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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

No sooner had the alarming news of the terrible disasters in Great Britain, Holland and Belgium become known in our country, than Federal, Cantonal and Local authorities, as well as private bodies, started collections.

As reported in our last issue the Federal Council has made a first donation of 100.000.— frs. to the Swiss Red Cross, and the "Chain of Solidarity" sponsored by Radio Lausanne, has collected so far over 2½ million francs.

Up till last week the following donations had been published in the Swiss Press: Swiss Red Cross: 1 million francs; Government of the canton of Zurich: 100.000.— frs; Migros Genossenschaften: 160,925.— frs.; Evangelischer Kirchenbund: 50.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Berne: 30.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Aargau: 25.000.— frs.; Town of Berne: 10.000.— frs.; Town of Winterthur: 10.000.— frs.; Government of canton of Geneva: 10.000.— frs.; Schweizer Gewerkschaftsbund: 10.000.— frs.; Municipal Council, Lucerne: 5,000.— frs.; Genossenschaft Schweizer Mustermessen: 5.000.— frs.; Municipal Council, St. Gall: 5.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Valais: 5.000.— frs.; Government of the canton of Neuchâtel: 5.000.— frs.; Schweiz. Kaufmännischer Verein: 2.000.— frs.; Town of La Chaux-de-Fonds: 2.000.— frs.

In addition to cash payments large quantities of clothing, mattresses, sheets, rugs, woollen materials, pillows and pillow cases, shoes and 500.000 sandbags have been flown by Swissair to England, Holland and Belgium.

Children from Holland and Belgium have been flown to Switzerland and will be cared for.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried during the month of December, 1952, 19.55 million passengers, 3.84 million more than in December, 1951. Receipts

from passenger traffic amount to 25.57 million francs. (Dec. 1951: 19.58 million francs).

Goods traffic shows a decrease of 185,000 tons, 1.54 million tons having been carried. Receipts: 30.9 million francs. (Dec. 1951: 33.26 million francs.)

Cantonal

Traffic accidents in the canton of Schwyz during the year of 1952 numbered 675. (1951: 530) 16 persons were killed and 40 injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The population of the town of Zurich at the end of 1952 was returned as being 404,102. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Fritz Strich, Professor of German language and literature at the University of Berne, has been presented with the Göthe "Plakette" of the town of Frankfurt a M. The presentation was made by the "Oberbürgermeister" of the town of Frankfurt.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Pio de Meyer, a former surgeon-in-chief of the sanatoriums Mont Blanc and Chamossaire in Leysin and the "Kurhaus" at Bex, and a former Colonel of the Swiss Medical Corps, has celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary at Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Basle justice court has sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment and 10 years' suppression of citizen's rights a former Nazi named Johannes Pauli, commander from 1944 to 1945 of Biesingen concentration camp in Württemberg, where out of 2,000 prisoners 535 died under Pauli's rule. When prisoners were called to assist in rescue work after Biesingen was bombed some prisoners, dying from hunger, took foodstuffs and

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