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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

According to the recent census the population of Switzerland on 1st December 1960 numbered 5,411,000 compared with 4,714,992 on 1st December 1950. Here are the provisional figures:

Cantons	Population		Increase	
	1st Dec. 1950	1st Dec. 1960	Decrease	
Zurich	777,002	941,800	21%	
Bern	801,943	889,400	11%	
Luzern	223,249	253,100	13%	
Uri	28,556	32,300	13%	
Schwyz	71,082	78,200	10%	
Unterwalden	19,389	22,200	14%	
Obwalden	22,125	23,200	5%	
Glarus	37,663	40,500	8%	
Zug	42,239	52,500	24%	
Fribourg	158,695	159,800	1%	
Solothurn	170,508	201,500	18%	
Basel-Stadt	196,498	226,500	15%	
Basel-Land	107,549	148,300	38%	
Schaffhausen	57,515	66,100	15%	
Appenzell A.Rh.	47,938	49,400	3%	
Appenzell I.Rh.	13,427	13,100	-2%	
St. Gallen	309,106	338,100	9%	
Graubünden	137,100	145,600	6%	
Aargau	300,782	359,800	20%	
Thurgau	149,738	166,100	11%	
Tessin	175,055	195,700	12%	
Vaud	377,585	430,200	14%	
Valais	159,178	178,900	12%	
Neuchâtel	128,152	147,500	15%	
Geneve	202,918	251,200	24%	
	4,714,992	5,411,000	14.8%	

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur André Parodi, at present Swiss Ambassador to the Republics of Colombia and Ecuador, to the post of Swiss Minister to the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia.

Ambassador Parodi was born in 1909 at Cairo, and is a citizen of Geneva. He studied Political Science at the Universities of Geneva, Baltimore, Exeter and Fribourg i.Br. He entered the service of the Federal Economic Department in 1932, and changed over to the Political Department in 1945, when he was transferred to the then Swiss Legation in Rome with the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation; two years later (1947) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. From 1954 to 1956 Monsieur Parodi occupied the post of Chargé d'Affaires at Bucharest. In 1956 he was nominated Swiss Minister to Colombia and Ecuador with residence in Bogota, and when the Legation was raised to the status of an Embassy he received Ambassadorial rank.

* * *

Dr. Hans Adolf Berger, Swiss Ambassador to Peru, and Swiss Minister to Bolivia, has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. He was born in 1895 and is a citizen of Langnau (Ct. Berne). In 1922 Dr. Berger joined the Swiss Consulate in Lima; ten years later (1932) he was promoted to the rank of Vice-Consul, and in 1946 to Consul. The following year the Federal Council asked him to open a Legation in that town in the capacity of Chargé d'Affaires. The same year he was accredited to Bolivia. In 1954 Dr. Berger was nominated Minister Plenipotentiary to the two countries with residence at Lima. When in 1957 the Legation was raised to an Embassy he received Ambassadorial rank.

* * *

Dr. Paul Frei, hitherto Swiss Consul in Düsseldorf, has been appointed Consul-General in Hamburg, in succession to Mr. Paul Hochstrasser, who on reaching retiring age has vacated his post. Mr. René Cuttat, hitherto administrator of the Consulate-General in La Paz, has been nominated Swiss Consul in Düsseldorf.

Dr. Frei was born in 1905 and hails from St. Gall. He entered the service of the Federal Political Department in 1929, and held successively posts at Dijon and Munich. He was appointed Consul at Düsseldorf in 1951.

Mr. R. Cuttat was born in 1910 and is a citizen of Rossemaison. Entering the service of the Political Department in 1931, he held successively posts in Besançon, Paris, Strasbourg, Lyons and Ankara. After a two-year stay in Berne he was transferred to La Paz in 1954.

* * *

The Federal Council has conferred the title of Consul-General upon Mr. Jean Studer, Swiss Consul in Strasbourg.

The Federal Council has nominated Mr. Gustav Adolf Wettstein, Dr. Vincente Tuason and Dr. Charles-Frederic Ducommun, as General Managers of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration. Mr. Wettstein will be president of the General Direction.

Mr. G. A. Wettstein was born in 1901 and hails from Pfäffikon (Ct. Zurich). He studied from 1921 to 1926 at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained the diploma of an electrical-engineer. After having occupied posts with the Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company at Antwerp, and the Siemens & Halske concern, he entered the service of the PTT in 1930. In 1949 Mr. Wettstein was appointed Vice-Director of the Federal Telegraph and Telephone Administration, and three years later he was promoted to the post of Director.

Dr. V. Tuason was born in 1903, a citizen of Jonschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He studied Law at the Universities of Zurich, Berlin and Berne. In January 1930 he entered the service of the PTT (Legal Department). After having occupied several important offices in the Administration, he was appointed in 1949 Director of the Postal Department.

Dr. C. F. Ducommun was born in 1910 and is a citizen of Yverdon. After having studied Law at the Universities of Zurich and Lausanne he was appointed assistant secretary of the "Schweizerischen Gewerkschaftsbund", and from 1943 to 1945 he occupied the post of General Secretary of the Federal Price Control. In 1954 Dr. Ducommun acted as *chef du personnel* of the Nestlé concern in Vevey and La Tour de Peilz, and afterwards joined the General Direction of Swissair.

The customary New Year's reception was held at the Palais Fédéral in Berne, the heads of the foreign diplomatic missions, headed by the Papal Nunzio, Mgr. Pacini, Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, were received by Mr. F. T. Wahlen, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 18.4 million passengers in the month of November 1960, or 1.4 million more than in November 1959. Receipts: 26.3 million francs (November 1959: 24.3 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.67 million tons, which is 320,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 54.4 million francs (November 1959: 46.8 million francs).

Customs receipts for the month of November 1960 amount to 160 million francs; of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 74.2 million francs or 17.1 million francs more than it received in November 1959. During the first eleven months of 1960 the receipts for the Confederation amounted to 805.2 million francs, which is 148.8 million francs more than during the same period in 1959.

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Cantonal

The Board of the "Schweizerischen Verkehrszentrale" Zurich has elected Mr. René Nordmann, head of the propaganda section of Swissair, to the post of Vice-Director of the "Schweiz. Verkehrszentrale".

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernst Tobler, for over forty years a member of the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung", and Mr. Gotthard Schuh, connected with the editorial staff of the paper for the last twenty years, have retired. Mr. Peter Zimmerman, Dr. Heinz Gisler, Mr. Wilfred Spinner, and Mr. Walter Schiesser have been appointed to the editorial staff. Dr. Wilhelm Linder — after a stay in England — has re-joined the commercial section of the paper. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at a joinery works at Horgen-Käpfnach has caused damage exceeding 100,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The "Tagblatt der Stadt Zürich" has celebrated its 125th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Walter Staehelin, since 1953 foreign correspondent in Paris of the "Basler Nachrichten", has joined the foreign section of the paper; he is succeeded in Paris by Mr. U. H. Meier. [A.T.S.]



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Dr. Max H. Schneebeli, President of the "Direktionsausschusses" of the "Georg Fischer A.G." Schaffhausen, has been nominated General Manager of that concern. [A.T.S.]

Goods valued at 70,000.—francs were stolen from the jewellery establishment of Zeuger in Locarno.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Georges Schneiter, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and president of the commune of Grandson, has been elected Prefect of the Grandson district, in succession to M. J. Jaquier, who has retired. [A.T.S.]

The new railway station at Sion has recently been inaugurated. The building was started in October 1958 and has cost 10 million francs. [A.T.S.]

For forty years M. Paul Bourquin (Sonvillier) has been attached to the editorial staff of the paper "Impartial" published in La Chaux-de-Fonds. For thirty-seven years he has held the post of chief editor of that paper. He was president of the Neuchâtel Press Association for eleven years, and from 1929 to 1934 he held the post of Central President of the Swiss Press Association. [A.T.S.]

M. Gaston Bridel, for twenty-three years chief editor of the "Tribune de Genève", has retired. M. Georges-Henri Martin has been nominated chief editor of the "Tribune de Genève". [A.T.S.]

The "Banque Populaire" in Sion has ceased to exist. The "Schweiz. Bankverein" has taken over the staff and the affairs of the Bank. [A.T.S.]

Frau Elise Hochstrasser-König of Zofingen, mother of seven children, has celebrated her 100th birthday, at the Home for Old People in Stäfa (Zurich). The Government of the canton of Aargau has presented her with an easy-chair and a bouquet. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Werner Vogt, a member of the Government of the canton of Solothurn, has been elected "Landamman", and Dr. Max Obrecht "Vice-Landamman". The latter entered the cantonal government in 1930 and has occupied the post of "Landammann" six times. [A.T.S.]

The oldest inhabitant of the canton of Fribourg, Oscar Lambelet du Gay, who worked for sixty years in a watch-manufacturing concern in La Chaux-de-Fonds, and who was at one time president of the commune of St. Sulpice, has died in Fribourg at the age of 100. [A.T.S.]

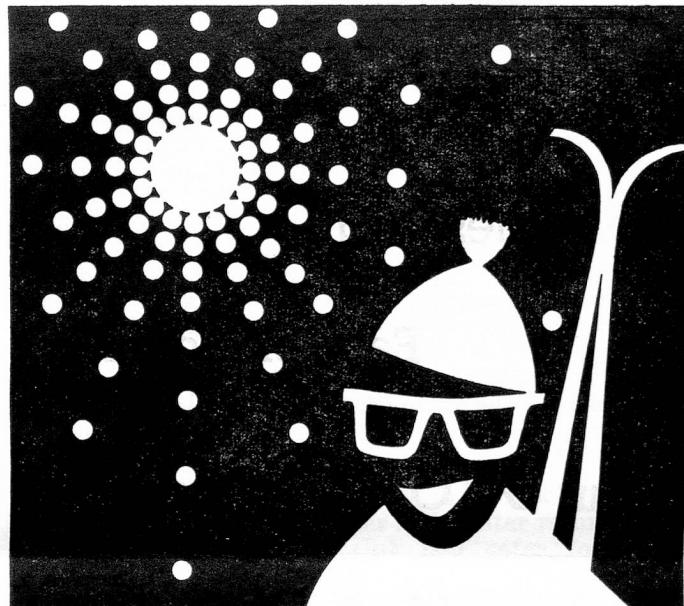
DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Karl Hürlimann-Fassbind, senior partner of the "Zement- und Kalkfabrik" Brunnen, in Brunnen, at the age of 82. The deceased was for many years President of the Board of the "Betonstrassen A.G.", and a member of the Board of the Electrical Works, Schwyz. For twelve years he was "Ratscherr des alten Landes Schwyz", and a member of the "Kantonsrat". In the army he held the rank of Colonel of Artillery.

Georges Gabus-Savoie, a member of the Board of the Watch Case Manufacturing concern "Gabus Frères" of Le Locle, in Le Locle, aged 79. He was at one time President of the "Technikum" Le Locle, and a member of the Board of the Cantonal Bank, Neuchâtel, and from 1953 to 1957 its president.

Paul Häusler, President of the Conservative-Christian-Socialist Party of the district St. Gall, in St. Gall, at the age of 50.



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Pastor Georg Bühler, at one time a preacher at Matt (Glarus), Bad Ragaz, and St. Gall, in St. Gall, aged 99.

Ernst Gotthard Kellersberger, consulting engineer, and formerly manager of the Siemens Works in Spain and Argentine, in Zurich, at the age of 78.

Walter Marti, writer and journalist, in Zurich, aged 69. He was for many years correspondent of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" in Brussels. Amongst his best-known novels is "Es ist ein Hunger in der Welt" (1944).

Heinrich Müller, portrait and landscape painter, in Basle, at the age of 75.

Dr. Werner Iten, prominent lawyer, in Zug, aged 71. The deceased had been since 1945 president "Des Vereins Schweizerischer Metallwarenfabrikanten", and at one time was a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zug. Dr. Iten was for thirty years president of the Zug section of the Swiss Alpine Club.

Adolphe Vallat, a member of the Board — and commercial manager — of "Omega, S.A." Bienne, in Bienne, at the age of 61.

François-Rodolphe de Weiss, of La Tour de Peilz, owing to an accident, in La Tour de Peilz, aged 75. He was from 1920 to 1950 Swiss Consul in Cologne.

Frau Anna Fürst-Ochsner, the oldest woman inhabitant of Bassersdorf (Zurich), aged 101.

Reinhard Hackspiel, since 1958 "Kreispostdirektor", in Aarau, at the age of 63. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Christian Foppa (80), of Chur, for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and from 1925 to 1939 a member of the National Council. From 1940 to 1951 Mr. Foppa was President of the Peasant Party of the canton of Grisons.

Mme. Veuve Marie de Coubertin (100), of Montreux, widow of Baron de Coubertin, formerly President of the International Olympic Committee.

Albert Bächtold (70), of Schleithelm, well-known writer. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ARMY

The Swiss Government has announced that it has decided to purchase fighter aircraft for the Swiss Air Force. It has submitted to Parliament a proposal for the acquisition of 100 Mirage III C fighters, to be built in Switzerland under licence.

The technical experts and airmen who have experimented with the Swedish Draken and the French Mirage III C fighters recently decided that the Mirage was better suited to Swiss geographical conditions and technical requirements. For political and economic reasons Switzerland would have preferred to buy from Sweden, who is also a member of the European Free Trade Association, but it is hoped that France, though belonging to the Common Market, will make some concessions in return for so big an order.

In a recent Session of the Swiss Parliament, the order for the French fighter aircraft has been confirmed.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

HONORARY CITIZENSHIPS

The following communes have bestowed honorary citizenship:— *Murgenthal* upon Ernst Haller, for 48 years a teacher at the "Oberschule" Murgenthal; *Toffen* upon Karl Mühlestein, for being thirty-five years president of the commune; *Heimberg* upon Karl

Bischoff, since 1937 president of the commune, and since 1946 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne; *Lucerne* upon Dr. h.c. Johann Baptist Hilber, "Musikdirektor" and founder of the "Schweizerischen Katholischen Kirchenmusikschule" Lucerne, on the occasion of his 70th birthday; *Matzendorf* upon Erwin Wyss, teacher; *Vevey* upon Maurice Paternot Vice-President of the Nestlé Company, Vevey; *Neuenegg* upon Dr. Georges Wander, General Manager of Dr. A. Wander, A.G., Berne, and for many years president of the commune Neuenegg. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. J. Kammacher-Nieswand of St. Margarethen-Münchwiler (Thurgau), Mr. and Mrs. A. Moser-Hohler of Basle. [A.T.S.]

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Two persons were killed in the Seonerstrasse Egliswil (Lenzburg) when a car, driven by a motorist under the influence of alcohol, crashed into another car. Those killed were Ernst Bürgi (42), sales representative, and Nina Bolliger-Haller (65), both of Egliswil. The drunken motorist has been arrested.

Edwin Künzle-Strickler (32), boat-builder, and father of eight children, was killed in Baech (Ct. Zurich), when his car collided with another car. Two other persons were seriously injured.

Mrs. Anna Richter (72), of Zurich, was run over by a tramway-car at the Krone-Unterstrasse stop Zurich, and was killed.

At a level-crossing between Niederwenningen-Dorf and Niederwenningen-Station a motor-car collided with a train. The driver of the car, Guido Knecht (34), of Mülligen (Aargau), was killed. [A.T.S.]

VARIOUS

4,918,000 watches were exported from Switzerland in November 1960, to the value of 140,300,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

It is a mere stone's throw from the palm-shaded shores of Lake Maggiore to a new off-beat ski-area high above the resort of Locarno, reached by a system of funiculars, aerial cableways, ski and chairlifts in less than thirty minutes. From Cardada, about 4,500 feet above sea-level, where there are several small but excellent restaurants and inns, ski-fans can venture some 1,500 feet higher up to Mt. Cimetta by chairlift or skilift. "We are not in a position to offer sensational high alpine runs to dare-devil ski adepts", it is admitted by representatives of the Locarno Tourist Office, "but we think our ski slopes, which normally

boast perfect snow conditions and sunshine galore from December until March, are just what the middling skier may dream of." The Swiss Federal Railways have literally paved the way for Locarno-bound motorists from the north; while the St. Gotthard Pass is snow-blocked their daily shuttle of motor-car ferry trains through the St. Gotthard Tunnel is 26 south-bound and 28 northbound.

Less than 45 minutes from Zurich by car, at an altitude of 2,500 feet above sea-level, is the children's resort of Aegeri on the lake of the same name. Noted for its extremely mild climate, it is not much of a skiers' haven. Despite generally poor snow conditions a Children's Ski School has been established on the initiative of local children's homes and private schools. Excellent ski areas are to be found all around Aegeri; thus the ski school can operate all the winter. A chairlift from the neighbouring village of Sattel, and two skilift extensions, open up the vast winter sports grounds of Hochstuckli (some 5,200 feet above sea-level), where the children's ski courses are held when there is not enough snow in the valley. Aegeri, with its famous children's homes, some of which have their own private schools, is particularly appreciated by visitors from overseas anxious to "park" their children, while travelling in Europe, at a place which is typically Swiss as to cleanliness, dependability and health-building atmosphere.

Ice skating all the year round is the new attraction at Villars, the popular summer and winter resort. The recently inaugurated ice rink can cater for 3,000 spectators. The ice covers an area of 30 by 60 yards. A garage, a bowling alley with six lanes, and a restaurant will be housed under the skating surface at ground level.

The new artificial ice rink of Arosa, one of Switzerland's most popular winter sports resorts, has been designed for use also during the summer season. Its recent inauguration coincided with the festivities held on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the local tourist association.

The Hotel Monte Rosa at Zermatt is one of the traditional "homes from home" at the Matterhorn village which have been completely modernised and rebuilt for the winter season 1960/61. Plans for a thorough face-lifting of the Hotel Mont Cervin have also been announced. Its rejuvenation will take eight months and is to cost 1.7 million Swiss francs.



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