

# News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Council has announced the following changes in the Consular Corps:

Dr. August Ochsenbein, at present Consul General in San Francisco, is to be transferred in the same capacity to Munich in succession to Consul General K. S. Regli, who is vacating his post on reaching retiring age.

Max Buechi, at present Consul in Manchester, has been nominated Consul General in San Francisco.

Charles Edouard Rosset, at present Consul in Alexandria, has been nominated Consul in Manchester.

Dr. Jean-Louis Berthoud, at present Consul in Lyons, has been nominated Consul in Alexandria.

Ernst Theiler, at present Consul in New Orleans, has been nominated Consul General in Amsterdam.

Adolfo Spagnapani, at present Chancellor at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, has been nominated Consul in New Orleans.

Dr. A. Ochsenbein was born in 1901, and is a citizen of Solothurn. He studied political science at the University of Berne. In 1925, he entered the service of the Political Department, and successively held posts at Manchester, Danzig, Breslau, and Berlin. In 1946, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation, and transferred to Madrid. Five years later (1950) Dr. Ochsenbein was appointed Consul General in Barcelona, and in 1955 was transferred to San Francisco.

Max Buechi was born in 1901 at St. Gall, and is a citizen of Ettenhausen (Ct. Thurgau). He entered the service of the Political Dept. in 1928, and in 1930 was transferred to Cape Town, where in 1948, he was nominated Consul. The new Consul General successively held appointments in Tananrivo and Manila. In 1955, he was appointed Consul at Manchester.

Ch. E. Rosset was born in 1898, and is a citizen of Bougy-Villard (Ct. Vaud). He entered in 1916 the service of the Federal Post administration, and in 1925 was transferred to the Political Department. After three years in London he was transferred to the Consulate General in New York where he remained for twenty-

two years, and where in 1949, he was promoted to the rank of Consul. Since 1951 he has been in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Alexandria.

Dr. J. L. Berthoud was born in 1914, and is a citizen of Neuchâtel and Boudevilliers. He studied political science at the Universities of Neuchâtel, Lausanne and Berlin. Dr. Berthoud entered the service of the Political Department in 1944. In 1956, he was sent to Lyons, where in 1959, he was promoted to the rank of Consul.

E. Theiler was born in 1902, and hails from Hitzkirch (Ct. Lucerne). He entered the service of the Political Department in 1933, and was sent to the Consulate General in New York. In 1946, he took charge of the Consulate in Wellington, and three years later of the Consulate in Leopoldville. Since 1952 he has been Consul in New Orleans.

A. Spagnapani was born in 1909, and is a citizen of Castasegna. He entered the service of the Political Department in 1933, and successively held posts in Manchester, London, Hamburg and Washington. In 1957 he was promoted to the rank of Consul.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has decided to promote the Swiss Consulates in Hongkong and Johannesburg to the status of Consulates General. M. Lucien Mossaz, at present Counsellor at the Embassy in Brussels, has been appointed Consul General at Hongkong, and Oscar Berchtold, Consul in Johannesburg, has been promoted to the rank of Consul General.

M. L. Mossaz was born in 1913, and is a citizen of Avusy (Geneva). He studied law at the University of Fribourg and Geneva, and entered the diplomatic service in 1942. Previous appointments were in Lyons and Brussels.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government has resolved to establish a Consulate at Conakry (Guinea). Mr. André Albrecht, hitherto Swiss Consular Agent, has been nominated Honorary Consul. He was born in 1907, and hails from Truns (Ct. Grisons). Mr. Albrecht since 1931 has been established as a merchant in Conakry.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council is asking Parliament to sanction a credit of four million francs, for the building of an Embassy residence, Chancellery, and seven service flats in New Delhi.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Gabriel Lucio, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Mexico, has presented his credentials to Monsieur Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.2 million passengers during the month of July 1959, or 100,000 more than in July 1958. Receipts: 39.0 million francs (1958: 38.8 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.4 million tons, which is 120,000 tons more than in July 1958. Receipts: 45.6 million francs (1958: 44.6 million francs).

\* \* \*

### Cantonal

The President of the Swiss Confederation, and Madame Chaudet have paid a visit to Altdorf, and have attended a performance of Schiller's William Tell play. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

An eight year old child, Josephine Kaelin, lost her life when a fire broke out at the non-alcoholic restaurant "Birchli" near Einsiedeln. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A burglary occurred at the diamond grinding firm of Schaubbacher at the Grendelstrasse in Lucerne. Goods to the value of 100,000.—francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Emil Toggenburg (67), President of the commune of Marthalen (Ct. Zurich), and administrator of the agency of the Cantonal Bank Zurich in Marthalen has been arrested and charged with embezzlement. So far it has been established that the deficiency both as to the Bank and private persons exceeds 100,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

National Councillor Christian Meier (Socialist) of Netstal, since 1943 a Member of Parliament will not be a candidate at the autumn parliamentary elections. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

An investigation undertaken some time ago by the Federal Banking Commission into the affairs of the "Kredit- und Verwaltungsbank" Zug, has shown that illegal transactions have been made by the Management, and in consequence the Manager has been taken in "Kollusionshaft". [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Burglars entered the premises of the firm Gebr. Gysi, A.G., constructors in Baar, and removed a safe containing several thousand francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Paul Chaudet, has received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne a delegation, numbering fourteen Japanese socialists. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Board of the "Schweizerische Volksbank" Berne has appointed Dr. Robert Rickenbacher, at present Manager of the branch office in Basle, to the post of General Manager at the head office in Berne. The

number of General Managers has thus been increased to three. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A collection which was started for the victims of the explosion catastrophe at Oberried (reported in our last issue) has so far reached the amount of 96,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Two Mountaineers, Robert Stieger of Basle, and Hans Grünleitner of Weil a. Rh. have climbed the "Nordwand" of the Eiger in 21 hours.

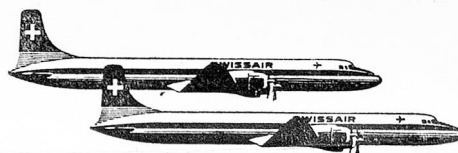
The same ascent was successfully made by two other alpinists, Adolf Derungs (29) mason of Vigen (Ct. Grisons), and Lukas Albrecht (23), a workman of Truns. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Court of Boudry sentenced a young motorist from the Val de Ruz, who whilst under the influence of alcohol had caused an accident and had failed to stop, to 30 days imprisonment and a fine of 80.—francs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During a violent storm on the lake of Thun a sailing yacht sank. Mr. André Rupp (31) of Interlaken was drowned. [A.T.S.]



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The railway connecting Tavannes and Tramelan has celebrated its 75th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

The 46 year old post-master of Trimbach nr. Olten has been arrested after a deficiency of 24,000.—francs had been found in the accounts. [A.T.S.]

The Annual Report for 1958 of the "Bürgerspital" Basle shows a deficit of 20.8 million francs. [A.T.S.]

The community of Rheineck (Ct. St. Gall) has honoured Mr. Heinrich Herzig — on the occasion of his 70th birthday — with honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

The new bridge in Flims, spanning the Stenatobel has recently been opened to traffic. Work on the bridge began in autumn 1957. [A.T.S.]

\* The railway connecting Turgi and Waldshut (Ct. Aargau) has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

At the annual meeting of the "Wasser- und Elektrizitätswerk" Romanshorn it was disclosed that the book-keeper and cashier Fräulein K.—who has been since 1933 in the employ of the Corporation—has, over a number of years committed acts of embezzlement reaching a total of 65,000.—francs. The delinquent, who lived very simply, enjoying the full confidence of her employers has been arrested, and so far has consistently refused to give any information as to what has happened to the money she has stolen. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Piero Pellegrini, the successor of Mr. Guglielmo Canavascini, a member of the Government of the canton of Ticino, who after 37 years has retired, was sworn in as a member of the cantonal Government. [A.T.S.]

Dr. W. Stauffer, since 1936 a member of the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne, over which he presided in 1957/58, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

The 37th "Auslandschweizertagung" of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique was held at Lausanne on August 28th & 29th 1959.

Apart from a large number of "Auslandschweizer" from many countries, a considerable number of representatives from the various Government offices, and members of the Swiss diplomatic and consular corps attended the deliberations.

Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen delivered to the Assembly the greetings of the Swiss Government. In his address "Auswanderung und Erneuerung der Schweizerkolonien in Ausland" he mentioned that during the period from 1820 to 1930, no less than 350,000 Swiss citizens emigrated to foreign lands. Since 1931 up to 1958, however, he said that only about 37,000 Swiss left their native land. Twenty years ago, Federal Councillor Wahlen mentioned that 262,000 Swiss nationals were registered at the various diplomatic and consular representations, today the figure is 255,000 of whom about one third possess dual nationality. Referring to the A.H.Vfl the speaker mentioned that at the end of 1958, 42,000 Swiss from abroad became voluntary members of this social insurance scheme. He also referred to the Solidarity Fund, and the work of the various Swiss Benevolent

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Societies abroad, which are receiving subsidies either from the Government or the cantons.

In the cultural sphere, Federal Councillor Wahlen mentioned that at present thirteen schools, with over 13,000 students were in existence, and received subsidies from the Government. Concluding his address he referred at some length to the relations between the Swiss Colonies abroad and the countries extending hospitality to them, underlining the importance the Swiss Societies are playing as liaison bodies.

On Sunday the "Auslandschweizer" went for an excursion on the Lac Léman and were later received at the castle of Chillon by M. P. Oguey, a member of the Government of the canton of Vaud. [A.T.S.]

A restaurateur of Le Locle was attacked in his bedroom by a waiter of Greek nationality, who tried to wrench the key of the safe from him. After a fight the attacked man managed to lock his assailant in the room, and informed the police. When the latter arrived the waiter had in the meantime escaped through a window. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Louise-Amelie Servettaz, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Geneva, has celebrated her 105th birthday anniversary, at Bardonnex. [A.T.S.]

Following medical advice, M. Adrien Lachenal of Geneva has resigned his post as President of the Swiss Touring Club. [A.T.S.]

Jewellery to the value of 10,000.—francs was stolen from a Jeweller's establishment at the Passage des Lions in Geneva. [A.T.S.]

A Bank messenger employed by the Swiss Bank Corporation in Geneva, whilst on the way to deliver a bag of bank-notes from the head-office to the branch office at the Rue du Marché, Carouge, as he left the tram-car was set upon by three masked and armed bandits. He was knocked down with a cudgel, and the bag containing 140,000.—francs was snatched from him, whereupon the thugs boarded a waiting motor-car, which has been since reported as stolen. The name of the Bank messenger is Jules Chappuis. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Adelaide Derupaz of Pierre à Brochet, Thonex (Ct. Geneva) has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Marie-Claire Koschier, who has lived for the last 16 years at the Home for old people at Loex nr. Geneva, has celebrated her 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]



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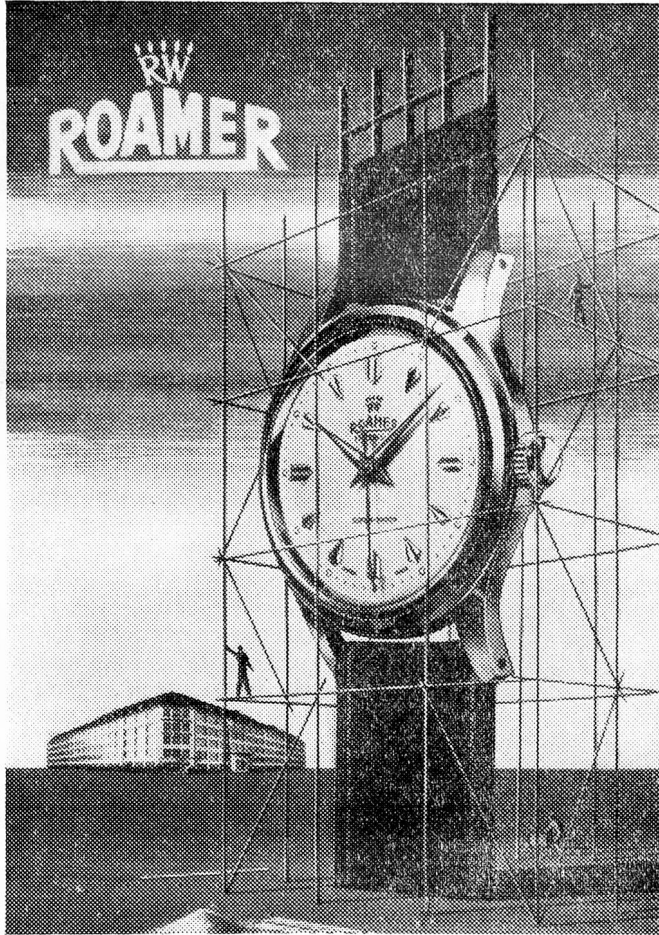
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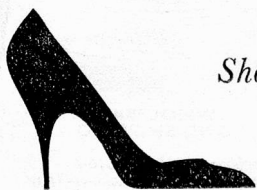
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## DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland.

Dr. jur. Georg Leuch, a former Federal Judge, in St. Prex at the age of 71. He was from 1925 to 1954 a member of the Supreme Court over which he presided in 1947/48. The deceased was from 1923 to 1925 Central President of the Swiss Alpine Club.

Dr. med. Emil Knopfl, an eminent medical practitioner, in Zurich aged 83. He was from 1921 to 1926 "Divisionsarzt" of the 5th Division, and for more than 30 years medical attendant at the "Waffenplatz" Zurich.

Professor Dr. Julius Suter in Zollikon (Zurich) at the age of 78. The deceased was from 1938 to 1952 Professor of systematic psychology at the University of Zurich, and author of a number of scientific works.

Marius Moul, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva aged 69.

Robert Müller, founder and director of the watch manufacturing concern "Mulco", La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 65.

J. H. Müller, for over 50 years a pioneer of Swiss brassband music, in Zurich aged 81. He was at one time conductor of the "Harmonie" Pfäffikon, "Musikverein Harmonie" Wädenswil, "Bürgermusik" Flums, and "Stadtmusik" Frauenfeld.

Major Paul de Vallière, a former Instructor of the 1st Division, and author, in Lausanne. Amongst his best known works are "Ehre und Treue", and "Les volontaires suisses à la grande guerre".

Johann Solcawiget, a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz at the age of 65.

Paul Kunz, a well-known sculptor, in Berne aged 69.

Professor Dr. med. Josef Dettling, in Berne at the age of 69. The deceased was from 1926 until his death Professor of "Gerichtsmedizin" at the University of Berne.

Louis Reymond, in Lausanne aged 84. He was from 1924 to 1944, Director of the "Crédit Foncier Vaudois", and from 1906 to 1908, President of the commune of Orbe. Reymond sat from 1907 to 1925 in the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, and from 1912 to 1919 in the National Council.

Mme. Maria Bazzi, in Locarno at the age of 62. The deceased was the daughter of a Ticinese born in London, and for many years enjoyed a great reputation as an actress in the United States of America.

Alfred Loewer, practising for 50 years as an advocate, in La Chaux-de-Fonds aged 74.

Dr. med. Gottlieb Ruepp, a medical practitioner in Lucerne, owing to a motoring accident in Austria, at the age of 55. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

## ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Wiesinger (80) of Zurich; formerly Professor of "Maschinenbau und Maschinenkonstruktion" at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Adolf Keuerleber (80) of Basle. The "Jubilar" was for many years Manager of the Printing and Publishing concern "Zum Hirzen, A. G." Basle.

Dr. Erich Brock-Sulzer (70) of Zurich, philosopher and essayist. He is a lecturer at the philosophical faculty of the University of Zurich.



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Dr. h.c. Paul Alther (70) of St. Gall, formerly General Manager of the "Schweizerischen Rückversicherungsgesellschaft" Zurich. In 1951 the Commercial University of St. Gall honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Dr. Martin Schmid (70) of Chur, formerly Director of the teachers' seminary Chur, and an eminent pedagogue.

Dr. Fritz Wartenkeiler (70) of Frauenfeld, a noted pedagogue and biographer. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### LEGACIES & DONATIONS.

The family of Dr. Gyr, and the firm of Landis & Gyr, A.G. of Zug have made a donation amounting to 1 million francs to the hospital at Zug.

The "Evangelische Alters und Pflegehaus" in Chur, has received the sum of 100,000.—francs from an anonymous donor.

The late Fräulein Emma Allenspach of Andwil (Ct. Thurgau) has bequeathed the amount of 10,000.—francs to various charitable and cultural institutions.

The recently deceased Fräulein Marie Kaelin of Einsiedeln has left an amount of 11,620.—francs to various charitable institutions.

The late Rudolf Umiker, advocate in Zurich, has left the sum of 43,000.—francs to his native community of Thalheim (Ct. Aargau) for the creation of a Fund to enable talented sons and daughters of the community to enter a profession. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Papst-Wernli of Gebenstorf (Ct. Aargau), Mr. & Mrs. J. Nigg-Frick of Buchs (Ct. St. Gall). Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Honegger-Hofmann of Kriens (Ct. Lucerne).

Mr. & Mrs. G. Luescher-Luescher of Mooslerau (Ct. Aargau), and Mr. & Mrs. P. Jaccard-Nicholas of Lausanne have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Traffic accidents in Switzerland are still increasing, and have attained alarming dimensions. According to statistics just published, 19,633 road accidents have occurred during the first six months of the current year causing the death of 488 persons, whilst 13,200 persons received injuries.

A serious motoring accident occurred at Vitznau when a motor-car driven by a woman with three

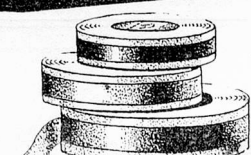
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*Continued from page 48808*

passengers, after having bumped against a rock was hurled across the road and through a protecting fence and fell into the lake. The driver and her passengers were drowned; they were: Mrs Klara Kistler-Lochmatter (37) of Zurich, Robert Hartung (53) locksmith, of Zurich, Ernst Brüttsch (47) Fitter of Zurich, and Heinrich Zoelper (35) blacksmith of Zurich.

Five persons were killed at Versoix (Geneva) when a motor-car at excessive speed ran into the back of a lorry. The names of the dead are: George Bela (60) merchant of Caux, driver of the car, his wife Mrs. Suzanne Bela (46), his sons André (13) and Francis (15) and Mlle Lily Mercanton of Clarens.

On the road between Visp and Raron a German car, when overtaking was involved in a head-on collision with a Geneva registered car, the driver of the latter car, Attilio Giorla (50), his wife Marie-Yvonne (46), and one passenger of the German car, Norwin Rostin (20) of Kiel were killed..

Two motor-cars which collided on the new road between Zizers and Trimmis (Ct. Grisons) caused the death of four persons; they were: Mrs. Elly Lang (51) of Binningen, her married daughter Mrs. Esther Egger (29), and the latter's daughter (1) of Chur, and Mr. Lienhard Thoeny (75) formerly station master at Gruesch.

A motor-cyclist and his passenger were killed on the road between Hundwil and Stein (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), when the machine crashed into a wooden fence. The names of the killed are: Alfred Hohermuth (32) commercial employee of St. Gall, and Erich Hangartner (21) of Luechingen-Altstaetten.

Mr. Johann Bossert (51) master-painter of Herisau was killed when his car collided with another between Sempach and Schenk (Ct. Lucerne).

Karl Gisler (58) of Senzach riding a bicycle, collided with a motor-car at the Talackerstrasse Winterthur, he had to be taken to hospital where he later on succumbed to his injuries.

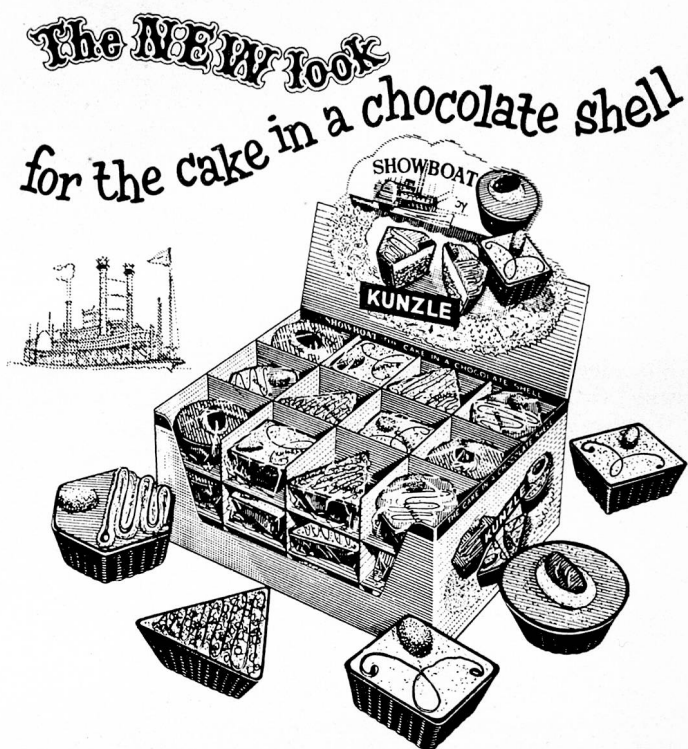
A motorist, under the influence of alcohol, drove into four pedestrians, killing two, and seriously injuring two. The names of the dead are: Louis Favre (51) of Geneva, and Mlle. Suzanne Righi (46). The motorist has been arrested.

Four persons were killed when a motor-car collided with a train at a level-crossing near the Ober Winterthur station. Those killed were: Frau Adelheid Szombati (35) of Ober Winterthur, driver of the car, her daughters Adelheid (2) and Christine (10) and Irene Phillipin (13).

Five persons were injured when a tramway-car jumped the rails and overturned near the "Muster-messe" in Basle. None of the passengers was seriously hurt, but the damage caused is estimated to be about 25,000.—francs.

A motor-car driven by Mr. Bernard Bianchi (27), commercial traveller of Martigny, collided with a train at Gamson, between Brigue and Visp. The driver was killed.

A collision between an outgoing and an incoming train occurred outside the St. Legier station. Twenty persons were taken to hospital of whom fourteen were able to leave after treatment. Six of the injured, amongst them the two drivers, were detained. The material damage is considered to be heavy. [A.T.S.]



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**MOUNTAINEERING ACCIDENTS**

The periodical "Die Alpen" has just published statistics of mountaineering accidents according to which 83 accidents occurred in summer 1958, costing 66 lives, and causing injuries to 47 persons. During winter 1958/59, 23 accidents were reported, causing the death of 15 persons, whilst 15 people were injured.

Recently several accidents have occurred. A guideless party of three mountaineers was observed on the summit of the Nadelhorn (4,330m). As the party did not return to the Mischabel hut in the evening, a rescue party was organised, who found the three mountaineers on the Hohballen glacier having fallen down 800m over the Nadelgrat. Werner Schmiriger (39) electro-technician of Lucerne, was found dead, and his two brothers Dr. jur. Xaver Schmiriger, "Landschreiber" of Schwyz, and Benedict Pater Odilo Schmiriger, Prior of the Engelberg Abbey, were found injured. The dead and the two injured were taken to Saas-Fee.

Three Bernese alpinists, Alfred Zürcher (47), Otto Allemann (58), and Mrs. Marie Allemann (55), lost their lives on the ascent of the Aletschhorn.

Willy Brand (34) of Berne was killed whilst ascending the Balmhorn (3711m). His brother René Brand (25) was injured and was taken to the hospital at Frutigen.

Dr. med. Dietrich Staehelin (41) of Zug, and his daughter Lisbeth (8) lost their lives on the descent from the Piz Calandari (Ct. Grisons).

M. Claude Demelière (20) of Geneva was killed on an ascent to the Dent Blanc. [A.T.S.]

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**VARIOUS.**

The collection made this year in Switzerland for refugees and displaced persons in various foreign

countries brought in the amount of 866,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

The "Balair" A.G. of Basle have recently undertaken their first long distance flight (20,000m.) to Johannesburg. [A.T.S.]

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The 60 million francs loan at 3½ per cent of the Grande Dixence S.A. has been oversubscribed and allocations had to be reduced. [A.T.S.]

**PERSONAL.**

We extend heartiest congratulations to Mr. Paul Haberstich, Managing Director of the Acme Transport Co. Ltd., of "Acme House", Whitecross Street, London, E.C.1, who on Wednesday, September 9th 1959, celebrated his 60th birthday.

We send our sincere congratulations to Mr. E. Buchi, Swiss Consul in Manchester, on his promotion to the rank of Consul General, and his transfer to San Francisco.

**CITY SWISS CLUB.**

At the Meeting on Tuesday, September 8th 1959, it was decided that the 95th Annual Banquet & Ball of the City Swiss Club will take place on Friday, November 20th at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE.**

Our next issue will be published on Friday, October 16th 1959.

# SWISS BANK CORPORATION

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1872

In SWITZERLAND there are offices in Basle, Geneva, Zurich and all the principal centres.

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