

# News at random

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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

During the month of April, 1952, the Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.34 million passengers, 3.41 million more than during April, 1951. The receipts from passenger service amount to 26.54 million francs or 5.71 million francs more than during the same period in 1951.

Goods traffic, however, has diminished by 240,000 tons and is returned as 1.58 million tons, the receipts thereof are stated to amount to 27.44 million francs. (April, 1951: 31.99 million francs.)

The customs receipts during the month of May, 1952, amounted to 53.7 million francs. (May, 1951: 53.8 million francs). The receipts during the first five months of the current year amounted to 242.4 million francs, or 17.9 million francs less than during the same period in 1951.

#### Cantonal

The "Obwaldner Kantonsschule" in Sarnen has celebrated its 200th Jubilee. More than 200 pupils attend annually its courses. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Friedrich Frey-Fürst, the founder and head of the firm "Frey & Co." Electro-Technical contractors, Lucerne, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. The "Jubilar" has been for the last 30 years at the head of the "Schweiz. Karbidwerke". In 1925, he acquired the Hotels on the Bürgenstock and five years ago two Hotels on the lake of Brienz. [A.T.S.]

The population of the town of Zurich, on May the 30th, 1952, had reached 399,422 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

The festivities to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the entry of the canton of Glarus into the Confederation started on Friday, June 6th, in the town of Glarus with a youth festival. A procession of over 5,000 school children passed through the gaily beflagged streets, they were afterwards addressed by a member of the cantonal government, (Dr. Stucki) who spoke of the historical significance of this

celebration. Previously a large number of "Glarner" who arrived from all parts of the world, amongst them a delegation from New Glaris U.S.A., were received by "Landammann", Dr. Heinrich Heer, who expressed his pleasure at welcoming them "back home".

The "Official Day" of the 600th centenary celebration took place on the 7th. In all the towns and villages throughout the canton the church bells were ringing. Shortly after 9 a.m. a special train, carrying all the members of the Federal Council and other official guests arrived at the station in Glarus. A procession proceeded to the "Stadtkirche" where a solemn service was held.

At the Banquet which followed at the "Schützenhaus" Dr. H. Heer, "Landammann" welcomed the guests and expressed his pleasure at seeing the President of the Confederation, Dr. Kobelt, present.

Amongst the speakers were, Dr. Kobelt, Dr. Hans Trümpy, President of the "Landrat" of the canton of Glarus, Rudolf Meier, President of the government of the canton of Zurich. The Banquet was followed by a historical procession in which 2,500 persons took part. [A.T.S.]

Two mountaineers lost their lives when on a skiing excursion on the "Jungfrau" (Bernese Oberland). The names of the victims are: Rudolf W. Füllemann, (aged 20) a commercial employee in Zurich and Gabriel Gessner (aged 22) a student at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich. [E.T.A.]

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Paul Schachemann (born 1894) to the post of Director of the Federal ammunition works, Altdorf, in succession to the late Colonel Louis Reusser. [A.T.S.]

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Werner Haller (aged 20) of Oberhofen (Ct. Berne) was killed, when on a rock climbing excursion at the Sigriswiler Grat. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Guido Riva (Lugano) surgeon-in-chief of the University Clinic, Berne, has been appointed surgeon-in-chief at the "Zieglerspital" in Berne. Dr. med. Albert Schüpbach, has been appointed Professor extraordinary at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

During shooting practice at the shooting range in Bienne, Emil Liechti, aged 49, of Grenchen was killed. [A.T.S.]

Mgr. Louis Waeber, "Generalvikar" of the dioceses of Geneva, Lausanne and Fribourg, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Mgr. Waeber was formerly Professor at the College Saint Michel in Fribourg, and from 1920-1934 Professor at the seminary in Fribourg. In 1934, he was appointed "Generalvikar". [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Fribourg for the year 1951, close with a credit balance of 160.449.—frs. [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the "Georg Fischer, A. G." Schaffhausen, a monument to the founder, Johann, Conrad Fischer, first Mayor of the town of Schaffhausen, was unveiled. [A.T.S.]

M. André Labhardt, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel has been appointed Director of the Swiss Institute in Rome for the duration of one year. [A.T.S.]

The firm "Alfred Zweifel, Malaga Kellereien, A. G.", Lenzburg, has celebrated its 75th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

A Moth de Havilland machine, piloted by E. Pernod, carrying one passenger (R. Mojonnet, Manager of the Palace Hotel in Lausanne) crashed near Prilly (Ct. Vaud) and caught fire. Both the pilot and passenger were killed. [A.T.S.]

The "Comptoir Neuchâtel" was opened on the 3rd of this month; amongst the distinguished visitors who were present, were: Federal-Councillor, M. Petitpierre, Federal Judge Rais, General Guisan, Army-corps commander de Montmollon. The "Comptoir" closed its doors on the 10th of June. 105,000 visitors went through the turnstiles. [A.T.S.]

The "Conservatoire de Paris" has awarded the first prize in orchestra conducting to the 24 years old, Mlle. Hedy Salquin of Geneva. Mlle. Salquin was formerly a student at the "Conservatoire de Genève" and a pupil of Dinn Lipatti. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Carl Maier-Frey, Founder of the firm "Carl Maier & Co., Elektrische Apparate & Schaltanlagen", Schaffhausen, in Schaffhausen at the age of 75.

Joseph-Antoine Lauber, composer, in Geneva, aged 88. The deceased was born in 1864 at Ruswil (Ct.

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Lucerne); on the completion of his studies at the *Conservatoires* of Zurich, Munich and Paris he obtained, at the early age of 20, an appointment as a conductor in Neuchâtel, and later on as an organist in Le Locle. From 1893-1899 he held a professorship at the "Zürcher Konservatorium", and from 1900-1902 he conducted the Theatre orchestra in Geneva. From 1900 he held the post of Professor at the *Conservatoire* of Geneva. His compositions for piano, violin, flute, as well as for orchestra and songs number over two hundred.

Constant Pélichet, former Manager of the Cheese Manufacturing school at Moudon, and Director of the "Fromage Jura" in Lausanne, at the age of 78.

Al A. Hoffmann Wisner, co-founder and Member of the Board of the "Tapetenfabrik Salubra", Basle, in Basle, aged 76.

Dr. Joseph Strebel, a well-known eye specialist, in Lucerne, at the age of 68.

Carl, Heinrich Ernst, proprietor of the "Lebensmittelgeschäft zum Schneeberg", Winterthur, in Winterthur, aged 73.

Alois Zumbühl, a former member of the government of the canton of Nidwalden, in Stans, at the age of 75.

Dr. h.c. Friedrich Fichter-Bernoulli, a former Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 83. The deceased was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich. (ETH).

Dr. Pierre de Meuron, in Neuchâtel at the age of 89. He was from 1896-1930 a member of the Grand Council of Neuchâtel over which he presided in 1908. He sat in Parliament (States Council) from 1916-1933.



Professor, Dr. med. vet. O. Schnyder, in Zurich, at the age of 80. The deceased was from 1922-1930 Professor for veterinary surgery at the University of Zurich.

Alois Biner, in Zermatt, aged 83. He was the oldest Zermatt guide. Before the 1914-1918 war he climbed with most of the famous mountaineers of those days. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The success of the exhibition of "Treasures of the 18th Century" held last year in the magnificent setting of the Château of Nyon, on the shores of Lake Geneva and 12 miles from the town of Geneva, has prompted the Nyon Study Circle to organise this year, from June 14th to August 17th, an exhibition entitled "Treasures of the First Empire", under the patronage of the French Ambassador in Berne.

The French National Museums (Versailles, La Malmaison, the Louvre, the Arts Décoratifs, the National Library and the National Archives), as well as Prince Napoléon, have agreed to collaborate in making this exhibition a success. The Napoléon Museum at Arenenberg and other Swiss museums will similarly offer their co-operation. Prince Napoléon has willingly made available several relics, including a uniform, the Coronation cloak, a "Petit Chapeau" and a sword. In addition, a complete room of the exhibition will be devoted to the celebrated china of Nyon, including the famous 300-piece service which belonged to Queen Caroline.

\* \* \*

To meet the needs of International touring, the European railways will again put into operation in the

coming season the International motor-coach services which they started in 1951 under the name of "Europabus". This organisation groups together the road services of the principal European railway networks (12 countries) and also affiliated private undertakings. The network comprises 30 routes joining the great tourist centres.

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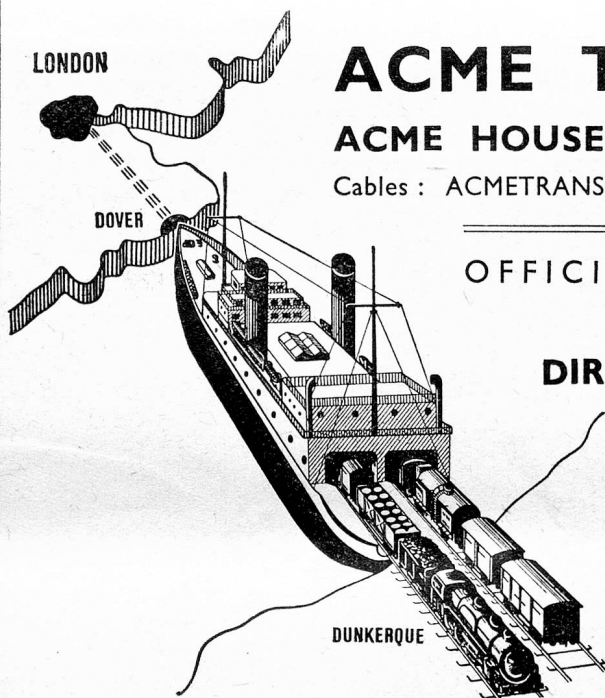
In order to provide the necessary links with the network and to promote the integration within the general system, the Swiss Federal Railways will run in conjunction with the Swiss Post Office, as it did last year, a service Bâle-Lucerne-Interlaken-Montreux-Simplon-Milan, starting on June 16th. A service Strasbourg-Geneva-Nice is already running, linking Alsace, Switzerland and the Riviera.

\* \* \*

Visitors to Geneva will have the welcome opportunity of hearing two of the finest British military bands play during July and August. The band of the Royal Marines will take part in the "Fêtes de Genève" (August 15th-18th) by giving concerts and partaking in the famous processions of floral cars, whereas the band of the King's Hussars has been booked for concerts on Saturday, July 12th.

\* \* \*

This year's Birthday Honours List contains the name of one of Switzerland's greatest friends. It is with special pride that those connected with Anglo-Swiss Tourism learn that Mr. A. H. M. Lunn has been made a "Knight Bachelor" for services to British Skiing and Anglo-Swiss relations. We congratulate Mr. Lunn on this well-deserved honour.



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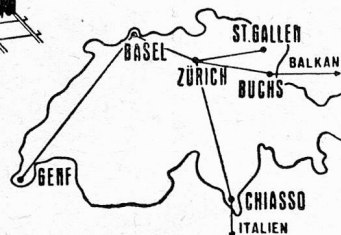
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND MUSIC.

JULY, 1952: 11th/13th St. Gallen. Yodelling Festival. 15th/23rd Braunwald. Traditional Music Weeks. 19/Aug. 13th Engadine. Recital of Chamber Music.

August: Mid Aug. mid Sept. Zermatt. Summer School for voice and violin. 20th/Sept. 20th. Lucerne & Ascona. Music Festivals. Sept. 28th/Oct. 5th Geneva. Concours International d'interprétation.

### SUMMER SCHOOLS & EXHIBITIONS.

May 15th/July 31st Lucerne. World Exhibition of Photography. Summer 1952 Summer Schools have been organised as usual by the universities of LAUSANNE, GENEVA and NEUCHÂTEL (French language), FRIBOURG (French & German), and the Rosenberg College in St. GALLEN (German). July 3rd/13th Locarno. Annual International Film Festival.

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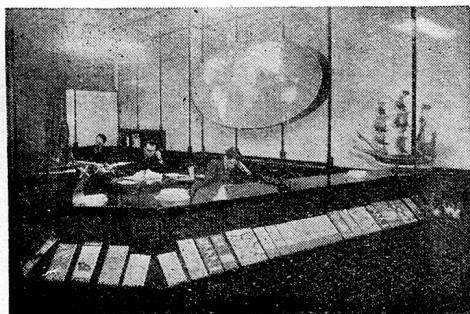
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## ROUNDAABOUT SWITZERLAND by Derek Meakin

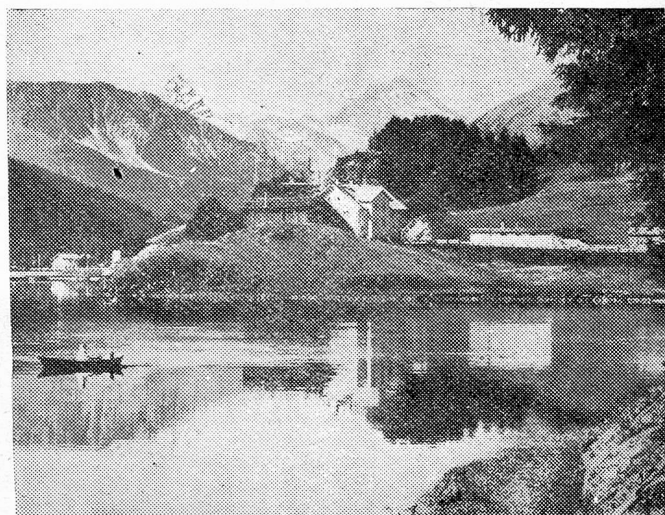
My main object in visiting Davos in this latest "Roundabout" tour of Switzerland was to see for myself something of the ambitious Ministry of Health experiment in sending National Health Service patients there for free TB treatment.

Nearly 250 patients a year are now going to Davos for what I am told is almost a certain cure, and I estimate they cost the British taxpayer between £1,500 and £2,000 a week.

When the scheme started last October many people at home asked whether it was worth the cost when Health Service expenditure was already reaching such giant proportions. But anyone who goes to Davos and sees the progress now being made by these once-doomed sufferers will agree that no cost would be too great to put them back on the road to health.

Many of them had never even seen the inside of an English sanatorium. Not that all the sanatoria are full. The trouble is that through lack of nurses, beds are lying empty while TB cases are being left to die at home.

In Switzerland there is no such shortage. The Ministry was able to completely take over the whole of the six-floor Angleterre sanatorium and obtain the use of a further 80 beds in the luxury Park sanatorium. There, two doctors, who are noted for their skill in



Part of the resort of Davos, where TB sufferers from Britain are being nursed back to health. In this article—the sixth in the present series—Derek Meakin tells of the big Ministry of Health experiment that is costing between £1,500 and £2,000 a week.