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# The Swiss Observer

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

In the newly elected National Council (Lower House), the 196 members belong to the following professions:

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Members of cantonal and communal authorities . . . . .               | 47 |
| Presidents and Secretaries of Professions and Trade Unions . . . . . | 35 |
| Lawyers . . . . .                                                    | 21 |
| Farmers . . . . .                                                    | 23 |
| Industrialists and Merchants . . . . .                               | 18 |
| Journalists . . . . .                                                | 14 |
| Consulting Engineers and Architects . . . . .                        | 7  |
| Teachers . . . . .                                                   | 6  |
| Medical doctors and Veterinary surgeons . . . . .                    | 5  |
| Law Courts Officials ("Gerichtspersonen") . . . . .                  | 4  |
| Heads of Commercial and Industrial concerns . . . . .                | 3  |
| Employees ("Angestellte") . . . . .                                  | 3  |
| Functionaries ("Beamte") . . . . .                                   | 3  |
| Hoteliers . . . . .                                                  | 3  |
| Bankers . . . . .                                                    | 2  |
| Workmen ("Arbeiter") . . . . .                                       | 2  |

Total 196

Customs receipts for the month of October 1959 amounted to 96.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 69.9 million francs or 9.7 million francs more than during October 1958.

Receipts for the Confederation during the first ten months of the year total 599.1 million francs or 14.2 million francs more than for the same period in 1958.

#### Cantonal

The Martin Bodmer Foundation has awarded the Gottfried Keller Prize (8,000. — francs) to the writer Maurice

Zermatten. [A.T.S.]

A show window of a Jewellers' establishment in the Bahnhof Strasse Zurich was smashed by a man, but before he could get hold of any goods he was surprised by the police, whereupon he took to flight in a waiting motor-car, which was later on found abandoned. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the premises of the firm "Grossenbacher & Cie", Wine Merchants in Langenthal, caused considerable damage. [A.T.S.]

The "Freie Gymnasium" in Berne, which was founded in 1859 by Theodor von Lerber (a Bernese patrician) has celebrated its 100th jubilee. The school was at one time known under the name of "Lerberschule". [A.T.S.]

On the occasion of the 85th birthday anniversary of General Henri Guisan, commander-in-chief of the Swiss Army during 1939 to 1945, the Federal Council gave a dinner to him and Madame Guisan, at the "von Wattenwy Haus" in Berne.

The Literature Prizes of the Canton of Berne for 1959, have been awarded to the following: Friedrich Duerrenmatt, for his novel "Das Versprechen" (1,000. — francs); René Gardi, for his travel book "Tambaran" (1,000. — francs); Claire Francillon, for her novel "Festival" (1,000. — francs); Kurt Marti, for his book of poems "Boulevard Bikini" (1,000. — francs); Walter Adrian for his travel books "Palme & Minaret" (500. — francs); Karl Grunder, for his dialect novel "S'Wätterloch" (500. — francs). [A.T.S.]

### CITY SWISS CLUB

## Christmas Dinner

ON

WEDNESDAY, 16th DECEMBER, 1959

6.30 for 7 p.m.

AT THE

DORCHESTER HOTEL, PARK LANE, W.1  
(ORCHID ROOM)