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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The electorate of Switzerland accepted by 480,852 votes to 413,944 a law developing agriculture and protecting agriculturists. With the growing industrialization of Switzerland, emigration from the land has reached a dangerous level. Since 1850 the proportion of agriculturists has fallen from about 50 per cent to 18 per cent of the total population, and it is estimated that nearly 1,000 farms are abandoned every year. The new "Statute of Agriculture" provides for the protection of farm products by means of Custom duties and import quotas, as well as by regulating prices on the home market by subsidies derived from Customs duties on foreign agricultural products. Here are detailed results of the voting:—

	Yes.	No.
Zürich . . . . .	69,353	102,906
Bern . . . . .	88,926	58,681
Luzern . . . . .	26,583	23,659
Uri . . . . .	3,523	2,467
Schwyz . . . . .	6,419	6,869
Obwalden . . . . .	2,371	2,087
Nidwalden . . . . .	2,075	2,057
Glarus . . . . .	3,282	4,609
Zug . . . . .	3,124	4,737
Fribourg . . . . .	22,379	6,366
Solothurn . . . . .	18,424	14,783
Baselstadt . . . . .	10,185	18,476
Baselland . . . . .	10,287	9,672
Schaffhausen . . . . .	7,038	7,390
Appenzell A.Rh. . . . .	3,484	7,406
Appenzell I.Rh. . . . .	1,415	1,088
St. Gallen . . . . .	27,333	36,539
Graubünden . . . . .	19,353	6,641
Aargau . . . . .	36,357	36,012
Thurgau . . . . .	19,360	15,058
Ticino . . . . .	15,593	4,054
Vaud . . . . .	38,135	19,915
Valais . . . . .	23,037	4,045
Neuchâtel . . . . .	11,849	9,085
Genève . . . . .	10,967	9,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>480,852</b>	<b>413,944</b>

63.5% of the electors went to the Poll.

M. Rubattel, Swiss Finance Minister, told the Council of States (Upper Chamber) that Switzerland is negotiating with Britain to increase the tourist allowance.

The Government are asking for the allowance to be increased from £25 to £35.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Government announced a new 18-year, 3 per cent bond issue for a total of 200 million francs.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Victor Salomon Pinto Juarez, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Guatemala, has presented his credentials to Monsieur K. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation.

\* \* \*

According to a report issued by the Federal Political Department in Berne, there are at present 53 countries accredited to the Confederation. The Diplomatic Corps numbers 256 members (1951: 266).

The personnel of the Political Department (Foreign Office) numbers 1,288 persons (1951: 1,346).

\* \* \*

Customs duties receipts during March 1952, amounted to 46.3 million francs, or 5.1 million francs less than in March 1951.

Receipts in the first three months of the current year totalled 132.1 million francs, which is 15.1 million francs less than during the same period in the previous year.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in February 1952, 17.13 million passengers or 1.38 million more than in February 1951. The receipts totalled 19.96 million francs, which is an increase of 1.61 million francs over the February, 1951, figures.

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