

# 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

Swiss voters have rejected by 550,712 votes to 128,237, a proposal of the Communist party for the abolition of purchase tax. This is one of the Governments main sources of revenue. Here are detailed results of the voting:—

	Yes.	No.
Zürich . . . . .	30,538	112,928
Bern . . . . .	12,274	72,685
Luzern . . . . .	4,661	26,142
Uri . . . . .	503	4,477
Schwyz . . . . .	1,179	7,909
Obwalden . . . . .	356	2,549
Nidwalden . . . . .	353	2,936
Glarus . . . . .	1,128	5,877
Zug . . . . .	768	4,075
Fribourg . . . . .	2,200	13,930
Solothurn . . . . .	3,716	21,286
Baselstadt . . . . .	7,130	16,527
Baselrand . . . . .	3,728	11,222
Schaffhausen . . . . .	3,206	11,045
Appenzell A.Rhr. . . . .	1,797	7,595
Appenzell I.Rh. . . . .	248	1,623
St. Gallen . . . . .	9,100	47,504
Graubünden . . . . .	1,800	19,115
Aargau . . . . .	9,623	59,282
Thurgau . . . . .	4,423	26,820
Ticino . . . . .	3,374	9,450
Vaud . . . . .	11,686	29,564
Valais . . . . .	3,455	11,411
Neuchâtel . . . . .	4,213	12,191
Genève . . . . .	6,778	12,569
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,237</b>	<b>550,712</b>

48% of the electors went to the Poll.

Monsieur Jean-Marie Musy, a former Federal-Councillor, has died at the Cantonal Hospital, Fribourg.

He was born on January 10, 1876, at Albeuve (Ct. Fribourg); on finishing his schooling he studied law at the Universities of Fribourg, Munich and Berlin, and

practised for several years as a lawyer. Later on, Monsieur Musy was appointed Manager of the "Crédit Gruyérien" in Bulle. From 1912-1919, he was a member of the Government of the canton Fribourg.

Monsieur Musy entered the Federal Government in 1919 as head of the Finance and Customs Department. He retired in 1934 after having twice been President of the Swiss Confederation (1925 and 1930).

\* \* \*

Monsieur Max Grässli, Swiss Minister to Hungary, has been appointed Swiss Minister to India and Thailand, in succession to Minister Armin Daeniker, who has been transferred to Sweden.

Minister Grässli was born at St. Gall in 1902, and is a citizen of Grabs (St. Gall). He studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Geneva, Paris and Berne, afterwards practising as a lawyer in Berne, Aarau and Geneva. In 1930, he entered the Diplomatic Service and was attached to the Swiss Legation in Paris. Three years later (1934), Monsieur Grässli returned to Berne and was promoted to Secretary of Legation. In 1936, he was sent to Berlin, which post he left in 1942 on his appointment as Consul General in Bratislava. In 1945, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and transferred to Washington, which post he occupied until 1948, when he was sent on a diplomatic mission to Japan. After a few months, Minister Grässli returned to Berne. From May 25th to September 22nd, 1948, he was Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow and the following year he was appointed Swiss Minister to Hungary.

\* \* \*

Monsieur Ch. Weibel has been nominated Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* in Tokio. (Monsieur Weibel was a former member of the diplomatic staff of the Swiss Legation in London.)

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The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 17.40 million passengers during March, 1952, or 446,000 less than in March, 1951. Receipts from passenger service are returned as 22.79 million francs (March, 1951 : 23.91 million francs).

Goods traffic has diminished by 164,000 tons, and is returned as 1.58 million tons carried. Receipts thereof amount to 30.33 million francs (March, 1951 : 31.24 million francs).

### Cantonal

The Obwaldner "Landsgemeinde" was held at Sarnen, and attended by the following guests: Federal-Councillor Dr. Ph. Etter, States Councillor E. Speiser and National Councillor R. Grimm. Dr. G. Odermatt, National Councillor, was again elected "Landammann". Mr. L. von Moos, States Councillor, has been appointed to the office of "Landesstatthalter".

[A.T.S.]

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Nidwalden took place at Stans in the presence of the government of the canton of Zurich *in corpore*. Dr. J. Odermatt was elected "Landammann", and Mr. Zraggen has been appointed "Landesstatthalter".

[A.T.S.]

During the month of March, 1952, 591 (March, 1951 : 539) traffic accidents have occurred in the canton of Zurich; 232 persons were injured of whom two succumbed to their injuries.

[A.T.S.]

The late Mme. Barbara Brupbacher-Meier, of Thalwil, has left an amount of 33,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions in the community of Thalwil.

[A.T.S.]

During the year 1951, the University of Zurich has received donations amounting to 107,900.—frs. (19,000.—frs., Sandoz Stiftung; 21,000.—frs., Fritz Hoffmann-La Roche Stiftung; 70,000.—frs., Rockefeller Foundation; 7,800.—frs., A. Alexander, Zurich and 10,000.—frs. E. & J. Krauer, Stäfa.)

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Rudolf Meier has been elected President of the government of the canton of Zurich for the period of 1952/53; Dr. Jakob Heusser will occupy the post of Vice-President.

[A.T.S.]

With 100,000 subscribers — nearly one in four of its population — Zurich claims to be the most telephone-minded city in Europe.

[A.T.S.]

Dr. med Hansrudolf Bloch, has been elected physician-in-chief to the cantonal hospital in Glarus, in succession to Dr. E. Fritzsche, who has relinquished this post.

[A.T.S.]

A locomotive collided with a goods train on the Burgdorf-Langnau line, outside the station at Langnau, the driver of the goods train, Gutjahr, was killed, and four other persons were injured.

[A.T.S.]

National-Councillor, Robert Bratschi has relinquished his membership of the Grand Council of the canton of Berne of which he has been a member since 1930.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Arnold Rosselet, at present Manager of the National Bank in Zurich, has been elected Manager of the "Zürcher Kantonalbank" in succession to Mr. J. Jenni, who has retired from his post.

[A.T.S.]

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The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Appenzell a.Rh. has taken place at Trogen; amongst the visitors were: Federal-Councillor, Dr. Max Weber, Monsieur Bentick, Dutch Minister, Minister Nef (Swiss Minister in Canada) and Colonel of Division Berli. Mr. Adolf Bodmer was re-elected "Landammann".

[A.T.S.]

The "Appenzeller Zeitung", which is published in Herisau, has celebrated its 125th anniversary.

[A.T.S.]

Christian Gantenbein, a farmer of Sgun-Grabs (Ct. St. Gall) has celebrated his 100th birthday.

[A.T.S.]

The community of Pontresina (Ct. Grisons) has decided to erect a monument to the memory of J. C. Heer, the author of the famous novel, "Der König der Bernina".

[A.T.S.]

The well-known Swiss champion skier and alpine guide, Robert Zurbriggen, aged 36, of Saas Fee, who was instructor to the Indian army in 1949, fell into a glacier crevasse on the Schwarzberg Weissster and was killed. Robert Zurbriggen was married and is the father of a one year old child. In 1948, at the Olympic Games in St. Moritz, he was first in the "Patrouillenlauf" and at the Olympic Games at Oslo his patrol won the European championship. In 1947, Robert Zurbriggen was Swiss champion in the 18 and 50 kilometer race.

[A.T.S.]

Mr. Oscar Schnyder, has been elected President of the government of the canton of Valais for 1952/53.

[A.T.S.]



# 77th FÊTE SUISSE

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 12th, 6 to 10 p.m. (DOORS OPEN AT 5 P.M.)

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A "Roter Pfeil" train coming from Montreux collided with a stationary passenger train at the station of Villeneuve, 3 persons were killed and 35 injured, four of them seriously. [A.T.S.]

The following deaths are announced from Switzerland:—

Charles Girardet, in Montreux, at the age of 67. The deceased was a member of the Boards of the following companies: Leukerbad Railway, Electricity Works, Dala, "Hotel and Bädergesellschaft Leukerbad", Aigle-Le Sépey-Diablerets Railway and Martigny-Orsières Railway. In the army, he reached the rank of Colonel of artillery.

Melchoir Weber-Diebold, "Bezirksammann", and for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Schwyz, aged 72.

Kurt Meyer, since 1932 Professor of organic chemistry at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 59.

Arthur Piaget, for 40 years Professor of Philology at the University of Neuchâtel, and from 1898-1935, keeper of the archives of the canton Neuchâtel, in Neuchâtel, aged 86.

William Mattly-Claudet, a lawyer and journalist and a former member of the editorial staff of the "Tribune de Genève", in Geneva, at the age of 70.

Dr. Alfred Ursprung, since 1903, Professor of Botany at the University of Fribourg, in Fribourg.

Anton Gwerder-Betschart, for many years President of the commune of Muotatal, and a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, at Muotatal, aged 78.

Henri Darbre, at one time station-master at La-Chaux-de-Fonds, sub-inspector in Geneva and from

1923-1933, Traffic inspector in Geneva, at Lausanne, aged 86. The deceased was elected a member of the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways in 1919.

Rudolf Heuberger, consulting-engineer; the new railway station at Bienne was built after his plans.

Adolf Furrer, engineer-in-chief of the "Dampfschiff-Gesellschaft des Vierwaldstättersees" in Lucerne.

Dr. Richard Iklé, a lawyer, well-known in Banking and industrial circles, in St. Gall, at the age of 70.

Emil Spiess, Hotelier and President of the commune of St. Moritz, in Lugano, aged 84.

Iginio Franscini, from 1947-1951, a judge of the Riviera district (Ct. Ticino), in Zurich, at the age of 34.

Dr. Robert Löliger-Geiser, from 1923-1943, Central Secretary of the "Stiftung Pro Juventute", in Zurich, aged 66.

Mme. A. H. Mercier-Jenny, for the last twelve years Central President of the "Schweiz. Gemeinnützigen Frauenvereins", in Glarus, at the age of 67.

Colonel Emile Villeneuve, industrialist, in Malleray-Revillard, at the age of 62. The deceased was in command of the 9th regiment and the 3rd Brigade, during the last war. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The following anniversaries are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Max Wey (60) Mayor of the town of Lucerne. Dr. Wey was a member of the government of the canton of Lucerne from 1921-1927. In 1927, he was appointed Director of municipal enterprises, which post he held until 1939, when he was elected Mayor of the town of Lucerne. Since 1931, he has been a member of the Grand Council and since 1935 of the National

Council over which he presided in 1946/47. From 1941-1948, Dr. Wey was President of the Swiss Liberal-Democratic Party.

Pierre Grellet (70), Journalist and author, who, for over 40 years has been in the service of the "Gazette de Lausanne".

Jakob Meili (80), a member of the National Council from 1920-1942, and the "Kantonsrat" of Thurgau, and for many years a secretary of the Swiss Farmers Union.

Hans Berger (70), well-known painter, in Solothurn.

Dr. Armin Meili (60), National-Councillor, Director of the "Landesaustellung 1939" Zurich, and a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich. He is the President of the "Schweizerischen Vereinigung für Landesplanung." [A.T.S.]

The following couples have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65), in Switzerland: Mr. and Mrs. Ballmer-Wiesner, of Basle; Mr. and Mrs. J. Kessler-Müller, of Gossau, Mr. and Mrs. A. Vinzenzi-Caporali, of Basle, Diamond wedding anniversary (60): Mr. and Mrs. G. Décorbet-Maret of Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

The following cantons have announced their 1951 accounts:

Berne	Credit Balance	354,197.—frs.
Ticino	Debit Balance	165,688.—frs.
Grisons	Debit Balance	710,000.—frs.
Thurgau	Credit Balance	110,000.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

Mademoiselle Léonie Blättler, a stewardess in the employ of Swissair has flown altogether 1 million kilometres, and thus joins the band of "Flight millionaires". [A.T.S.]

Coming events in Switzerland:—May 15th/July 31st: Lucerne, International Photography Exhibition. May 28th: Neuchâtel, Cantonal Trade Fair. June 1st/4th: Lausanne, International Ballet featuring the New York Opera. June 4th/8th: Glaris, 600th Anniversary of entry into the Swiss Confederation. June 14th/22nd: Montreux, Traditional "Narcissi Festival". June 14th/22nd: Geneva, Rose Festival. June 27th/29th: Zoug, 600th Anniversary of entry into the Swiss Confederation. June 27th/30th: Lausanne, International Ballet featuring the Paris Opera. June: Zurich, June Music Weeks.

It is proposed to hold an International Congress for Church Music in Berne. A Committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Geering, Professor for Musicology at the University of Berne, and the suggested date is 30th August to 4th September. Prominent speakers will take part and there will be demonstrations of the historical and liturgical basis of church music and its development through the ages and consideration of modern trends. An international selection of organists and other musicians, choirs and instrumental ensembles will take part in the concerts. Interested readers should write to the organist of Berne Cathedral, Mr. K. W. Senn, for further information.

A team of six Swiss yachtsmen is to visit the Royal Albert Y.C., Southsea, for a series of races in boats of the National Swallow class beginning on June 23rd.

The extradition of two Jugoslavs who took a plane to Zurich last October was refused by the Swiss Federal Court.

#### EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY HANS SEILER.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to an exhibition of paintings by Hans Seiler, at the Redfern Gallery, 20, Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, W.1. (Closing date May 31st, 1952.)

This artist has been established in France for the last 25 years; he has recently held two exhibitions, one in Berne and the other in Paris, which met with great success.

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

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