

News at random

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Assembly, composed of the two Chambers sitting together, elected Dr. F. T. Wahlen to be President of the Swiss Confederation for 1961, and M. P. Chaudet to be Vice-President. The new President, who belongs to the Peasants', Artisans' and Bourgeois Party, is head of the Department of Public Economy. He was born in 1899 in Gmeiss (Ct. Berne) and is a citizen of Trimstein-Rubigen. He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Science and Ing. Agr.

From 1922 to 1929 he resided in Canada, occupying from 1924 the post of Chief of the Canadian Agricultural Department. In 1929 he returned to Switzerland and was appointed head of the Federal Agricultural Testing Office in Zurich, which appointment he relinquished on his nomination as Director of FAO in Washington, where he became Vice-General-Director in 1957.

Mr. Wahlen was awarded the Marcel Benoist Prize for Scientific Research; he is also a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Zurich. From 1942 to 1949 he was a member of the States Council, and in December 1958 he was elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to the late Dr. Markus Feldmann.

M. Paul Chaudet (Radical), Vice-President, is head of the Federal Military Department. He was born in 1904 and is a citizen of Corsier, near Vevey. By profession he is a vine-grower. He became Mayor of Rivaz — where he was born — and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In 1946 he was elected a member of the cantonal government. M. Chaudet became a member of the Federal Government in 1954, as successor to Federal Councillor R. Rubattel. He was President of the Confederation in 1959.

Dr. Emil Duft (Conservative Christian Socialist) has been elected President of the National Council. He was born in Flawil in 1895 and is a citizen of Kaltbrunn (St. Gall) and Zurich. He studied Economics in Berne, London and Zurich. In 1929 he became founder and director of an important private banking house, and in 1944 was elected President of the Christian Socialist Party of the canton of Zurich. He has sat since 1947 in the National Council. Dr. Duft enjoys the reputation of being an expert on financial matters.

* * *

Mr. Walther Bringolf (Socialist) has been elected Vice-President of the National Council. He was born at Schaffhausen in 1895. In 1924 Mr. Bringolf was elected a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Schaffhausen, and in 1925 a member of the National Council. He has occupied the post of Mayor of the town of Schaffhausen since 1932.

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Dr. Antonio Antognini (Conservative) has been elected President of the States Council. He was born in 1893 at Bellinzona. He studied Law at the Universities of Zurich and Torino, after which he established himself as an advocate and notary in Bellinzona and Biasca. From 1944 to 1952 he was Vice-Mayor of Bellinzona. At present he holds the post of President of the States Bank of the canton Ticino. He entered the National Council in 1935, and since 1943 has been a member of the States Council.

* * *

The new Vice-President of the States Council is Dr. Ernst Vaterlaus. He was born in Thalwil in 1891. From 1913 to 1916 Dr. Vaterlaus was a lecturer on Geometry at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and "Prorector" at the "Töchter-schule" of the same town. In 1945 he was elected Director of the "Unterseminar" in Küsnacht. The same year Dr. Vaterlaus entered the cantonal government, of which he was a member until 1959. He became a member of the States Council in 1951. In the army he holds the rank of Artillery Colonel.

* * *

The two Federal Chambers in a combined meeting have elected Dr. Kurt Schoch (Schaffhausen) as a member of the Federal Supreme Court in succession to Dr. Adolf Ziegler who had tendered his resignation.

The new Federal Judge was born in 1904 at Schleithem and is a citizen of Schaffhausen and Bauma. He studied Law at the Universities of Geneva, Heidelberg and Zurich. From 1944 to 1947 Dr. Schoch was a member of the government of the canton of Schaffhausen. In 1947 he became president of the cantonal tribunal, and six years later president of the Superior Court of the canton of Schaffhausen. Dr. Schoch has sat since 1946 in the States Council, over which he presided in 1956/57.

* * *

Dr. Wilhelm Schoenenberger has been elected president of the Federal Supreme Court. He was born in 1898 and is a citizen of Lütisburg (St. Gall). On the conclusion of his studies at the Universities of Fribourg, Berne, Munich and Berlin he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall (1922-25). In 1927 he was appointed Professor of Law at the University of Fribourg, and in 1936 was elected a member of the Federal Supreme Court. In the army he held the rank of General Staff Colonel.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. jur. Rudolf Siegrist (Aarau) to the post of Director of the "Eidg. Amtes für Elektrizitätswirtschaft" in succession to Mr. Florian Lusser.

* * *

Dr. Edwin Stopper (Winterthur), at present Delegate for Commercial Treaties at the Federal Economic Department, has been elected to the post of

Director of the Federal Finance Administration, in succession to Dr. V. Umbricht. The latter left the administration to join the CIBA concern.

The new Finance Director studied at the Commercial University St. Gall and at the University of Geneva. He entered the service of the Federal Economic Department in 1939. From 1945 to 1952 Dr. Stopper held the post of secretary of the "Vorort des Schweiz. Handels- und Industrieverein"; he returned to the Federal Economic Department in 1954 as Delegate for Commercial Treaties.

* * *

Monsieur Shiroshichi Kimura, the newly appointed Japanese Ambassador, has presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

* * *

The Federal Statistical Office in Berne has celebrated its 100th Jubilee.

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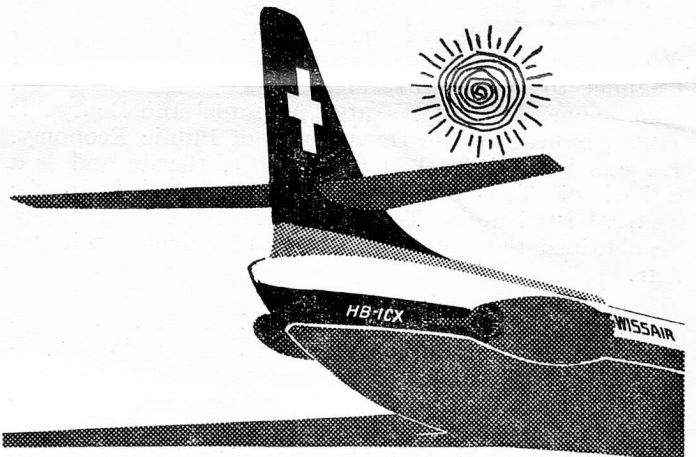
Cantonal

The electorate of the canton of Lucerne has rejected, with 28,025 votes against 9,110, a proposal to give women the vote in the affairs of the cantonal communes. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The well-known Swiss dramatist, Friedrich Duerrenmatt, was awarded the "Schiller Prize" (15,000.— francs) by the Swiss "Schiller Foundation".

[A.T.S.]



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On entering his office, the station-master of Baretswil (Zurich Oberland) was suddenly attacked by a man who intended to rob the till. The station-master put up a brave fight, whereupon the thug took to his heels without attaining his object. So far no arrest has been made. [A.T.S.]

The oldest female inhabitant of the town of Zurich, Frau Luise Trümpler-Hurter, has celebrated her 101st birthday. She was born in 1859 in Bradford (England). [A.T.S.]

By 53,038 for to 23,918 against, the electorate of the town of Zurich have voted a credit of 125 million francs for the erection of a second municipal hospital at the Triemli. [A.T.S.]

A motor-car between Rheinfelden and Möhlin fell on to the Basle-Zurich railway track. The driver of the car, Frau Hedwig Stalder-von Tobel (29) was killed, and two of her passengers received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

The "Verkehrsverein" Zurich invited its members to the 75th anniversary of its foundation celebration at the "Kongresshaus". Amongst the many guests present were the President of the Municipal Council, Albert Sieber, and the Mayor of the town of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt. [A.T.S.]

The Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Foundation has awarded two prizes for the year 1960. One prize (6,000.— francs) went to the writer, Raffael Ganz, and

the other (5,000.— francs) to the sculptor, Silvio Mattioli. [A.T.S.]

Dr.med.dent. Arthur Weber (Liberal) has been elected Mayor of Laufen (Bernese Jura), with 453 votes. His opponent, Leo Jermann (Conservative), polled 388 votes. [A.T.S.]

The Literature Prizes of the town of Berne for 1960 have been awarded to the following: Emil Balmer (2,000.— francs), Hans-Rudolf Balmer (1,500.— francs), Dr. Alfred Fankhauser (2,000.— francs), Peter Lehner (750.— francs), Hans Albrecht Moser (1,000.— francs), FrI. Magda Neuweiler (750.— francs). [A.T.S.]

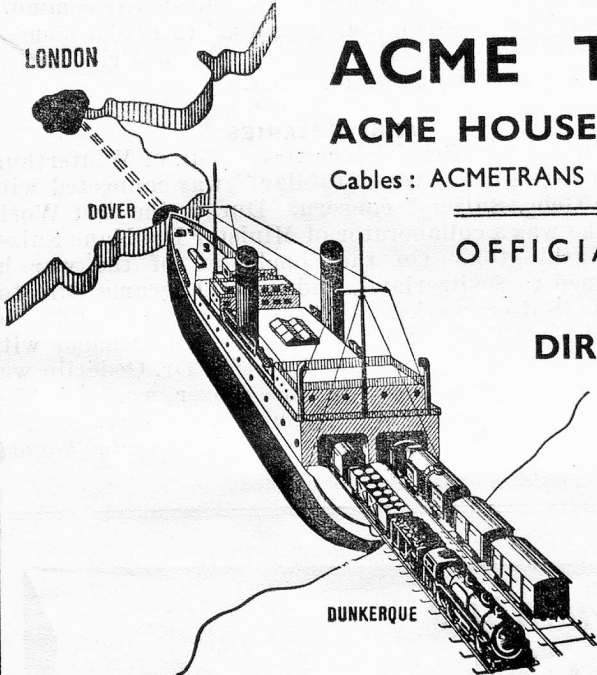
The Literature Prizes of the canton of Berne for 1960 were awarded to Alfred Fankhauser (2,000.— francs), Kurt Guggisberg (1,000.— francs), and Carl Müller (500.— francs). Two publishing concerns (Paul Haupt, Berne, and Editions Griffin) received 2,000.— francs each. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Georges Scherrer (Socialist) has been re-elected Mayor of the town of Delsberg, with 1,120 votes. His opponent, Gustave Riat (Liberal), polled 713 votes.

The Mayor of Porrentruy, Mr. Parietti (Liberal), has been re-elected, and so has the Mayor of Neuenstadt, Mr. Frederic Imhof. [A.T.S.]

National Councillor Otto Bienz (BGB party) has been elected President of the commune of Neueneegg. [A.T.S.]

The "Zuger Volksblatt" published in Zug has celebrated its 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]



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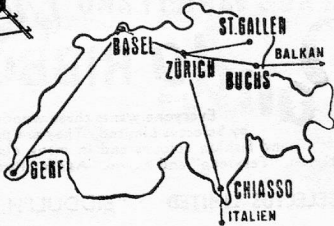
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A Piper sports aeroplane was stolen from one of the hangars at the Grenchen airport. The machine was later found damaged in the "Wittibach" near the aerodrome, where it had apparently crashed. The police arrested the two thieves — a seventeen-year-old factory worker and a nineteen-year-old locksmith apprentice. They had intended making a trip to Spain. The damage caused to the machine is estimated to be between 8,000 and 10,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The Literature Prizes for 1960 of the canton Basle-Town have been awarded to John Vuilleumier (5,000.— francs), Klaus Steiger (3,000.— francs), Dr. Alexander Seiler (1,500.— francs), and Dr. Rudolf Frank (2,000.— francs). [A.T.S.]

Following the recent elections for the Municipal Council of Schaffhausen (50 seats), the strengths of the various parties are as follows: Socialists 20 seats (1 loss), Liberals 15 seats (no change), Catholic Popular Party 6 seats (1 loss), Peasant and Bourgeois Party 2 seats (1 gain), Duttweiler Party 4 seats (2 gains), Evangelical Popular Party 2 seats (1 loss), Liberal Socialist Party 1 seat (no change). [A.T.S.]

The commune of Wilchingen (Ct. Schaffhausen) has honoured the dialect writer, Albert Baechtold, with honorary citizenship. [A.T.S.]

The periodical for women, "Annabelle", published at Lausanne since 1940, has ceased, owing to high costs of production. [A.T.S.]

The "Union Chorale de Lausanne" has celebrated its 100th jubilee, on which occasion a special concert was given at which the "Orchestre de la Suisse romande" and the "Choeur de Dames de Lausanne" assisted. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Aline Plaget has celebrated her 100th birthday, in Morges (Ct. Vaud). She was born at St. Imier. [A.T.S.]

Considerable damage was caused by an explosion which occurred at the chemical works of "Siegfried, A.G." in Zofingen. None of the employees was hurt. [A.T.S.]

The faculty of Political Science of the University of Geneva has honoured Dr. August Lindt, formerly High Commissioner for Refugees and now Swiss Ambassador in Washington, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*. [A.T.S.]

The newly appointed British Ambassador, Monsieur Paul Francis Grey, has paid an official visit to the government of the canton of Geneva. He was received by M. Edouard, President of the Geneva Government. [A.T.S.]

M. Edouard Chamay (Radical) has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Geneva. [A.T.S.]

The former Rector of the University of Geneva, Professor Antony Babel, has been nominated Honorary President of the "Rencontres Internationales de Genève". [A.T.S.]

DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. med. Ludwig Mannhart, in Flums, at the age of 67. For thirty-seven years the deceased was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and since 1948 had occupied the post of "Sanitätsrat" of the canton.

Marius Petitmermet, from 1923 to 1946 "Oberforstinspektor" of the canton of Berne, in Berne, aged 82.

Emil Kaufmann-Schaltenbrand, since 1953 President of the commune of Laufen, in Laufen, at the age of 63.

Albert Streich, dialect writer, in Brienz, aged 64. Justin Gehrig, a former teacher, writer and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town, in Basle, at the age of 88.

Otto Maag, from 1927 to 1958 music critic of the "National Zeitung" Basle, in Basle, aged 75.

Léon Monney, a former President of the commune of Misery (Fribourg), and from 1926 to 1946 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg, in Fribourg, at the age of 77. [A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. ing. h. c. Friedrich Oederlin (80), of Winterthur. From 1911 to 1954 the "Jubilar" was connected with the "Gebr. Sulzer" concern. During the first World War he was a collaborator of Minister Dr. Hans Sulzer in Washington. On the conclusion of the war he returned to Switzerland, and in 1920 became Director of the Sulzer works. Fifteen years later (1935) he joined the Board, and became technical manager with Dr. Robert Sulzer. From 1943 to 1954 Dr. Oederlin was sole technical manager of the Sulzer works. The Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich honoured him in 1942 with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.



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Dr. Guido Müller (85), of Bienne, for many years Mayor of the town of Bienne, and a former member of the National Council.

Marcel Marcelli (80), of Zurich, well-known showman and conjurer. He was for twenty-two years President of the "Schausteller Union".

Dr. August Binz (90), of Basle, formerly a teacher at the *Gymnasium* Basle, and for many years Custos of the Botanical Institute of the Basle University. He is the author of the well-known book "Schul- und Exkursions Flora der Schweiz". [A.T.S.]

* * *

LEGACIES AND DONATIONS

The late Frau Marguerite Dilper-Jeanrichard, of Zurich, has left 67,000.— francs to various charitable institutions. The major part of the legacies is to be used for helping the blind.

Frau Susanna Dünnenberger, who died in February of last year, has bequeathed 100,000.— francs to the municipal commune of Weinfelden, for the creation of a Fund to be known under the name "Geschwister Dünnenberger Fonds", the interest to be used for needy apprentices. A further amount of 26,000.— francs has been left to various other charitable organisations.

Fräulein Katherina Zwicky, of Syracuse (U.S.A.), has donated to the "Armengemeinde" Mollis (Glarus) \$10,000. Together with previous gifts this commune has now received all together 200,000.— francs from this generous donor.

The late Friedrich Mosberger, of Waldstatt (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), has left 65,000.— francs to various charitable institutions of the cantons of Appenzell, A.Rh., and St. Gall. [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. C. Ghezzi of Berne, Mr. and Mrs. Chr. Tapfer-Muttner of Landquart.

Mr. and Mrs. Alois Genton Laurent, of Lausanne, have celebrated their iron wedding anniversary (65 years). [A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

A German motorist on the road between Doettingen and Tegerfelden (Ct. Aargau) crashed into two cyclists. The latter, who received fatal injuries, were Rudolf Fehlmann-Eichenberger (43), of Tegerfelden, and his wife, Marie (35).

Two motor-cars collided on the road between Hunzenschwil and Lenzburg. The driver of one of the cars, Hektor Bommer (37), representative, of Schlieren nr. Zurich, was killed.

A motor-car driven by Mr. Peter Kaempfer (23), a student, of Basle, collided with a train at a level-crossing between Winterthur and Ober Winterthur. The car driver, received fatal injuries. [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS

A whole century has gone by since the three original cantons perpetuated the name of Friedrich Schiller, the "Bard of William Tell" by an inscription on the "Mythen Stone", a fang of rock jutting out of the water at the eastern end of the Lake of Lucerne. Schiller's great drama of freedom has always enjoyed wide popularity in Switzerland. It has long been a favourite play with both the professional and the amateur stage. An impressive tribute to this drama will be found in the large-scale exhibition entitled "Schiller's William Tell and Switzerland", which is to open at the Pestalozzianum in the Beckenhofgut in Zurich on 21st January.

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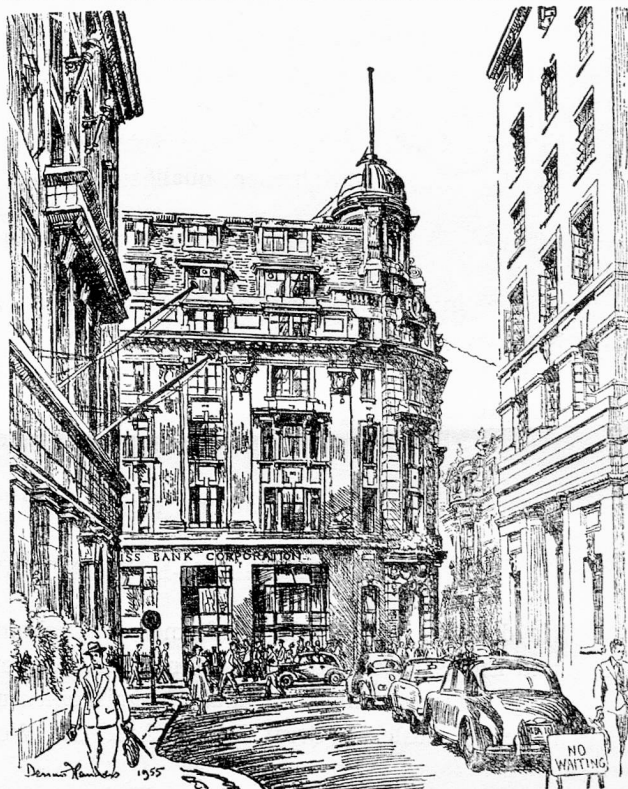
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Dr. Edmund Stadler has put together this splendid exhibition from the treasures of the Swiss National Library in Berne and the Swiss Theatrical Collection which is also housed there. Pictures and illustrations are a particularly prominent feature and these, together with model stages and documents, show that the deeds and destiny of William Tell and the Rütli Oath have been re-enacted on the stage for centuries, and that Schiller's classical drama of freedom is something every Swiss child is taught to appreciate at school.

* * *

Geneva. — Fourteen new hotels accommodating a total of some 1,000 guests have been completed in Switzerland in the last 12 months, according to a report from the Swiss Touring Club. They range from the tiny 16-bed Half-Moon Inn, overlooking the river Doubs and the Swiss-French border at the picturesque Jura Mountains town of St. Ursanne, to the ultra-modern 110-bed Walhalla in St. Gall. Three motels have also been added to the list of tourist facilities: "Les Pierrettes" at St. Sulpice on the Lausanne-Geneva highway, the "Bevaix" at the village of the same name off the Yverdon-Neuchâtel road and — somewhat outside the Swiss territory — the Motel in Liechtenstein at Schaan. Under construction are one motel each at Münsingen near Berne and at Chalet à Godet above Lausanne, the rustic "Hôtellerie St. Georges" in the protected historical quarter of Gruyères in Canton Fribourg and the Riviera-style lakeside Hotel Beatus at Merligen on the lake of Thun, designed to accommodate more than 100 holiday-makers. A new type of guesthouse which was success-

fully introduced by the Touring Club a few years ago, is the "Mot-Hotel" combining the advantages of a conventional hotel with the conveniences of a motel. Connected with a famous old country inn is the Touring Mot-Hotel Kreuz at Sachseln on the lake of Sarnen in central Switzerland. Referred to as fine examples of modern architecture adapted to the scenic surroundings are the Touring Mot-hotels Bellavista at Viramagadino on Lake Maggiore, Canton Ticino, and Schloss Ragaz in the landscaped countryside of Ragaz Spa.

* * *

Trogen. — The Pestalozzi Children's Village named after the great Swiss educator, Heinrich Pestalozzi, was established 15 years ago on the outskirts of the town of Trogen as a home for war orphans. It will soon have among its residents 26 refugees from Tibet, namely 21 children, their lama teacher, his wife and a small group of helpers. They have temporarily settled in the Bernese Oberland to await completion of the "Tibetan House" which was expected to be ready by Christmas. "As it is true for all children at Trogen, the Tibetans will be brought up and educated in accordance with their own traditional way of life, culture and religion", explained Pestalozzi Village's founding father, Swiss author Walter Robert Corti, "but they will also get acquainted with the cultures of the other houses. The Dalai Lama — who selected the children and their companions — has expressed his approval of our fundamental pedagogics." Another new building in the village is the International School which has recently been inaugurated.

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Einsiedeln, the famous place of pilgrimage, will commemorate on 21st June the death, 1,100 years ago, of one of the most venerable figures in the ecclesiastical history of Switzerland in the early Middle Ages. St. Meinrad came from the Reichenau to the Pre-Alps in search of peace and set up his hermit's cell in the "gloomy wood" in 855. After the pious hermit had been murdered by robbers in 861, a monastic community was founded in the early 10th century on the scene of his death, and it continued to grow until the monumental buildings we see to-day were erected in the Baroque period.

* * *

In writing of the 'Vogel Gryff' in Basle, it should be mentioned that this fête actually takes place in *Lesser Basle* on the right bank of the Rhine. It is a traditional event of the three Companies of Honour of Basle observed every year in strictly prescribed form and with all due dignity, which does not, however, prevent everybody present from enjoying the fun. The "Savage", the "Lion" and the fantastic "Gryphon" are the leading figures. This light-hearted festival falls this year on 20th January.

Glarus. — At a meeting of government representatives from several cantons of North-Eastern Switzerland it was decided to urge the Federal Government in Berne for economic, military and tourist reasons "to expedite plans for the construction of a new rail-

way linking the North-East with the Ticino by way of the Tödi and Greina mountains". The so-called Greina railway project, first submitted to public discussion in 1859 and named after a pass in the High Alps, has thus got into the news again. Its materialization would divert a substantial amount of traffic from the St. Gotthard line which is now being strained almost to capacity. The construction of the huge Tödi-Greina trans-Alpine tunnel at an altitude of less than 3,000 feet above sea-level, moreover, would cut the travelling time between Zurich or St. Gall in the North and Lugano in the South to two-thirds of what it takes now.

* * *

On 8th and 9th July 1961 the annual International Rowing Regatta will be held on the attractive Rotsee. This will be a thrilling curtain-raiser to the 1962 World Rowing Championships, also to be competed for on the Rotsee near Lucerne.

* * *

The Swiss Association of Mixed Choirs are holding their 10th Festival in Lucerne on 27th and 28th May 1961. About 40 choral societies and over 1,500 singers are expected to take part.

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Canine beauties from many lands will be on show at the International Dog Show to be held in the festival hall on Lucerne's "Allmend" meadow on 6th and 7th May 1961.

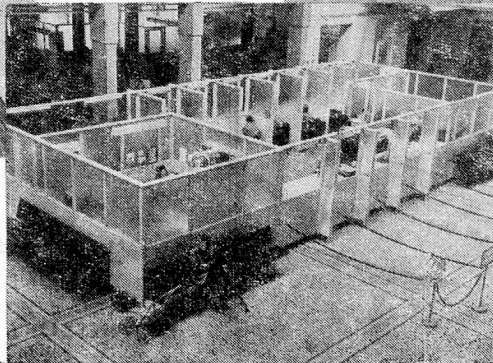


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