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on Route 4 at the end of 2002, with the others out of service for modification to the drive gearing. Even the modified sets are suffering regular door failures, fixing which requires a time consuming reboot of the control system. VBZ need to decide by May 2003 whether to confirm the main order for a further 69 trams.

Bern Mobil

The first Combino has been delivered and is undergoing approval trials

PRESERVATION

Club 1889

This group's latest restoration project re-entered service in the RhB heritage fleet on 19th October. Coach B2 2138, originally built by SIG in 1903 as AB 119 for the opening of the Albula Line, has been restored externally to its original condition (although carrying its 1956 number) carrying the name 'Filisurer Stübli'. Internally, the coach is laid out as a bar coach, with specialities offering a "Filisurer Stübli Teller", not to mention bottles of the 'Filisurer Stübli' beer, brewed at the Monstein brewery!

EARLY FEBRUARY SNOW

Early February saw severe disruption to mountain railways following the heaviest snowfalls in three years. As a snapshot, the closures on February 6th were follows:

SBB Brünig: Brienz - Interlaken Ost

BLM: Lauterbrunnen - Murren

WAB: Brandegg and Wengen - Kleine Scheidegg

MO: Sembracher - Orsières

MC/SNCF: Le Châtelard

Frontière - St Gervais les Bains

MGB/FO: Niederwald -

Disentis, Göschenen -

Andermatt

RhB: Trun - Disentis.

All these closures were for avalanche risk, except for the SNCF (heavy snowfall) and the RhB where both railway and road between Sumvitg and Disentis

had been blocked by an avalanche at lunchtime. As a measure of the snowfall, the Re460 webcam revealed heavy snowfall in the Emmental region, with snow over the railhead in Langnau station.

Transport Ministers from Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy have recently signed a new accord designed to move more transalpine trucks off the roads and on to the railways.

The Swiss government have a target of cutting LGVs on Swiss roads by half. This is a very stiff target. One of the interesting comments came from Switzerland's Road Transport Association who saw the accord as a positive move to improve the congestion which regularly turns mountain roads into giant parking lots. This probably would not happen in the UK! The RTA also made the point that international cooperation at minister level needed to be translated into cooperation at the local level between railway companies, customs and administrators.

Information from Swissinfo

NOTEPAD is compiled by Nick Freezer. Contributions this time are from: Brian Hemming in particular, Malcolm Hardy-Randall, Duncan McKay, Steve Horobin, George Hoekstra, Rupert Chambers and David Stevenson. Other items are acknowledged as appropriate.

Items for inclusion in **NOTEPAD** should be sent to Swiss Express in the normal way via email/post or whatever method you feel appropriate. Topical pictures are particularly welcome. If you see something interesting take a picture or make a note. We may not use it but if it isn't sent in we will never know.

Brian Hemming

STOCK CHANGES



SBB CFF FFS

September 2002

New: Tm 234 108, 131, 132 RABe 520 005
Withdrawn: Te^{II} 69 84 Tm^{II} 610 Re4/4^{II} 10033 Ee3/3 -16333/69 XTm - 91551
Rebuilt &/or renumbered: Re6/6 11660 to Re 620 060

October 2002

New: Tm 234 109 - 113 RABe 520 006 — 007
Acquired: Tm 233 910/11 (ex MThB Tm 236 642/43)
 Ae 411 001 — 018 (ex Lokoop Ae 477 001 — 013, 015 — 018, 030)
 Re 481 001 — 006 (ex MThB 486 001 — 006)

Withdrawn: Te^{III} 168 Tm^I 469/87 Tm^{II} 601/69/92/748
Named: Re 482 000 K In RABe 520 005 Eschenbach

November 2002

New: Tm 234 114 - 117 RABe 520 008 — 009
Acquired: Re4/4^{III} 11172 (ex MThB Re4/4^I 21)
Withdrawn: Tm^I 501 Ee3/3 16331
Renumbered: Re6/6 11665 to Re 620 065 (to Cargo livery)

December 2002

New: Tm 234 118, 134 RABe 520 000, 010-012
Withdrawn: Te^{II} 92 Te^{III} 144 Tm^{II} 650/64/71/7/804/43 Ee3/3^{II} 16505
Renumbered: Re4/4^{II} 11276 to 420 276 Re4/4^{III} 11371 to 421 371
 Re6/6 11655/61 to Re 620 055/061 (all to Cargo livery)

The renumbering and repainting of Re4/4^{II} 11276 and Re6/6s 11655/65 sees the disappearance of the short-lived green and white Cargo livery