

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss electorate, in a referendum, rejected by roughly 421,700 votes to 328,200 a Socialist proposal for a capital levy with a view to obtaining about 800m. Swiss francs for the financing of the armament programme. The Government opposed the proposal, maintaining that existing taxation made it unnecessary to have recourse to a capital levy.

Minister Reinhard Hohl, at present Swiss Minister in Prague, has been appointed Minister in Tokio.

Minister Hohl was born in 1893 at Rheineck. After having studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Berne and Geneva — obtaining there the degree of doctor of law — he entered the Swiss Foreign Office in 1919. He has occupied various posts, amongst them, head of the Department of Legal, Financial and Traffic affairs. In 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and seven years later (1948) received the title of Minister and was sent to Prague.

Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Holzapfel has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the German Federal Republic to Dr. K. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Customs receipts during the month of April, 1952, amounted to 56.5 million francs, which is 2.7 million francs less than in the same month of the previous year.

During the first four months of the current year, customs receipts totalled 188.7 million francs or 17.8 million francs less than in the same period of 1951.

The Post, Telegraph and Telephone administration in Switzerland has made a profit of 605.6 million francs from its activities in 1951. This is the highest figure it has ever reached. Compared with last year the profits show an increase of 31 million francs. The Postal section made a profit of 279 million francs, the Telegraph, Telephone and Radio section, 326 million francs.

### Cantonal

A taxi driver, who was hailed by two young men in Zurich, was attacked near the Birmensdorfer Strasse, Zurich-Albisrieden and robbed; although badly injured he was able to shout for help, whereupon the attackers disappeared. Shortly afterwards the Police were able to arrest the two gangsters, aged 21 and 24 respectively.

Another attack on a taxi driver has been reported from Zurich; a young man, on arriving at his destination near the Scheuchzerstrasse, suddenly aimed a blow at him, the taxi driver was able to detain him until the Police arrived to arrest him. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Emil Landolt, Mayor of the town of Zurich, has paid an official visit to Israel. [A.T.S.]

The late Adam Freuler, formerly General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Treuhandgesellschaft" in Basle, has left an amount of 65,000.— francs to be divided as follows: Cantonal Hospital Glarus, 30,000.—frs.; Commune of Netstal 10,000.—frs.; "Kunstverein" Glarus, 5,000.—frs.; "Stiftung Freulerpalast" in Näfels, 5,000.—frs.; "Historischen Verein" of the canton of Glarus, 3,000.—frs. and various charitable institution of the commune of Netstal 2,000.—frs. each. [A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Glarus took place in Glarus on the 4th of this month. Dr. Heinrich Heer has been re-elected as "Landammann". Dr. F. Stucki (Netstal) has been elected a member of the cantonal government. [A.T.S.]

Mademoiselle Ida Wyss, of Bienne, who died in April of this year has left 455,000.— francs to a num-

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ber of charitable institutions. Chief beneficiaries are : Red Cross, Berne, 100,000.— francs; District Hospital, Bienne, 60,000.— francs; "Bernische Heilstätte", Heiligenschwendi, 20,000.— francs. Children's Hospital Wildermeth, Bienne, 40,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The "Radiologischen Institut" of the University of Berne has received a donation of 100,000.— francs from the "A.G. Brown Boveri & Cie", in Baden, for cancer research work. [A.T.S.]

The "Société de Chirurgie de Lyon" has nominated Professor, Dr. C. Henschen, in Basle, as an Honorary Member. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Ernest Flückiger, since 1945, a member of the States Council, representing the canton of St. Gall, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Josef Rüttimann, of Muri (Ct. Aargau), has resigned as a member of the government of the canton of Aargau for reasons of ill-health; he entered the government in 1935. [A.T.S.]

Prof. R. Durrer, President of the Board of the L. von Roll'schen Eisenwerke, Gerlafingen, has been appointed by the Government of Ceylon to act as adviser in connection with the projected erection of an iron and steel works in that island.

During the year 1951, 1,212 traffic accidents (1950 : 881) have occurred in the canton of Valais. 24 persons were killed and 605 received injuries. [A.T.S.]

The recent elections for the "Conseil Général" of the canton of Neuchâtel show the following strength of the parties: Radicals 13 (two losses); Liberals 11 (1 gain); Socialists 13 (three gains); Trade Unionists 4 (2 losses). The communists have obtained no seats.

Three workmen have lost their lives when a scaffolding at the Châtelot electric power station collapsed. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:—

Gustav Haemmerli, for many years an architect of the town of Lausanne, in Lausanne, at the age of 73.

August Stampfli, from 1914-1950 administrator of the "Sparkasse Kriegstetten" and from 1912-1941 a member of the "Kantonsrat", over which he presided in 1936, in Kriegstetten, aged 72.

Albert Dubois-Ginnel, Industrialist in Le Locle, at the age of 86.

Jakob Diriwächter, President of the commune of Feuerthalen (Ct. Zurich) and for many years a member of the "Zürcher Kantonsrat", in Feuerthalen aged 58. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. B. Hösli-Büsser of Netstal (Ct. Glarus); Mr. and Mrs. F. Leuzinger-Kägi, of Winterthur.

Diamond wedding anniversaries (60): Mr. and Mrs. J. Gräsli-Gantner, of Oberried (Ct. Zurich); Mr. and Mrs. J. Gunterschweiler, of Kurzdorf (Ct. Thurgau) and Mr. and Mrs. J. Haibucher-Baumann, of Lenzburg. [A.T.S.]

Another new Swiss highseas ship was launched from a wharf at Flensburg in Germany recently. It

## VINS DU VALAIS

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is the "Allobrogia", a large 10,000 ton motor vessel, which is being built for the "Transports Maritime Suisse outre-mer Ltd" in Geneva. The ship is equipped with a Sulzer diesel engine of 4,200 H.P. and can reach a speed of 14 knots. Swiss industry participated quite considerably in the supply of various parts, particularly in the engineering line, for this vessel. The "Allobrogia" will be one of the most modern merchant vessels afloat and is a welcome contribution to the Swiss high seas merchant fleet. She will start operations on the 15th of June.

In the course of a lecture, the director of the federal statistical department recently announced interesting figures which show the movement of the Swiss population in recent times. Between 1850 and 1950 the population in the Swiss cities grew from 6% of the total to 37%. A hundred years ago more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Swiss population lived in communes of less than 2,000 inhabitants; to-day they are less than a third. But even so there are only 42 communes in Switzerland to-day with more than 10,000 inhabitants, that is to say communes which can be considered as towns in their own right. On the other hand the 5 large cities — Zurich, Basle, Berne, Geneva and Lausanne — together account for nearly a million inhabitants, or about a fifth of the total population. As in other countries the agricultural population is becoming constantly smaller. In the past hundred years it has dropped from 37% to 20%.

International artists from two continents will be meeting in Lausanne, on the shores of the Lake of



Geneva, in June, when the city's Interests Association holds its big International Festival. At the Municipal Theatre from June 1st to 4th, there will be four gala performances by the famous New York City Ballet with Nora Kaye, André Eglevsky, Jermoe Robbins and a troupe of 50 dancers directed by George Balanchine. The programme will include works by Tchaikovsky, Hindemith, Chausson and Ravel. From June 7th to 12th it will be Italian Film Week, at which well-known Italian stars and directors will make personal appearances. Several days later — from June 27th to 30th — four gala performances by the Corps de Ballet of the Paris Opera will take place at the Parc-Piscine de Montchoisy. They will be under the direction of Serge Lifar and Mlle Darsonval, and other stars from the Paris Opera will take part.

This year's "Narcissus Festival" at Montreux is being prepared on a bigger scale than ever before. One of the highspots will be the Carnival of Flowers, which will be held on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th. The company of the Rome Opera House will give six performances of "Aida" and "La Forza del Destino" in an open-air theatre that is being installed in the "Place du Marché" of Montreux. More than 200 people — will take part.

**PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.**

*"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).*

Pour lutter contre une nouvelle "Variante A 5" de fièvre aphteuse qui règne dans le nord de l'Allemagne occidentale, l'Institut suisse des vaccins de Bâle a mis

au point, en très peu de temps, et fabriqué en quantités suffisantes un nouveau vaccin dont l'efficacité est parfaite.

\* \* \*

Un nouveau procédé de stérilisation du lait a été mis au point par la S.A. Dr. A. Wander en collaboration avec la Société laitière des Alpes bernoises, à Konolfingen, et la S.A. Sulzer frères, à Winterthur. Le lait "upérisé" a les propriétés du lait brut frais, stérile et peut être conservé en grande quantité pour un temps pratiquement illimité.

\* \* \*

Les chronométristes spécialistes des Longines, dont les appareils et les méthodes de travail soulèvent l'admiration dans le monde entier sont actuellement surchargés de besogne.

\* \* \*

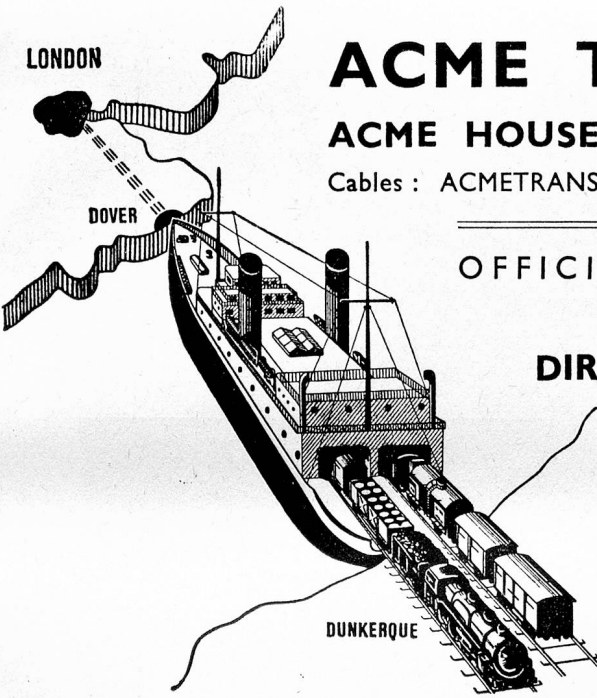
La fabrique suisse de locomotives et de machines de Winterthur a créé de nouvelles locomotives à crémaillère et à adhérence pour un chemin de fer de montagne au sud des Indes.

\* \* \*

Le gouvernement de Ceylan a passé d'importantes commandes aux Usines L. de Roll, à Gerlafingen, pour la construction de fabriques de savon et d'insecticides, de même que pour la construction d'usines traitant le fer et l'acier.

\* \* \*

La faculté de technologie de la Haute Ecole Technique de Belgrade a invité M. Paul Wenger, professeur de chimie analytique et doyen de la faculté des sciences de l'Université de Genève, à donner un cours d'un mois sur la microanalyse quantitative et qualitative.



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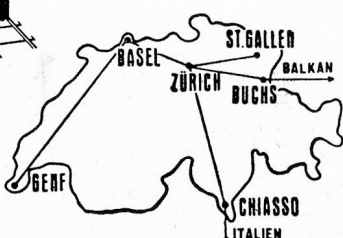
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