

News at random

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The Swiss Observer

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The newly appointed Minister is a doctor of medicine, he was formerly a Governor of the Province of Huila and later on a Senator.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of February, 1952, totalled 42.4 million francs, which is 5.5 million francs less than in February, 1951.

* * *

The damages which Swiss nationals have sustained during the riots in Cairo are estimated to amount to about 3 million francs. The greatest damage was done to the Groppi concerns (as mentioned previously) whose Restaurants were totally destroyed. The offices of the "Helvetia Vie", the Swiss Benevolent Society, and the branch of Bally's were burnt out. Many Swiss, who were employed at the Shepherds' Hotel have lost their belongings.



NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

As mentioned in our last issue, Swiss electors, in a referendum, rejected a Government-sponsored Bill to prolong the law under which the building and enlarging of Hotels is subject to Government authorisation. Here are detailed results of the voting:—

	Yes.	No.
Zurich	44,797	85,949
Berne	28,254	22,374
Lucerne	10,612	7,989
Uri	1,974	1,673
Schwyz	3,305	2,641
Obwalden	1,062	809
Nidwalden	1,423	1,255
Glarus	2,560	3,018
Zug	1,376	1,617
Fribourg	17,568	6,951
Solothurn	6,918	6,852
Basle Town	5,521	11,174
Basle County	4,970	7,268
Schaffhausen	3,963	7,423
Appenzell a.Rh.	2,400	5,764
Appenzell i.Rh.	774	680
St. Gall	21,574	28,387
Grisons	12,321	5,237
Aargau	23,571	43,384
Thurgau	13,605	13,231
Ticino	10,514	6,628
Vaud	14,720	10,065
Valais	6,082	3,534
Neuchâtel	3,461	2,575
Geneva	3,581	3,204

246,906 289,682

38.3% of the electors went to the Poll.

* * *

Monsieur Duque-Gomez, has presented his credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Republic of Columbia, to Monsieur Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

Cantonal

Dr. Charles Clerc, Professor of French literature at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich has vacated his post on reaching retiring age. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the month of February, 1952, 225 traffic accidents have been reported in the canton of Berne. Four persons were killed and 98 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

An American military Dakota aircraft on its way from Madrid to Stuttgart crashed in a snow storm on the Guggi glaciers (Jungfrau territory), all the eight occupants were killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A collection made, under the patronage of Swiss r.c. Bishops, for the benefit of the University of Fri-

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bourg, has brought in 478,807.—frs. In the year 1950, an amount of 485,600.—frs. was collected. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Georges Ducotterd (Peasant Party), has been elected a member of the government of the canton of Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the year 1951, 596 traffic accidents have been registered in the canton of Fribourg, with a loss of life of 24 persons, whilst 385 persons received injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Four persons were killed and 41 injured in traffic accidents in the canton of Aargau, during the month of February, 1952. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Mayors of the following towns in the canton of Ticino have been re-elected: Pierona Tatti (Bellinzona); National-Councillor, Rusca (Locarno); Paride Polli (Lugano); and Guido Bianchi (Chiasso); all are members of the Liberal Party. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Alcardo Pini, National Councillor, and President of the Swiss Liberal Party, has been elected President of the commune of Biasca. [A.T.S.]

Army

The Federal Council has promoted the following to the rank of Brigadier-Colonel: Colonels Soutter, Arnold, Aigle (born 1902); Müller, Ernst, Muri nr. Berne (born 1901); Speich, Hans, Basle (born 1900); Nicola, Walter, Geneva (born 1891); Brunner Hans, Wallenstadt (born 1904); Koenigs, Walter, Berne (born 1888); Wierss, Kurt, Lucerne (born 1897); Zufferey, Joseph, Lucerne (born 1897); Wagner, Ernst, Berne (born 1896). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Colonel Richard de Blonay, Military Attaché at the Swiss Legation in Paris, has also been appointed in the same capacity to the Swiss Legation in Brussels. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A military Mustang machine crashed near Zurich-Affoltern, and was wrecked. The pilot, Lieutenant Walter Bugmann (born 1920), was killed. [A.T.S.]

: o : —————

The following deaths are announced from Switzerland:—

Colonel Edwin, Robert Schwarzenbach, in Rüslikon, at the age of 74.

The deceased was born on July, 25th, 1878, in Zurich, the son of Robert Schwarzenbach, the well-known Silk industrialist. After his schooling in Switzerland he went to a Public School in England and afterwards continued his studies at the University of Cambridge, where he took his degree as a Bachelor of Art.

After an apprenticeship at Lyons he entered, on the death of his father (1904), at the age of 26, the firm at Thalwil, where, with his two brothers, he carried on the parental business with great success.

In the army he reached the rank of Brigadier-Colonel (Cavalry). Colonel Schwarzenbach was one of the pioneers of the "Zivilluftfahrt" in Switzerland and sat on the Board of "Swissair".

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Reinhard Hohl-Custer, Partner of the "Schweizerische Seidengazefabrik, A.G., Thal" in Lutzenberg, aged 87. The deceased was for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh., and a member of the District Court. He is the father of M. Hohl, Swiss Minister in Prague.

Johann Scherrer, from 1908-1942 a member of the "Kantonsrat" St. Gall, in Niederhelfenschwil, at the age of 82.

Dr. Rudolf Steiger, since 1938, a member of the Cantonal Court of St. Gall, in Rorschach, aged 55.

Louis de Vallière, Engineer in Lausanne, at the age of 84. The Chauderon-Monbenon bridge at Lausanne, the railway lines Aigle-Sépey-Diablerets and Nyon-Saint Cergue-Morez were built from his plans. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel of artillery.

Professor Paul Oettli, for many years a teacher and rector at the Commercial University of St. Gall, in Peterzell, aged 79.

Giuseppe Tonolla, for 20 years Police commissary of the district Moesa, President of the District Court, and at one time a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, in Lostallo (Misox) at the age of 64.

Samuel Haas, a former Editor-in-Chief and Director of the "Schweizerischen Politischen Korrespondenz", in Berne, aged 62.

Adrian Schild, Founder and President of the Board of the "Tuch-und-Deckenfabriken Schild, A.G.", Berne and Liestal, in Lucerne, at the age of 87.

Jules Albrecht, a lawyer, and for many years a member of the Municipal Council of Bienné and the Grand Council of the canton of Berne, in Bienné, aged 86.

Alois Jayet, Founder and Member of the Board of the "S.A. Leclanché", Yverdon, in Lausanne at the age of 79.

Colonel Marcel Schmidhauser, "Platzkommandant" of Yverdon, aged 60. [A.T.S.]

The undermentioned anniversary is reported from Switzerland:—

Albret Studler (70) from 1919-1949 a member of the government of the canton of Aargau. [A.T.S.]

Here are further balances of the accounts for 1950 of Swiss cantons:—

Fribourg	Debit Balance	1,112,860.—frs.
St. Gall	Credit Balance	1,119,067.—frs.
Vaud	Debit Balance	533,000.—frs.
Appenzell A.Rh.	Credit Balance	247,127.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

The ninth Swiss National Yodelling Festival will be held at St. Gall in July. [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60) in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Béguin-Perret of Geneva; Mr. and Mrs. J. von Allmen-Jornod of Fontainmelon (Val-de-Ruz). [A.T.S.]

The Philippines and Switzerland have signed an agreement allowing Philippine airlines to land at Geneva and Zurich.

Sir John Barbirolli, conductor of the Hallé Orchestra, will conduct the first symphony concert which opens the famous International Music Festival at Lucerne on August 9th.

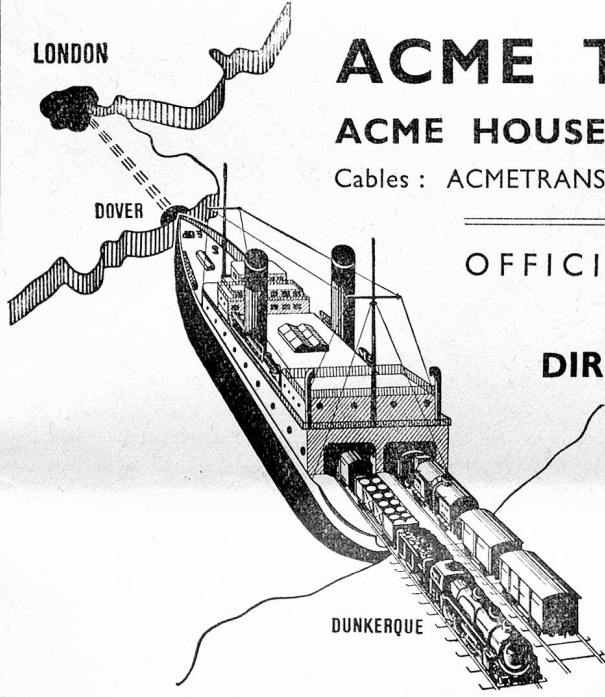
An advance party of five Swiss Alpinists left Geneva by air on the 13th inst. for Bombay on the first stage of their attempt to climb 29,000ft. Mount Everest. The leader, Dr. Wyss Dunant, and six others have left on March 20th.

They will go on to Nepal to organise 120 porters for the climb which is due to start in April.

Swissair is reported to be considering the operation of a direct service linking Zurich and Montreal. DC-6Bs would be used.

The A. S. W. Rosenbach collection of Shakespeare folios and quartos, said to be unrivalled in quality and rarity, has been sold to Dr. Martin Bodmer, of Geneva, for a price considerably more than \$1m. (about £360,000). Dr. Bodmer, who is a banker and vice-president of the International Red Cross, is reported to have the finest collection in Europe.

There are 73 items in the sale. Among them were four folios, including the Holford-Rosenbach first folio, the most superb copy in existence; the first issue of the first edition of *Troilus and Cressida*; and all the individual plays issued before the first folio was



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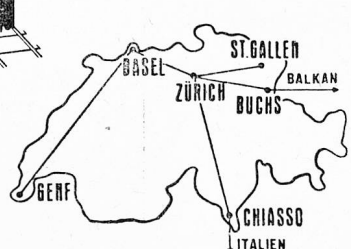
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printed except *Richard III*, of which there is no copy in private hands.

The first folio, like the other three folios, is in its original binding, and, according to the Rosenbach Company, is "untouched, unwashed, and perfect."

* * *

The last remaining exhibits that made up the Polish museum, which was housed in the 14th-century Rapperswil Castle, near Zurich, have been returned to Warsaw. The majestic, three-towered castle, now empty, is to be used by the International Institute for Castle Research.

* * *

For sportsmen throughout the world the beginning of 1952 is marked by an intense preparation for the forthcoming summer Olympic Games, which are to be held at Helsinki in July. Swiss gymnasts, among the best in the world, are expected to carry off many of the prizes, and for a while now a number of them have been undergoing intensive training.

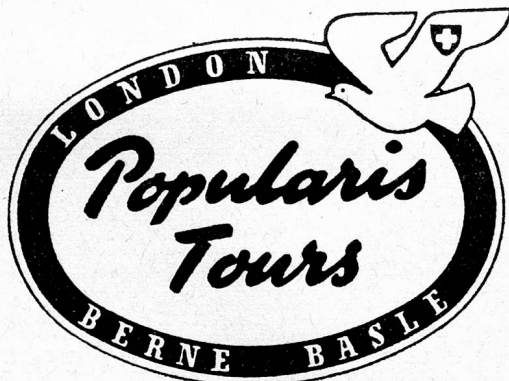
The selection of the Swiss gymnasts to go to Helsinki will take place after the final of the Swiss championships at Lausanne on March 30th. Because of this, the championships, which are being held in the new hall of the Swiss Fair (Comptoir Suisse), will take on an even greater importance. Taking part will be Switzerland's 20 best gymnasts, of whom several are world champions.

The outstanding powers of such men as Josef Stalder, Frey, Tschabold, Gunthard, Gebendinger and Thalmann, who capture the admiration of laymen and specialists alike, assure spectators of an event of great interest. The contest promises to be lively, with many promising competitors struggling for first place, while the 20 referred to will do all their best to be chosen for the team of ten to go into training before carrying their country's colours to Finland.

* * *

This year's "Tour de Suisse" (the all-Switzerland cycling race) will take place from June 14th to 21st — midway between similar races in Italy and France. It will consist of eight stages, and there will be no rest day. It is believed that the route will not be so difficult as in the last few years, but it will include a time trial. Although the final itinerary has not yet been announced it is known there will be stages in Eastern Switzerland, North-Western Switzerland, the Jura region, the Cantons of Vaud and the

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* * *

Inaugurated last year and placed under the patronage of Pablo Casals, this year's Zermatt Musical Festival opens in mid-August and is to last three weeks. The famous violincellist will himself take a Bach interpretation course for stringed instruments. Other courses will be: violin (under Mr. Sandor Végh), violincello (Mr. Paul Grümmer) Lieder (Mr. Gerhard Hüsch), chamber music (Messrs. Grümmer and Végh). The detailed programme, which is to be issued shortly, includes a number of public concerts to be given by internationally-known artists.

* * *

According to the Swiss Horse-racing Federation, the following races will be held in Switzerland this year: May 17th-25th at Lucerne (International Races); May 18th at Zurich (second date still to be fixed); June 2nd at Frauenfeld (Thurgau); June 7th-8th and 15th at Morges (near Lausanne); June 14th-15th at Berne; June 28th-29th at Thun (National Races); July 5th-6th at Bâle; August 10th at Saignelégier (Bernese Jura); August 30th-31st at Yverdon; September 7th at St. Gall; September 28th and October 5th at Arosa.

* * *

Thousands of yodlers, clad in gay native costumes, will take part in a rustic pageant, when the 9th Swiss national yodlers' festival convenes at St. Gall on July 11th to 13th.

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The programme for the three-day festival includes processions of yodlers and costume groups on Saturday and Sunday, July 12th and 13th. The pageant will depict local folk customs in the various parts of Switzerland throughout the year.

The festival is expected to attract some ten thousand spectators. Visitors from abroad will be able to combine their enjoyment of costume pageants, yodeling, Alpine horn blowing and flag throwing with a visit to St. Gall's permanent attraction, its abbey, one of the most famous in Europe with its rich collection of early manuscripts and printed books.

St. Gall, the highest city of its size in Europe (2196ft.) is 53 miles north-east of Zurich on the direct route connecting Zurich with Lake Constance and Southern Germany. It was named after the Irish monk, Gallus, who established a Benedictine abbey on the site of the city in the seventh century. St. Gall is now world famous for its textiles, including cotton, muslin, embroidery and lace.

* * *

The King of the Belgians, accompanied by the Princess Joséphine-Charlotte and his two younger brothers has arrived at Gstaad on March 3rd. The royal party includes Professor Samuel Wursten, the King's former tutor and ski instructor.

* * *

The University of Geneva announces the opening of a first course on International Institutions, which will take place during the period of holiday courses in the French language, *i.e.* from the 14th of July to the 9th August, 1952.

PETITES CHOSES QUI FONT PLAISIR.

"Semaine Suisse" (Service de Presse).

La "Compagnie des Montres Longines", à St. Imier, vient de recevoir les remerciements du comité d'Organisation des Jeux Olympiques d'hiver en Norvège, pour le fonctionnement irréprochable des installations de chronométrage automatique. Ce succès a valu à la fabrique suisse de nombreuses commandes pour d'autres concours sportifs, tant en Suisse qu'à l'étranger.

* * *

Les laboratoires de F. Hoffmann La Roche & Cie. S.A. à Bâle mettent au point un remède foncièrement nouveau pour le traitement de la tuberculose. La Suisse contribue ainsi, dans une très large mesure, à la lutte contre ce fléau.

* * *

Le Sénat péruvien vient de décerner l'"Ordre du Soleil du Pérou" à l'ingénieur suisse Paul Boner, pour les services éminents qu'il a rendus à l'équipement hydrologique du Pérou.

* * *

Le publiciste suédois bien connu Paul Olberg, social-démocrate, fait paraître dans la presse de son pays de nombreux articles sur la neutralité et le degré de préparation militaire suisses. L'armée suisse, dit-il, dispose d'une grange puissance combattive et d'un demi-million de soldats bien entraînés. "L'armée, c'est le peuple, et le peuple, c'est l'armée."

* * *

L'illustre physicien Albert Einstein déclare que l'école cantonale d'Aarau est pour lui le meilleur exemple d'un établissement éducatif de cette catégorie.

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