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Recent Events in Switzerland

Results of the Consultative Procedure regarding the new Federal Constitution

The 885 statements on the draft for a new Federal Constitution fill over 20 000 pages. In spite of numerous critical objections and in parts open rejection, the President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Kurt Furgler considers the answers received a «mandate by the people to continue on the adopted course». The most controversial subjects are the chapters on social order and the proposed policies on property and economy. In particular, it is economists who express apprehension that the reservations regarding property guarantee and economic freedom represent a change of system. The proposed new distribution of tasks between

the Confederation and the Cantons also causes critical assessment; it is considered too centralistic.

A Ticinese as new Federal Vice-Chancellor

In place of Mr. Walter Buser who has been elected Federal Chancellor, following the retirement of Mr. Karl Huber, the Ticinese journalist Mr. Achille Casanova, aged 40, has been appointed by the Federal Council as Vice-Chancellor. He is the first Ticinese to hold this post, and he will devote himself above all to matters of information. Mr. François Couchepin is the other Federal Vice-Chancellor.

Quingentenary Celebrations in Fribourg

At the last week-end in June, tens

of thousands of people celebrated the quingentenary of Fribourg's entry into the Swiss Confederation. Three Federal Councillors and representatives of all the Cantons attended the official celebration in the great hall of Fribourg University. A festive procession with over 4000 participants took place on Sunday. The pageant was the final event in a long row of festivities by which Fribourg celebrated the historic date. The visit of a large group of former Fribourg citizens from Nova Friburgo in Brazil deserves special mention.

Participation of Swiss from abroad in Swiss events

Groups of Swiss residents from abroad took part in the 18th Federal Yodelling Festival, held at Burgdorf from 3rd to 5th July, as well as in the World Championships in Archery held in Arosa in July, and the Swiss Championship at Ringgenberg.

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