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# The Swiss Observer

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, has, on behalf of the Federal Council, sent a telegram of congratulation to Pope Pius XII, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

The Soviet Union has raised its Legation in Berne to the rank of a full Embassy. Monsieur Pavel I. Erchow, the Soviet Minister, called on Dr. M. Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation, and presented his letters of credence as ambassador.

The Swiss electorate has accepted by 541,229 votes against 156,943 a Government proposal extending until 1960 an official but reduced control of prices concerning mainly foodstuffs, fuel and house rents.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried in the month of January, 1956, 18.3 million passengers, or 200,000 more than during the same period in 1955. Receipts: 23 million frs. (Jan., 1955: 22.7 million frs.)

Goods traffic is returned as 1.73 million tons, or 140,000 tons more than in January, 1955. Receipts: 32.9 million frs. (Jan. 1955: 31.6 million frs.)

Customs receipts for the month of February, 1956, amounted to 56.2 million francs, or 14.2 million frs. more than in February, 1955.

The Federal Post, Telegraph and Post administration made during 1955 a profit of 76.8 million francs, or 14.2 million frs. more than in 1954.

Dr. Georges Bonnant has been appointed Swiss Consul in Hongkong in succession to Mr. Josef Kurmann, who will take over another appointment.

The new Consul was born in 1915 at Geneva, and entered into the service of the Federal Political Department in 1942. He has held appointments in

Rome, Milano, and is at present in Lisbon in the capacity of 1st Secretary of Legation.

Mr. Milton Weil of Zurich has donated to the Swiss Confederation his Air Mail stamp collection valued at 200,000.—frs.

#### Cantonal

Mr. Willy Sauser (Berne), civil-engineer, is entering the National Council, in succession to the late Paul Zigerli. He was born in 1908, and is a member of the "Evangelischen Volkspartei". [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. Franz Wyss has been appointed physician-in-chief of the medical section to the "Insel" hospital in Berne. [A.T.S.]

A proposal in the canton of Berne that the commune of Berne be authorised to grant the vote to women in communal affairs only, was rejected by the electorate by roughly 62,000 votes to 52,000. [A.T.S.]

During the year 1955, 766 traffic accidents were reported in the canton of Fribourg (1954: 791). 521 persons were injured of whom 32 succumbed to their injuries. [A.T.S.]

M. Pierre de Weck, who has been since 1924, States Prosecutor of the canton of Fribourg, has tendered his resignation. [A.T.S.]

The accounts for 1955 of the canton of Solothurn show a credit balance of 1,536,693.—frs. [A.T.S.]

### CITY SWISS CLUB

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, April 24th, 1956, at 6.30 for 7 p.m., 7.30 p.m., at Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

Agenda: Minutes of last meeting.

Admissions.

Resignations.

President's Report.

Treasurer's Report.

Elections.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of Dorchester Hotel, W.1, to reach him not later than, Monday, April 23rd, 1956.

THE COMMITTEE.

The oldest inhabitant of the town of Basle, Mrs. Caroline Fiechter-Singer, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

As a result of the recent elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Basle town, the strength of the various parties is as follows: "Radikale": 21 (25), "Katholische Volkspartei": 19 (18), "Liberales": 14 (16), "Bürger und Gewerbetypen": 5 (6), "Landesring" (Duttweiler party): 9 (7), "Evangelische": 5 (5), "Sozial Demokraten": 41 (39), "Kommunisten": 16 (14).

The seven members who comprise the Government have been re-elected. They are: Professor H. P. Tschudi (Socialist): 26,882 votes; Dr. A. Schaller (Radical): 25,194 votes; Fr. Brechtbühl (Socialist): 25,095 votes; Dr. E. Zweifel (Radical): 24,313 votes; Dr. P. Zschokke (Liberal): 23,896 votes; Dr. C. Peter (Catholic): 23,841 votes; and M. Wullschleger (Socialist): 21,948 votes. The latter replaces Dr. F. Ebi, who has retired for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

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Considerable damage was caused by a fire which broke out at the "Waffenfabrik der Schweiz. Industrie-Gesellschaft", Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]

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The accounts of the canton of Appenzell A.Rh. for 1955, close with a credit balance of 24,624.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1955 of the canton of St. Gall show a credit balance of 557,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Board of the "Comptoir Suisse" has appointed Dr. h.c. R. Stadler, a member of the Board of the Cable Works, Cossonay, to the post of Central President of the "Comptoir Suisse", Lausanne, in succession to Mr. Henri Mayr, who has resigned for reasons of health. [A.T.S.]

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On March the 1st, the population of the canton of Neuchâtel, celebrated the 108th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic, Neuchâtel. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the 50th Jubilee of the "Revue Automobile", Geneva, the publishers have issued a special number. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The accounts for 1955, of the canton of Neuchâtel, show a credit balance of 2,181,000.frs. [A.T.S.]

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Madame Pernette Chaponnière of Geneva, has been awarded the Charles Veillon prize, amounting to 5,000.—frs. for her novel "Toi que nous aimons".

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The 26th Geneva International Motor Show was officially opened on March 8th, by Dr. Markus Feldmann, President of the Swiss Confederation. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

All the five members of the Government of the canton of Thurgau have been re-elected, they are: Dr. Ernst Reiber (Liberal): 19,905 votes; R. Schümperli (Socialist): 19,901 votes; Dr. J. Müller (Liberal): 19,760 votes; Dr. Willy Stähelin (Conservative): 19,252 votes; and H. Reutlinger (Peasant Party): 17,376 votes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. ing. h.c. Max Schoop, in Zurich, at the age of 86. Originator of the "Autogene Schweissung von Aluminium" and the "Metallspritzverfahren". The Technical University of Braunschweig honoured him with the title of *doctor honoris causa*, and the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia awarded him the John Scott medal.

Paul Zigerli, since 1943 a member of the National Council, in Siders (whilst attending a meeting of a special commission of the National Council). He was born in Berne, on April 1st, 1883.



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Pierre Gauchat, a well-known etcher and illustrator of books, in Cairo (whilst on holiday) at the age of 54. The deceased was from 1925-1943 a teacher at the "Zürcher Kunstgewerbeschule", and had been since a teacher at the *Gymnasium*, Zurich.

Francesco Rusca, from 1922-1951, a Member of Parliament (National Council) and from 1908-1916, a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino, in Simone near Chiasso, aged 80.

Dr. Robert Fazi, from 1921-1942, a member of the Supreme Federal Court, Lausanne, aged 84.

Jon Vonmoos, from 1897-1947 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Grisons, and from 1919-1943 a Member of Parliament (National Council), in Ramosch, at the age of 83.

Edouard Condet, the oldest Swiss, in Fribourg, aged 105.

Dr. phil. H. Schobel, Vice-Director of CIBA, Basle, in Basle, at the age of 70.

Dr. h.c. Gustav Wenk, in Basle, aged 73. The deceased was elected in 1925, a member of the Government of the canton of Basle Town of which he was a member for 28 years, he was until recently also a member of the States Council (Ständerat).

Friedrich Gisler, for 50 years in the service of the "Standes" Uri, in Altdorf, at the age of 80.

Ernest Bauer, Professor of Music, and at one time a noted singer, in Neuchâtel, aged 67.

François Charles Hoguer, architect, and founder of the Association "In Memoriam", in Lausanne, at the age of 76.

Emil Hess, Editor of the paper "Sie und Er", Zurich, aged 59.

Emil Müller, for 18 years chief engineer at the Electricity Power Works, Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 77.

Dr. Paul J. Bloch, for the last 22 years Editor of the "Basler Nachrichten", in Basle, aged 52.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

**LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.**

Mr. R. Lehmann, Director of the "Schweizerischen Verbandstoffabrik", Flawil, has made a donation of 25,000.—frs. to the Pharmaceutical Institute of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich for the creation of an "Anton Lehmann Fund".

Mr. & Mrs. H. Frey-Forster of Wangen, nr. Olten, have donated an amount of 100,000.—frs. towards the erection of a Kindergarten school.

Dr. Emil Schiess, of Flawil has made a donation amounting to 20,000.—frs. to the school at Trogen (Ct. Appenzell A. Rh.), where he received his education.

The late Mlle. Rosa Sennhauser of Wil (St. Gall) has left a sum of 125,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions, amongst them the Home for old people (40,000.—frs.) and the hospital in Wil (20,000.—frs.).

A lady in Altstätten, who wishes to remain anonymous has donated the amount of 100,000.—frs. to the R.C. church community of Altstätten for internal decorations and installation of central heating of the church.

[A.T.S.]



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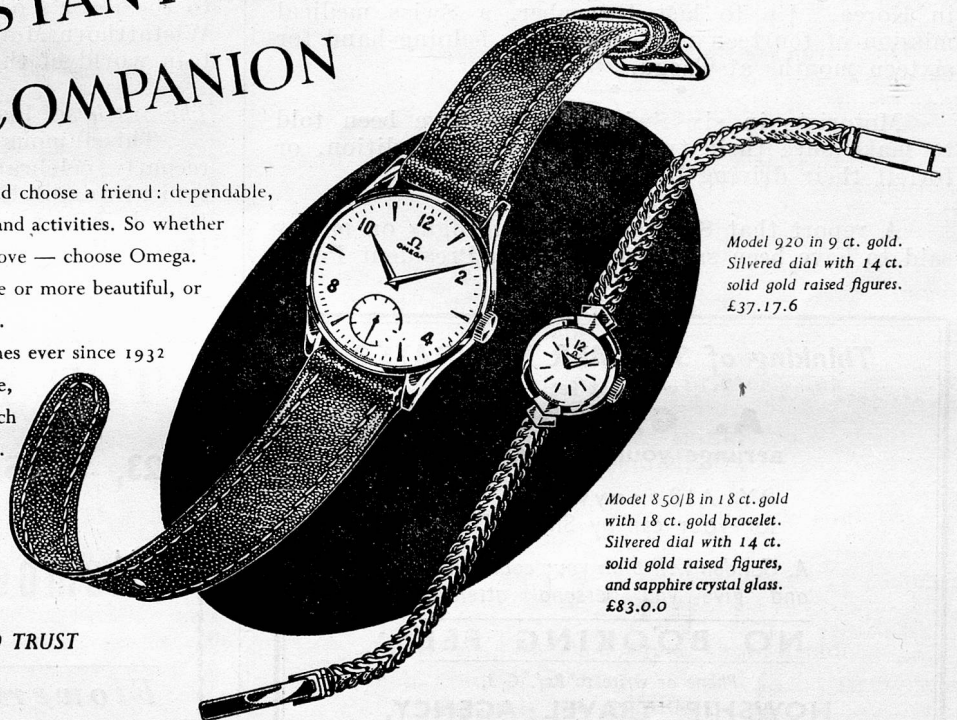
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**BANK DIVIDENDS.**

The following Swiss Banks have declared their dividend for 1955: Gewerbekasse, Baden: 5½ per cent; Solothurner Handelsbank: 6 per cent, Spar & Kreditkasse, Lausanne: 5.5 per cent; Gewerbebank, Zurich: 6 per cent (1954: 6%); Obwalder Gewerbebank: 5 per cent (1954: 5%). [A.T.S.]

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Dr. Albert Egger, leader of the Swiss Himalayan expedition which is to attempt Everest and Lhotse, left Katmandu to join the rest of the expedition at Jaynagar.

The march to the base of the mountains began on March 4th and the eleven climbers, who are equipped with the circuit oxygen sets, hope to establish a base camp at the Khumbu glacier by April 6th.

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Glarus cantonal police court has imposed a fine of 100.frs. on a skier who last year ran at full speed into another skier and inflicted injuries from which the latter died.

\* \* \*

To mark the centenary of the operation of the Anglo-Swiss Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Reciprocal Establishment, Mr. A. R. W. Low, Minister of State, Board of Trade, gave a luncheon to the Swiss Minister in London (M. Daeniker) and senior members of the Swiss Legation. The treaty was signed in Berne on September 6, 1855, and came into operation on March 6th, 1856.

\* \* \*

Swiss Aid for Korea. — During 1956 and 1957 four Swiss advisers will be on the staff of the University Hospital of Taegu, in Korea. They are a general physician-surgeon, a chief nurse, a radiology technician and a maintenance engineer. Recruited by the Swiss Red Cross, they represent part of Switzerland's contribution to United Nations reconstruction work in Korea. Up to last December, a Swiss medical mission of fourteen members lent a helping hand for sixteen months at Taegu.

\* \* \*

Motorists in six Swiss cantons have been told to make sure their tyres are in good condition, or forfeit their driving licences.

\* \* \*

A report that Switzerland has designs on money said to have been salted away by ex-President Peron

in Switzerland has brought a sharp protest to the Argentine Government from the Swiss.

According to a dispatch from Buenos Aires, quoting Argentine Government sources, the Swiss have refused to disclose the whereabouts of large sums deposited for Peron by his wife, Eva, and her brother Juan Duarte.

The report, published in the *New York Herald Tribune*, says the Swiss attitude has angered Argentine authorities.

An Argentine official is quoted as having said: "If the Swiss were to refuse Peron a visa until his death, they could take possession of his money in the end".

Describing the allegation as outrageous, a Swiss Foreign Office official said: "Our Government has never received a request for information concerning such funds".

\* \* \*

*Europe's Longest "Gondola" Téléferique.*

The resort village of Zweisimmen in the upper Simmen Valley of the Bernese Oberland plans to construct the longest "gondola" Téléferique in Europe. Its total length will measure 5,544 yards with a difference in altitude of 3,156 feet. The egg-shaped "gondolas", featuring sliding picture-windows, can convey 350 to 400 tourists per hour up to the lofty heights.

Zweisimmen can be reached in two hours from the Swiss federal capital, Berne, by direct trains. Thanks to this new "gondola" téléferique these uplands, which up to now have been almost exclusively the domain of the mountaineer, will be accessible also to the average hiker and downhill skier. In connection with the already existing skilift Oeschseite-Berghaus Rinderberg it will offer skiers a multitude of exciting descents and inexhaustible excursion possibilities over the ridge of Gandlauen-Parwangen to the resorts of Gstaad and Saanenmoeser or to the Wistatthorn Mountain amidst the breathtaking mountain world of the Bernese Alps.

\* \* \*

*The "Chesa Veglia" at St. Moritz.*

This famous restaurant, tea shop and night club, recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The typical quaint Engadine house was built in 1685. In 1928 it was taken over by the owner of the Palace Hotel, Hans Badrutt, who converted it into the "Chesa Veglia" in 1935.

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