Berne. In 1925 he entered the Federal Insurance Office, where, eighteen years later (1943), he was promoted to the post of Vice-Director.

* * *

Monsieur Mahmud Fawzi, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Republic, has paid a courtesy visit to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

The Mexican Government has asked the Federal Council to send a delegation on the occasion of the 150th anniversary celebrations of Mexico's independence in September 1960.

The Federal Council has accepted the invitation, and has nominated the following delegation: Minister Robert Kohli, General Secretary of the Federal Political Department, as Head of the delegation, with temporary Ambassadorial rank, Monsieur Fernand Bernoulli, Swiss Ambassador in Mexico, and Counsellor of Embassy Monsieur Fred Bieri.

Cantonal

Burglars entered the premises of the "Diamantenschleiferei Schaub" at the Grendelstrasse in Lucerne and got away with goods estimated to exceed 200,000.— francs in value. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two German nationals from Konstanz, aged twenty-three and twenty-five, made an attempt to rob a petrol station at the Winterthurstrasse near the Waldgarten, Zurich. Arriving in a stolen car, they threatened the attendant with a revolver and got hold of the cash-box. The attendant, however, was able to fell one of his assailants, who dropped the box. The attackers ran off when the attendant called for help, but were later arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Damage estimated at 50,000.— francs was caused by a fire which broke out at the "Kunststoffwerk" in Aathal near Elgg (Ct. Zurich). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Owing to engine trouble, a motor-boat occupied by seven persons overturned and sank in the Thur river near Flach (Canton Zurich). Four of the occupants were able to save themselves, but the other three were drowned. Those drowned were Kurt Piantoni (31), merchant, and his wife, Alice (34), both of Rafz, and Elsa Meier (24), of Bülach. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two young men, aged 18 and 21, hired a taxi in Zurich with destination Baden. Near the village of Killwangen they asked the driver to stop, and without any warning felled him with an iron bar. He was, however, able to call for help, whereupon one of the thugs drove away in the taxi, which was later found abandoned, whilst the other took to his heels. Both were subsequently arrested by the police. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Fräulein Marie Affolter, of Leuzingen (Ct. Berne), has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Pro Arte" foundation has awarded a prize of 2,500.— francs to the writer, Adrian Wolfgang Martin, for his novel, "Requiem für den verlorenen Sohn". [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two mountaineers, Angela Andriotti (25) and Ivo Bochi (22), both of Massagno (Ct. Ticino), lost their lives on a descent from the Piz Palu. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Wienerbergstrasse" in St. Gall, which runs parallel with the "Dufourstrasse", will in future be known as "General Guisan Strasse". [A.T.S.]

A quantity of watches and jewellery to the value of many thousand francs was stolen from a jewellery establishment in the Badgasse of Baden. [A.T.S.]

The "A.G. Brown-Boveri & Co.", Baden, has declared a dividend of 9 per cent for the year 1959. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Zuzgen (Ct. Aargau) has bestowed honorary citizenship on Mr. Fritz Felber, who was for 43 years a teacher at the school in Zuzgen. [A.T.S.]

The entire premises of the "Möbel A.G." Mammern were destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at over 50,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

A book-keeper, Mario Saameli, employed by a firm in Arbon, has been arrested and charged with embezzling 300,000.—francs during the period 1953 to 1960. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Tito Tettamanti, chief of the Justice and Police Department in the government of the canton of Ticino, has tendered his resignation. He entered the cantonal government at the beginning of 1959. [A.T.S.]

Two railways in the canton of Neuchâtel have recently celebrated their 100th jubilee, namely the railways Le Locle - Neuchâtel and Pontarlier - Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Dr. Fritz Hunziker, a former rector of the "Kantonale Literar Gymnasium" Zurich, and author of the work, "Kulturbilder vom Zürichsee", in Feldmeilen, at the age of 74.

Jakob Sulzer, agriculturist, and from 1947 to 1955 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, in Riehen, aged 72.

Albert Hagenbüchli, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 86.

Henri Chappaz, lawyer, and for twenty years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais, in Martigny, aged 72.

Julius Moss, well-known portrait and landscape painter, in Basle, at the age of 82.

Gaston Schelling from 1948 to 1959 Mayor of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in Vevey, aged 61.

Franz Christen-Hoeffiger, for many years president of the commune Freienbach-Pfäffikon, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Pfäffikon, at the age of 83.

Emil Ackermann, from 1938 to 1953 rector of the cantonal commercial school Basle, in Basle, at the age of 73. [A.T.S.]

DONATION.

The Church Community of Kirchberg (Zurich) has received an anonymous donation of 50,000.—francs (30,000.—francs for needy inmates of the "Altersheim", and 20,000.—francs for the "Altersheim"). [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Gonzague de Reynold (80), of Fribourg, eminent writer and co-founder of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Amongst his many works are best known "Cités et pays Suisses", "l'Europe tragique" and "Formation de l'Europe". He was awarded the Prize of the "Schiller Stiftung" for his book, "Cités et pays Suisses".

Michael Speck (80), of Zug, well-known "Praehistoriker". [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Langenegger-Zürcher of Rüti bei Bühler (Ct. Aargau), Mr. and Mrs. J. Weibel-Stücheli of Eschlikon (Ct. Thurgau), Mr. and Mrs. C. Lusetti-Schiocet of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car driven by a Mr. Georges Schaller, ing. agr., a teacher at the "Landwirtschaftsschule" Cernier, collided with a block of stone which had fallen on the road between Neuchâtel and Valangin. The driver and his passenger, Miss Berthe Zürcher, were killed.

Mr. Francis Graser (30), of Cornaux (Ct. Neuchâtel), was run over by a car on the road between Cornaux and St. Blaise. The motorist causing the accident did not stop and he is now sought by the police.

Mrs. Irma Eberle Ackermann (33), of Flums (Ct. St. Gall), mother of two children, was run over by a car near Mels-Ragnatsch and received fatal injuries.

Between Moosseedorf and Zollikofen (Ct. Berne) a motorcar skidded and overturned. The driver received injuries, and his passenger, Jakob Röthlisberger (63), master-tailor, of Jegensdorf, was killed.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

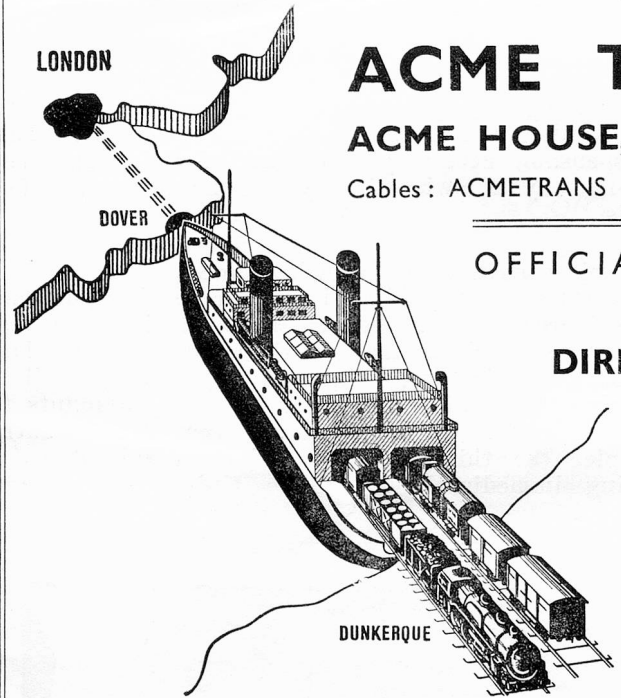
VARIOUS

Zurich. Movable information booths sponsored by the Zurich chapter of the Touring Club of Switzerland, the Zurich Tourist Office, the city police and several gasoline and tobacco companies have recently been established at the city's four main accesses for motor traffic. Labelled "City Information", the booths are run by specially trained students during the summer holiday period. They book hotel rooms, give information on camp sites, excursions, events and even night-life and are expected to be to the motorist what the official Information Office at the Zurich Main Station is to the railway traveller. According to

first reports, the "City Information" scheme obviously fills a gap in the general tourist service; the booths are said to deal with an average of no less than 100 inquiries per day.

* * *

Zurich. As the discussions on the future "Capital of Europe" are going on, aiming at centralizing the administration of Europe's "Common Market", the Coal and Steel Community, "Euratom", the European Council and, maybe, the still hypothetical "United States of Europe", the German monthly "Bodenseehefte" in its June issue boldly launched its own nomination, which, indeed, is most noteworthy: the Lake of Constance. This area, the author stresses, is really "supra-national", as it is formed by parts of the three countries of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, and it is situated in the very heart of Europe. Zurich Intercontinental Airport is reached from there in an hour by car and in a mere ten minutes by air. Although the Lake Constance area is not a "city" in the true sense of the word, it is regarded as an international unity featuring all the characteristics of a metropolis, including cultural activities, scenic beauty, an international atmosphere and — night life! The magazine suggests that its conception would fit perfectly into the federalistic structure of Europe's joint administrations which ought to be "not too much centralized but still more or less assembled on one spot" and concludes, "capitals are nowadays produced by magic in the desert and in the deepest jungle; why not in Paradise? Lake Geneva has for a long time been the home of world organizations; Lake Constance might well play the same role for Europe".



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