

# 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

Dr. Eduard Zellweger, formerly Swiss Minister to Yugo-Slavia, who was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) in the last autumn elections, is relinquishing his seat, having been asked by the President of the Government of Lybia to act as his adviser on constitutional matters.

His successor in the National Council will be Rudolf Welter (Socialist), Central Secretary of the "Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein (born, 1911).

Colonel Jaques Bullet (Estavayer-le-Lac) has been nominated Deputy to the chief of the Swiss Delegation in Korea. He will replace Colonel Albert Meyer.

Arrangements to govern Anglo-Swiss trade for the remainder of 1956 were made during recent discussions in London between Swiss and United Kingdom delegations. Most imports from the United Kingdom into Switzerland and from Switzerland into the United Kingdom are free from quantitative restrictions. The current trade arrangements make provision for bilateral quotas for the products which are neither liberalized nor the subject of global quotas.

Mr. Sean O'Kelly, President of Eire has arrived in Zurich for a holiday in Switzerland. The Government of the canton of Zurich has given a reception and banquet in his honour.

Monsieur Raoul Aguirre Molina, has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Argentina to Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Markus Feldmann, has received Monsieur William Fry Valle-Riesta at the Palais Fédéral, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials as Minister

Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Peru

#### Cantonal

Once again, the playing with pistols by a number of young boys has caused a tragedy. As they were handling the weapon not knowing that it was loaded, a bullet was discharged seriously injuring the ten years old Urs Zihlmann of Gettnau (Ct. Lucerne). He was taken to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. [A.T.S.]

The Indian Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Mohan Sinha Mehta, has paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Heinrich Heer, aged 56, and since 1940 "Landammann" of the canton of Glarus, and Mr. Bernhard Elmer (63) a member of the Government of the canton of Glarus since 1947, have tendered their resignations for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1955, 527,332 persons visited the Zurich Zoo. Entrance fees amounting to 605,890.—frs. were collected (1954: 528,750.—frs.). [A.T.S.]

In December, 1955, 414 traffic accidents occurred in the canton of Berne. 303 persons were injured and 18 killed. [A.T.S.]

A fight for women's suffrage in community affairs in the canton of Berne, is to be decided at the polls on March 4th. [A.T.S.]

M. Ed. Coendet of Burg, near Morât, the oldest Swiss, has celebrated his 105th birthday. [A.T.S.]

### CITY SWISS CLUB

OUR NEXT

### SOIRÉE FAMILIALE

at which Ladies will be most welcome, is to take place on **Tuesday, 14th February, 1956**, at the Dorchester Hotel (6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.).

After Dinner, Mr. ALBERT FERBER, the well known artist, will give us a pianoforte recital.

THE COMMITTEE.

The town of Fribourg numbered at the beginning of the current year 30,563 inhabitants (January, 1955: 30,000). [A.T.S.]

The population of the canton of Basle Town numbered 210,125 on the 1st of January, 1956. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Tavetsch (Ct. Grisons) has elected Mr. E. Bernasconi (Lugano) formerly chief engineer of the "Rhätischen" railways, an honorary citizen. [A.T.S.]

On December 31st, 1955, the population of the town of St. Gall numbered 71,767. [A.T.S.]

The paper "Revue Independante" of Paris has awarded a prize to M. Georges Rigassi, formerly Director of the "Gazette de Lausanne" for his work "Ce qu'il faut savoir de la presse moderne". [A.T.S.]

Two persons were killed, and one seriously injured when two motor-cars collided in Pully (Ct. Vaud). The names of the killed are: André Huguet (41) commercial traveller of Lausanne, and Mme. Marguerite Gobalet (49) garage proprietor of Ouchy. [A.T.S.]

The Population of the canton of Neuchâtel at the end of last year numbered 137,541 inhabitants (December 31st, 1954: 135,701). [A.T.S.]

The Swiss police are still without any clue as to the £100,000 gold bars which disappeared at Geneva in transit from Paris. A reward of 100,000.—frs. for the recovery has been offered. [A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

Dr. Schiess of Flawil has made a donation of 20,000.—frs. to the "Schiessstiftung" of Trogen (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.) and 10,000.—frs. for renovating the church bells of Trogen.

Mr. Georges Galay, Industrialist, of Chenit, has given an amount of 10,000.—frs. to the hospital of La Vallée. [A.T.S.]

#### BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividends for 1955: Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank, Basle: 4 per cent (1954: 4%); Gewerbekasse, Berne: 8 per cent (1954: 8%); Hypothekarkasse, Fribourg: 5 per cent (1954: 5%); Schweizerische Hypothekbank, Solothurn: 5 per cent (1954: 5%); Gewerbebank, Zurich: 6 per cent (1954: 6%); Solothurner Handels-

bank: 6 per cent (1954: 6%); Bank in Burgdorf: 6 per cent (1954: 6%); Volksbank Willisau, S.A.: 5 per cent (1954: 5%). [A.T.S.]

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Hans Bänninger (60), Zurich. Vice-Director of Radio Zurich. He started his career as a teacher and later on became an actor appearing at the Municipal Theatre and "Pfaentheater", Zurich. He entered into the service of Radio Zurich in 1936. From 1950-1955 Mr. Bänninger presided over the "Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Theaterkultur". [A.T.S.]

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Alois Hermann-Wildhaber of Flums (St. Gall). They have had 15 children of whom 13 are still alive. Mr. and Mrs. I. Scola-Scola, of Walenstadt. Mr. and Mrs. F. Glaser-Oelhafen, of Riehen. [A.T.S.]

Swissair has signed an agreement in Moscow with Aeroflot, the Soviet air lines, allowing passengers of both nationalities to purchase tickets for flights between Moscow and Zurich in their own currency.

The three principal Christian communities in Switzerland have just sent a joint appeal to the civil authorities to ban motor racing.

The Swiss Catholic Popular Association, the schismatic Old Catholic Church and the Council of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Switzerland, have taken this action after the announcement that the Grand Prix de Berne is to be held again.

The race was cancelled after the Le Mans disaster last year.

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### SCHWEIZERBUND (Swiss Club)

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**ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING**

on

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1956**  
at 3.30 p.m.

The appeal says that in motor races "the machines test men beyond their capacities".

It also points out the incongruity of public campaigns for safe driving, which churches are asked to support, and in granting of permission for these races "which excite precisely those passions which are bloodying our highways".

Britain was the fourth biggest exporter of cars to Switzerland in 1955, exporting 6,340 cars. West Germany, with 31,106 cars was the biggest exporter, followed by the United States and France.

The cost of sending a Swiss contingent of 60 to the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne will be about £33,500, the Swiss Olympics Committee estimates.

The Swiss sport-tote football pools fund will cover 90 per cent of travel expenses, 80 per cent of accommodation expenses in the Olympic village, and all insurance and vaccination expenses.

The Swiss contingent will comprise 42 competitors, 12 officials, two gymnastic judges, and four other people.

#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

Traffic accidents in Switzerland are unfortunately still increasing, as the following figures show:

*Canton Lucerne*: 1,989 accidents were reported in 1955 (1954: 1,912). 52 persons were killed (1954: 50) and 1,224 were injured (1954: 1,222).

*Canton Zug*: 441 accidents (1954: 408), 7 persons killed and 324 injured (1954: 289).

*Canton Neuchâtel*: 961 accidents (1954: 913), 26 per-

sons were killed, and 866 (1954: 811) were injured.

[A.T.S.]

*Zurich's Main-Station Restaurant — Largest on the Continent.*

Zurich's Main-Station Restaurant, locally known as "Bahnhofbuffet", is said to be the largest eating place on the Continent. Crack Swiss hotelman Primus Bon has run it for 32 years and made it, despite its mammoth size, a gourmets' paradise of distinction. Each of the many dining-rooms, tea-shops and cafés has its own atmosphere which is enhanced by permanent exhibits of works by well-known Swiss painters and sculptors. Rudolf Candrian, a member of a distinguished Swiss hotelier family, is now succeeding Mr. Bon as "railway station innkeeper" and will endeavour to live up to the traditions of Swiss hospitality. All major Swiss railways stations feature "buffets" which are not only high-class restaurants, but also islands of peace and recreation amidst hustling and bustling surroundings.



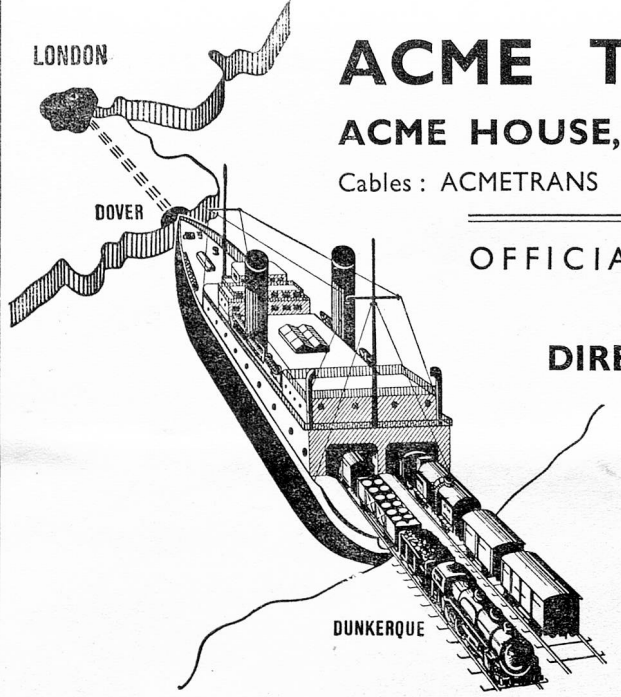
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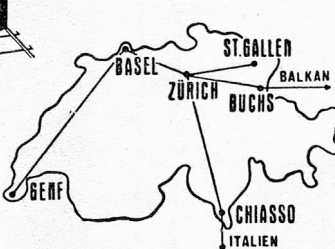
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