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SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

At the joint session of our parliament on the 12th Dec., the present Vice-President, Federal Councillor Dr. Philipp Etter (Zug) was elected President of the Confederation for the year 1947. He had originally been elected to the Federal Council in 1934 as successor to Federal Councillor Musy and has already been twice our highest magistrate in 1939 and 1942. Following tradition, Dr. Enrico Celio was elected Vice-President; he was made a member of the Federal Council in February 1940 taking the place of Giuseppe Motta and was president of the Confederation in 1943.

On the opening of the winter session of our parliament Dr. Max Wey, succeeding Robert Grimm, was elected President of the National Council and Ständerat. Walter Ackermann, replacing Dr. J. Piller, President of the States Council.

It was stated officially at Bern, on December 1st, that all the formalities for the immediate release of the frozen dollar assets in the U.S.A. (valued at four to five milliard francs) have been completed. It is, however, also stated that the Swiss Clearing Association will certify those assets eligible for the release.

In next year's Federal budget the subsidy to Swiss schools abroad will be increased to 170,000 francs which is 106,000 francs more than previously and a closer co-operation with schools at home will be aimed at.

An unusual decision was taken at Ebnet by the votes of the people especially assembled for that purpose. Col. Dr. Ernst Wagner had already been granted the enfranchisement of this place by the local council on payment of Frs. 3,000; political antagonists, however, demanded a plenary vote on account of the colonel's former associations with the "200 adaptors". The people rejected the newcomer with 194 against 147 endorsers; the Ortsbürgergemeinde meeting had previously accepted him by a majority of 48 to 12.

Nat. Counc. Dr. Albert Maag-Socin died in Zurich at the age of 57 after a month's long illness. A local lawyer of repute since 1917, member of our lower house since 1939, he was for the last 25 years actively interested in cantonal politics.

Regierungsrat Robert Grimm, before director of building and railways of the canton Bern, has been appointed director of the Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon concern in succession to the late Dr. Paul Guggisberg.

In the elections for 15 members of the Stadtrat in Chur the socialists lost one of their previous four seats to a communist, there being no change in the other three parties.

The union of post office clerks in the Upper Ticino is protesting against the further engagement of female staff and insists that the present shortage be made good by the transfer of Ticinesi employed in post offices on the other side of the St. Gothard.

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NOTICE TO READERS.

Will any readers knowing the present whereabouts of the following persons:

Mischler, Reinhard, born 19th April, 1873

Mouli, Martin, born 1880. From Nufenen GR.

kindly communicate with the Swiss Consulate, P.O. Box 386, Wellington.

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Owing to the paper shortage the January number of Helvetia could not be published until the beginning of February; consequently the February issue has been abandoned, but there are two additional pages in this number.

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