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NEWS FROM THE S.B.C. (SWISS BROADCASTING CORPORATION).

Colonel Feldmann, the founder of the Soldatenspende during the war 1914-18, died at the age of 79 years.

In the election of the State Council of the Canton of Basle City, the left parties and the "Bourgeois" both returned 64 seats and the 2 remaining seats belonging to the Evangelist Party are now the deciding factor. Noticeable changes in party strength are the loss of the Socialist Party from 39 to 33; whereas the PdA. (Communist) went from 26 to 31; the Independents (Duttweiler) dropped from 9 to 6.

In 1945 Swiss Sfr. 1,050,000,000 have been paid in taxes by the Swiss people. The debt of the Confederation, without consideration of the debts of the cantons and communities, has risen during the war from four billion to over ten billion Swiss francs.

A head of a family with two children and an income of Sfr. 10,000 has to pay the following taxes annually.

In Zurich	Sfr. 749
" Chur	Sfr. 1339
" Altdorf	Sfr. 441
" Glarus	Sfr. 337

On a fortune of Sfr. 100,000 which would not be taxable in New Zealand, the taxes amount to the following figures:

In Zurich	Sfr. 615
" Chur	Sfr. 1060
" Altdorf	Sfr. 715

SWISS POLITICAL ASPECTS IN 1946.

By
Dr. Marcus Feldman.

1946, the first year after the war, is slowly drawing towards its close. The nations are groping to find a way to a new peace order and although but a relatively rough outline of this peace is to be perceived, this outline is somewhat favorable as a result of the negotiations in New York. At any rate, the problem must not only preoccupy the minds of the former belligerent nations, but also those who have remained neutral during the world conflict; among those nations figures Switzerland.

In 1946 Switzerland's foreign policy was dominated by two principal aims; the re-establishment of normal diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia and the preparation of Switzerland's attitude to the United Nations. In both respects our country has achieved considerable success in the past year. Normal diplomatic relations between Soviet Russia and Switzerland were assumed in March 1946, after an interruption of 28 years. The respective ministers have opened offices in both capitals. Not only have diplomatic relations between the two countries now been established, but the political relations have also visibly relaxed. Only a year ago, Soviet Russian propaganda occasionally tried to make Switzerland appear a pro-fascist country. Once they even went so far as to accuse the head of the Federal Political Department, Federal Councillor Petitpierre, of being the exponent of a plot aimed against peace. Those attacks disappeared in 1946, and Soviet Russia now seems politically to value the maintaining of correct relations with Switzerland. Only thus can the repeated Russian proposals to establish the seat of the United Nations in Geneva be explained.

Within a relatively short period, the situation has indeed undergone a radical change. Switzerland's policy with regard to the UN is based on two principal thoughts. On the one hand, she wishes to co-operate actively in the world reconstruction, within the framework of her possibilities, and is therefore willing to lend every possible support to the UN. On the other hand, Switzerland is determined to maintain her personal independence in the form of her permanent