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## “Swiss Research” by Stephanie Marriott

The Victorians were fascinated by information; the World Wide Web would delight them. In this age, when we have information from all sides, it is often easy to forget how few sources of information there were for the average Victorian, and therefore to underestimate their usefulness for those of us with an interest in things past.

It may come as something of a surprise, especially if you have never read a Victorian newspaper, to discover the range of information covered, even in local newspapers.

For example, the Bradford Observer informed its readers that Montreux was the first town to be fully illuminated by electricity, which also powered the tramway.

It also reported, in August 1889, on the opening of the “first of its kind”, the Burgenstock electric mountain railway. The report gives some technical details; the new line is a curved funicular, something which had been thought to be impossible. It used two 25 h.p. dynamos operated by a 125 h.p. water wheel on the River Aar (sic), at Buochs about 3 miles away. The distance meant there was an estimated 25% loss of power. The line, constructed under the supervision of M. Abt, had a 32% gradient which increased to 58% and cost £25,000 to build.

All this, from the Bradford local paper!

## Swiss Federal Railways - Stock Changes

In each issue of the Swiss Express we will try to keep you up to date with the SBB stock changes and allocations. If you have any information please contact Brian Hemming.

**Orders:** The order for 30 Am 841 to be built by GEC Alsthom (Valencia)/SLM has been increased by 10 (to be Am 841 030-039)

### Renumbered:

RBe4/4 1446 to RBe 540.044-5  
Rbe4/4 1455 to RBe 540.052-8  
RBe4/4 1464 to RBe 540.061-9  
RBe4/4 1470 to RBe 540.067-6  
RBe4/4 1479 to RBe 540.076-7  
E/e3/3<sup>IV</sup> 16556 to Ee3/3 934 556-2

RABDe12/12 1101-1118 will be renumbered to RABDe 510 000-017 on passage through works for main revision.

### December 1995

**New:** Re 460 117  
RBDe 560 135-137

**Withdrawn:** Ae4/7 10998  
Ta 966, 968, 969, 972, 974-6, 978  
Ta 251 002-005  
Tm 230 000

**Disposals:** Ta 966, 968, 969, 972, 974-6, 978  
Ta 251 002-005  
Tm 230 000  
All to Departmental stock.

### January 1996

**Withdrawn:** Te<sup>I</sup> 39, 41, 44  
Te<sup>II</sup> 237, 239, 243-246  
Tm<sup>I</sup> 424  
Tm<sup>II</sup> 661, 795

### February 1996

**New:** Re 450 095  
Re 460 118  
RBDe 560 138, 139

### March 1996

**New:** Re 450 096  
RBDe 560 140

**Withdrawn:** Ae4/7 10902, 10904, 10908, 10912, 10914, 10916, 10919, 10922, 10958, 10961, 10963, 10997, 10999, 11000, 11002, 11004, 11005, 11019, 11022

**Renumbered:** RBe 4/4 1432 to RBe 540.030-