

Swiss military oath

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **8 (1942-1943)**

Heft 7

PDF erstellt am: **28.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943068>

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Yes, we believe we have friends and we trust to have forever the friendship and appreciation of this great country notwithstanding temporary disturbances of economic relations and the many discussions which arise therefrom.

You, my compatriots, have always shown a still more devoted interest to the homeland as the physical difficulties of communication have become greater. Your willingness to help where you can, and in particular to encourage our humanitarian task, have been a comfort. We know that we can count on you always and you know that Switzerland never could or would expect from you anything which would interfere with your loyalty to this country.

But for one fight I make now an appeal to you and all our friends. Let us fight together against misunderstanding and misrepresentation, foes of all good things and all good relations.

What about the future? I think that in the adversities of these times our strength and our decision are growing as grows our love for our country.

I think Switzerland can look ahead with confidence if we Swiss remain united, sure of our rights, firm in our decision. God helping, we can hope for a happier time, when the ideas which our homeland now keeps alive within her narrow frontiers will spread, a time when the ideals of human solidarity, which inspire our beloved and venerable Confederation can thrive, when in a peaceful world Switzerland will flourish. "

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SWISS MILITARY OATH.

Officers, N.C.O's and soldiers swear, or vow, to be faithful to the Swiss Confederation, to give their life for the defence of their Fatherland and its Constitution, never to desert the flag, to observe faithfully the military laws; to obey strictly and immediately the orders of their superiors, to observe strict discipline and do everything possible that is necessary for the honour and freedom of their Fatherland.

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SUNDRY NEWS.

December 17th was the great day in Switzerland when the two Houses of Parliament sat in joint session to elect the high magistrates to whom the guidance and destinies of our country are entrusted for the next twelve months. The main results are of course a foregone conclusion as the elections follow a time-honoured rota and practice.

Dr. Enrico Celio (Ticino) was elected president of the Confederation; a member of the Federal Council of only three years' standing he was fortunate to reach the highest office in an exceptionally short time due to three intervening changes. Though elected at the time as successor to our Foreign Minister, the late Federal Councillor Motta, Dr. Celio is in charge of the Post and Railway department. He is 54 years old, a writer and an accomplished organist.

Dr. Celio's place as Vice-President is taken by Dr. Walter Stampfli (Solothurn); he joined the Federal Council six months after Dr. Celio (replacing Federal Councillor Obrecht) and is the head of the Home Office (Volkswirtschaft). He was born in 1884 and is a leading personality in his canton being closely associated amongst others with the von Roll'schen Eisenwerke in Gerlafingen and the Solothurner Kantonalbank.

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The emoluments of the members of the Federal Council have been fixed at Frs. 40,000 p.a. (Frs. 32,000 so far) with an extra Frs. 3,000 for the President. The scale remains in force for the next five years. The attendance compensation (Taggeld) of National Councillors is Frs. 35 per day.

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It has been officially announced that the economic negotiations conducted in London since spring 1942 with an Anglo-American delegation have been interrupted in order to allow the Swiss delegation composed of M. Sulzer, former Minister Plenipotentiary in Washington, and M. Koller, delegate for trade agreements, to return to Switzerland for the end of the year and to report to the Federal Council. Discussions will be resumed after New Year. Certain arrangements have been made provisionally.

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The commercial relations between Germany and our country seem to have come to a standstill. The settlement agreement which expired on December 31st last was extended to January 15th in the hope that the economic talks then pro-