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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation has sent a telegram of condolence to the new King of Sweden, Gustav VI, on the occasion of the death of his father.

\* \* \*

The King and Queen of Thailand were the guests of the Federal Council at a dinner at the "Wattenwyl Haus" in Berne.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Francisco d'Alama Lonsada has been appointed Minister of the Republic of Brazil, in Berne.

\* \* \*

During the month of September, 1950, the Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.64 million passengers, or 1.51 million less than in September, 1949. The receipts are given as 23.46 millions francs (Sept. 1949: 25.54 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 377,000 tons and totalled 1.79 millions tons, receipts of which are returned as 30.31 million francs or 4.27 million francs more than in September, 1949.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Ludovic de Bremond of Grattavache and Progens (Ct. Fribourg), a member of the Federal Instructors Corps, to the post of Military Attaché in Washington and Canada, in succession to Colonel Waibel, who is relinquishing his post.

\* \* \*

The International Wheat Council has accepted the invitation of the Swiss Government to hold its fourth session at Geneva; the opening plenary meeting was held on October 24th.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Finance Minister has announced in Parliament that the question of a renewal of gold sales to the public was being considered within the framework of comprehensive measures to combat inflation.

### Cantonal

The Cantonal Bank of Lucerne has celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation, on this occasion the Board has given an amount of 380,000.—frs. for various charitable purposes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A sports machine, which took off at Grenchen, crashed near Altwis (Ct. Lucerne), on trying to effect a landing. The machine was destroyed but both pilot and passenger escaped injuries. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

During the month of September, 1950, 772 (1949: 642) traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Zurich. 328 (1949: 319) persons were injured of whom 11 (1949: 10) succumbed to their injuries.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Mr. Willaim Vontobel, a Merchant of Zurich, has succeeded to the seat in the National Council which became vacant owing to the resignation of Dr. med. R. Bucher.

The new Member of Parliament belongs to the "Landesring der Unabhängigen" party. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A young couple had parked their car on the Strandbadweg, in Zurich, soon after midnight, to bid each other a tender farewell, when suddenly a man appeared brandishing a revolver, ordering them to hand over their purses. He then searched them and took away their watches and rings, etc., to the value of 260.—frs., after removing the ignition key, he disappeared. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

M. Charles Parietti (Independent Radical), has been elected Mayor of the town of Porrentruy with 867 votes, his opponent, M. Pierre Dietlin (Radical Liberal), received 642 votes. [A.T.S.]

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R.A.C.

A policeman was shot in Oberdiesbach (Ct. Berne), when taking into custody, Jakob Jenni, a workman belonging to the village, who was to be sent to an Asylum. The victim is Samuel Hari, of Konolfingen, aged 52. His assailant escaped, but was later on arrested, he carried a fully loaded revolver.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The government of the canton of Fribourg has accepted the resignation of M. Gonzague de Reynold, since 1931, Professor of Literature at the University of Fribourg. He has been nominated an Honorary Professor of the University for the excellent services he had rendered there.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Cantonal judge, Roger Pochon, of Fribourg, has been elected Director of the paper "La Liberté" in succession to Abbé Grillot.

Abbé Albert Menoud, at present in Rome, is joining the editorial staff.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Police Headquarters in Solothurn report, that during the 3rd quarter, 1950, 237 (1949: 187) motoring accidents have been registered in the canton.

183 (1949: 132) persons were slightly injured, 35 (1939: 37) received serious injuries, and 7 (1949: 15) persons were killed.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Tadeus Reichstein, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle, has, jointly with two Americans, been awarded the 1950 Nobel Prize for Medicine, his work on the hormone cortisone has given relief to millions of sufferers from arthritis.

Professor Reichstein has been, until 1938, a lecturer of Chemistry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, and since 1938, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Basle.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The late Dr. Joh. Knüsi, a medical practitioner of Speicher (Appenzell a. Rh.), has left an amount of 57,910.—frs. for educational purposes to the commune of Speicher. His widow has bequeathed an amount of 36,000.—frs. to the Home for old people in Speicher.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

According to figures published, 143 Traffic accidents during the month of September, 1950, have occurred in the canton of Aargau. Eight people were killed and 94 injured.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

A mailbag placed on a postal car near Oron (Canton Vaud), was slit open by an unknown person, and its contents amounting to 18,000.—frs. disappeared.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the 1st of October, 1950, the town of Lausanne numbered 106,851 inhabitants.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Army-Corps Commander Renzo Lardelli, in Poschiavo, at the age of 74.

Colonel Lardelli was born in Poschiavo in 1876. In 1910, on reaching the grade of major, he joined the General Staff of the 3rd Division, in 1917, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and four years later, he received the Command of the regiment 35, and successively the regiment 36, with the rank of Colonel.

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Later on, he was in command of the following units: Infantry Brigade 17, and Mountain Brigade 18. In 1931, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel of Division, and commanded the 5th and later on the 6th Divisions. At the outbreak of war (1939) he received the rank of army-corps commander, in which capacity he commanded successively the 1st, 5th and 3rd Army-Corps. In 1943, he retired from the army.

Dr. Hans Oppikofer, since 1939, Professor of Law at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of 49.

Colonel Willy Hartmann, a former member of the Federal Instructors Corps, in Thun, aged 71.

Paul Bourquin, formerly Police and School Director of the town of Bienne, in Bienne, at the age of 73.

Mr. Burkhard Mangold, the senior of the Basle painters and etchers, in Basle, aged 78.

Arnold Cavin, a former Manufacturer of tools for the watch trade, in Couvet, at the age of 87.

Dr. Wilhelm Degen, for 40 years a member of the editorial staff of the "National Zeitung" Basle, and from 1919-1939 of the "Basler Nachrichten" in Binningen, aged 82.

André Petermann, President of the Board of the Engineering Works "Petermann, S.A." in Moutier, at the age of 49.

Gottfried Jaun, Manager of "Tiefdruckanstalt Imago" Zurich, and President of the Board of the "Tages-Anzeiger für Stadt & Kanton Zurich" in Zurich, aged 59.

Miss Maria Supersaxo, who formerly owned the Hotel du Glacier, Saas Fee (Ct. Valais), at Saas Fee

at the age of 77. The deceased was a well-known personage to alpinists of all countries, who used to call her "Tante Marie".

Heinrich Koblet, for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zurich, and from 1927-1941 a District Counsellor in Elgg (Ct. Zurich) aged 83.

Henri Grandjean head of the Transport and Travelling firm, Henri Grandjean of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, at the age of 90.

Albert Pougner, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 64.

Willy Stämpfli, former Editor and Publisher of the "Geschäftsblatt" of Thun, in Spiez, aged 77.

Colonel Hans Kühni, District Commander in Thun, at the age of 58.

Johann Weislogel, former Editor and co-founder of the "Luzerner Neuesten Nachrichten", in Luzern, aged 81.

Madame Emilie Weber-Krauer, the oldest inhabitant of the town of Zurich, at the age of 99.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. W. Reichert-Handschin of Zofingen, Mr. and Mrs. Werner-Leuzinger in Netstal (Ct. Glarus).

Mr. and Mrs. J. Heeb-Künzler, of Waltzenhausen, have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65).

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The English International Ice Hockey Team are meeting a Swiss Team at Wembley on Thursday, November 23rd. [A.T.S.]

Mr. G. Michel, Director of the Tourist Association for the Bernese Oberland, has offered, on behalf of the Swiss Ski Association, a free Winter Sports holiday to ten English boys at the resort of Lenk from the 2nd to the 9th of January. The lucky young men will be selected by the Ski Club of Great Britain.

\* \* \*

The following figures in respect of Air Traffic in Switzerland are given:—

In August, 1950, a total of 2,540 flights were effected (August, 1949: 2,701) and 46,877 passengers were carried (1949: 43,877), in addition 859.7 tons of freight were carried (1949: 604 tons). [A.T.S.]

:o:

The Rockefeller Foundation of New York has just announced that it has granted a certain number of gifts for research work. The lists contains in particular a gift of 4,500 dollars to the Federal Polytechnical School at Zurich. This gift has been made in respect of research work carried out regarding the treatment of polluted water and the further use of waste products at the Federal Institute for the treatment, cleansing and protection of water, whose investigations have given interesting and promising results.

\* \* \*

Dr. Max Thoma, of Basle, the successor of Dr. Raymond Gafner, of Lausanne, as the new President of the Swiss Ice Hockey League, has just given the press some interesting information regarding the season which will open at the end of October. The eight clubs in the national league are split up into two groups: Davos, CP Zurich, Berne and Basle in group I, and Lausanne, Arosa, the Young Sprinters of Neuchâtel

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and the Zurich Grasshoppers in group II. Championship matches will start on the 3rd December.

Several tournaments will be organised, on the 19th November at Basle, on the 16th and 17th December at Lausanne (The Devred Cup in which teams from Davos, Zurich, Milan and Lausanne will take part) and from the 28th to the 31st December at Davos when the Spengler Cup will be contested by two German teams and a Swedish team, and teams from Lausanne and Davos.

The international season will rapidly get under weigh. Two matches will be played against Sweden, on the 10th November at Zurich and on the 12th November at Basle. The Basle rink will be available in good time in order to ensure training for the national team from the 27th to the 29th October. In particular, all players who this year obtained the title of European champion in London will be invited to this training course.

Another important event in the international season will be the visit of a Swiss team to England. The players of the national team will constitute the backbone of the team for several younger players will be accompanying them. The party will include fifteen players who will be engaged in the following matches: 20th November at Streatham, 21st November at Brighton, 23rd November at Wembley, 24th November at the Empress Hall, the 25th November at Harringay and the 27th November at Nottingham.

Matches against the Swedish team are arranged for the 8th and 10th December at Stockholm. The British Federation will be sending to Switzerland a national professional team which will play two matches on the 12th and 14th January at Zurich and Basle. This tour, however, has to be specially authorised by the International League. The United States team will play in Switzerland on the 2nd and 4th March and the culminating point of the season will be the two Switzerland-Canada matches which will be contested on the 20th and 22nd March at the Zurich Hallen Stadium. The British and Americans will also be the guests of the Arosa, Zurich, Lausanne and Basle clubs.

The players selected for the world championships which will take place in Paris from the 9th to the 18th March will report for training at the beginning of March. The national B team will also be busy. On the 8th and 10th December, they will be playing at Lausanne and Berne against France and at the beginning of 1951 against Finland. The juniors have not been forgotten, and will participate in regional selection games, the best being selected to go to Davos in January.

The scheme for opening an artificial rink at Geneva will probably not be put into effect this winter. The

Moutchoisi rink at Lausanne will open its doors on the 28th October. There will be a new stand for more than 700 spectators, an essential thing having regard to the considerable popularity of ice hockey throughout the entire country.

\* \* \*

Official statistics inform us that 154,080 motor vehicles entered Switzerland in August as compared with 113,266 last year. For the period from January to August, the total amounts to 525,496 as compared with 387,342 in 1949, 21,346 more than the total for the whole of the previous year.

France leads for the month of August with 88,558, followed by Italy with 25,956, Belgium and Luxembourg with 13,744, Great-Britain with 9,085, Germany with 5,032, Holland with 5,022, after which comes Africa with 1,704, the three Scandinavian countries with 1,117 and North, Central and South America with 1,010.

\* \* \*

We have already given the majority of the most important dates in the Swiss skiing calendar. In the meantime certain further information has come to hand and the following is a complete and final list: 6th-7th January, Mont-Lachaux Trophy, Crans-Montana; 13th-14th January, Lauberhorn Races at Wengen and the Women's International Races at Grindelwald; 17th-30th January, Swiss International Jumping Week; 26th-28th January, the Four Track Trophy at Villars; 3rd-4th February, Wasserngrat Derby and the Air France Cup at Gstaad; 16th-17th February, the St. Moritz White Ribbon; 1st March, Dorftaeli Race at Davos; 4th March, the Parsenn Derby at Davos; 17th-18th March, the Gornergrat Derby at Zermatt; at the end of April, the Great Titlis Slalom at Engelberg and the 20th May, the Grossglockner Races.

\* \* \*

A few days ago, a ceremony took place on the occasion of the transfer of the remains of 22 officers, N.C.O.s and other ranks of the Belgian Army who died in hospital. Their bodies were conveyed by motor-lorries from Leysin to Belgium. The Belgian Government was represented by General Deronsard, President of the Belgian Red Cross, accompanied by various officers, and the Federal Military Department was represented by Major Greppin, Chief of the medical section of the Military Health Services, and orations were given in their presence. Leysin has still in hospital there some 250 Belgian patients, both military and political deportees of the last war.

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