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IMPORTANT VOTINGS IN SWITZERLAND.

On the 6th of July the Swiss people, by an overwhelming majority, have accepted the law for the introduction of a compulsory old age insurance. All the cantons, except Obwalden, have accepted.

The economic articles have also been accepted; these, however, only by the small majority of 62,500, thirteen (13) cantons having accepted and nine (9) rejected.

The participation was 87%. The results are:-

| <u>Results per canton.</u> | <u>Old Age Insurance.</u> | | <u>Economic articles.</u> | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
| | <u>Yes.</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No.</u> |
| Zurich | 170.875 | 22.804 | 81.162 | 108.567 |
| Berne | 156.231 | 31.454 | 111.714 | 69.930 |
| Lucerne | 31.713 | 18.229 | 24.546 | 24.493 |
| Uri | 4.086 | 2.002 | 3.024 | 2.939 |
| Schwyz | 9.363 | 5.214 | 6.158 | 8.123 |
| Obwald | 1.653 | 2.992 | 1.611 | 2.960 |
| Nidwald | 2.420 | 1.748 | 1.775 | 2.339 |
| Glaris | 7.670 | 1.231 | 4.256 | 4.414 |
| Zug | 5.927 | 2.372 | 4.066 | 4.127 |
| Fribourg | 17.469 | 14.774 | 17.614 | 14.100 |
| Soleure | 36.970 | 5.534 | 23.289 | 18.649 |
| Bâle-Ville | 34.378 | 4.471 | 19.850 | 17.506 |
| Bâle Campagne | 22.053 | 2.542 | 13.053 | 10.760 |
| Schaffhouse | 13.116 | 2.043 | 7.641 | 7.019 |
| Appenzell Rh.-Ext. | 9.872 | 2.147 | 4.451 | 7.316 |
| Appenzell Rh.-Int. | 1.651 | 882 | 1.232 | 1.275 |
| St. Gall | 55.842 | 13.966 | 32.234 | 36.850 |
| Grisons | 23.394 | 5.888 | 18.226 | 10.011 |
| Argovie | 60.604 | 15.978 | 36.743 | 37.897 |
| Thurgovie | 28.872 | 9.050 | 22.057 | 15.348 |
| Tessin | 28.193 | 2.920 | 22.108 | 8.270 |
| Vaud | 63.265 | 32.236 | 43.875 | 48.979 |
| Valais | 19.212 | 7.708 | 13.533 | 12.775 |
| Neuchâtel | 26.762 | 3.542 | 16.225 | 12.603 |
| Genève | 32.598 | 4.732 | 27.540 | 8.436 |
| | 864.189 | 216.079 | 558.003 | 495.686 |

SUNDRY NEWS.

Switzerland has formally ratified the constitution of the World health Organization. The ratification by Switzerland brings to eight the countries that have pledged themselves to adhere to the health charter. Other signers are Canada, Great Britain, China, Iran, New Zealand, Syria and Liberia.

The Swiss Government has opened customs offices at Zermatt and St. Moritz, so that tourists may send their baggage direct to either resort and have it examined there instead of at the frontier.

Monsieur Abol Chassem Pourevaly, Minister Plenipotentiary of Iran, has presented his credentials to Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, and so has Monsieur Fernando Cisterna Ortiz, the newly appointed Minister of the Republic of Chile. (A.T.S.)

Federal Councillor Celio has attended the canonisation celebration of Nicholas von Flue, which took place in Rome on the 15th of this month, his visit did not bear any official character, and was a purely private affair. (A.T.S.)

Sion asleep at the foot of its two medieval fortresses, Tourbillon and Valère; from the rose-tinged shadow of apricot orchards at Saxon and Martigny. The Rhone is a great traveller and he appreciates beauty!

The Ticino is like a picture-book, each page revealing a new delight, but the Leman district is a painting by a great master. A book is made to be perused, but a painting needs to be contemplated. To Lake Leman will always return, again and again, all those who seek to forget the too narrow horizons of daily life by communing with Nature in her most noble form, when earth, sky and water hold equal kingdoms and compose their most majestic harmonies.

Southwards lie the mountains, the Dents du Midi sheathed still in snowy armour; to the north, the waters mirror the long cliff-like walls of the vine terraces where labour husbandmen in blue jeans. Above Montreux, the mountains open wide, like some immense sun gallery where not a ray of sunshine goes astray and where, day after day, the tender green of spring meadows bites more deeply into the snows of Caux and Jaman furrowed still by swiftly disappearing ski tracks. The last skiers of the season speed down the Rochers-de-Naye and already the first hardy little lake craft bob gaily on the dancing waters. When her time has come, Spring sets to work with all the startling speed of a magician. In the space of one morning, an enormous magnolia tree is covered with a thousand rosy bowls, woods are carpeted with primroses, scyllas and hepatica. Mountain railroads suddenly wend their cog-wheeled way through flowery banks. One afternoon, they may take you to Caux, to Glion above Montreux, to the Pléiades, the Mont-Pelérin or to Chexbres above Vevey, or farther afield to the Lausanne Signal or the Signal de Bougy above Rolle - to any of those sheer balconies, seemingly suspended between sky and water, which overlook this beautiful Lake.

The district of Gruyère and the town of that name, the most picturesque of Swiss townships, must also feature on the programme of the Rambler in Western Switzerland.

An extremely well devised system of holiday travel tickets enables sightseers to travel as freely as they wish, to arrange delightful trips and excursions by train and on foot, to alternate hotel menus with delicious rustic snacks in village cafés.

Sports facilities and amusements of all kinds are not lacking in the main centres along Lake Leman, for the region has, for centuries, catered for foreign travellers who today, in our most modern of centuries, are provided with infinite resources; tennis, golf, bathing, riding, cycling, rowing and sailing. For the higher brows, theatres, concert halls and art exhibitions supply more intellectual delights. To others, casinos, cinemas and dance halls extend their mundane invitation and restaurants of repute invite those who appreciate good cuisine.

Lausanne and Geneva, the City of Hills and the City of Parks, where the air from wide horizons blows so refreshingly over city life and pleasures, offer many unforgettable joys in springtime. And those who thirst for provincial quietude will find endearing welcome in the charming and historic townlets of Morges, Rolle, Nyon and Coppet.

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SUNDRY NEWS.

Dr. Benno Gut, born in 1897 has been elected Abbot of the cloister of Einsieden, in succession to the late Dr. Jgnatius Staub. (A.T.S.).

The couple Josef Reichmuth in Oberiberg have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. The husband is 87 and his wife 81 years old. (A.T.S.)

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Nidwalden took place at Nidwalden on Sunday, April 29th. H. Wymann (Liberal) was elected Landammann." (A.T.S.)

Professor Paul Karrer, Professor of chemistry, University of Zurich, and Nobel prize winner 1947, who has made outstanding contributions to the study of the chemistry of natural products, especially the chemistry of the carotenoids, carbohydrates and vitamins, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society. (A.T.S.).

The elections for the "Kantonsrat" Zurich show no great changes in the strength of the various parties. The new Council constitutes itself as follows: Peasant Party 36 (34); Liberals 25 (24); Democrats 21 (18); Christian-Socialists 16 (11); Socialists 49 (53); Partei der Arbeit (Communists) 12 (5); Landesring 20 (29); Evang. Volkspartei 1 (2); Young Peasants 0 (1); Freiwirtschaftler 0 (3).

At the same time the elections for the members of the cantonal Government took place, the following have been elected; Briner (Democrat, hitherto); Streuli (Liberal, hitherto); Vaterlaus (Liberal, hitherto); Heusser (Peasant Party, hitherto); Meier (Peasant Party, new); Henggeler, (Socialist, hitherto); Kagi (Socialist, hitherto). (A.T.S.).

Alfred Stähli, Winterthur, is entering the National Council, in succession to J. Henggeler. A. Stähli belongs to the Socialist Party. (A.T.S.).

A woman aged forty-four, and described as being "comfortably off," was caught stealing a dress in one of the big stores in Zurich. Investigations made at the home of the culprit brought to light ten dresses, half a dozen blouses, a large quantity of stockings, fifty pieces of curtain material and numbers of vases and other ornaments. (A.T.S.).

Professor Friedrich Frauchiger, a teacher at the commercial section of the "Kantonsschule" Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. He was for a number of years a member of the "Grosse Stadtrat" and the "Kantonsrat," he was also President of the Liberal Party of the town of Zurich. (A.T.S.).

The death is reported from Zurich of the well-known painter, Heinrich Altherr, from Basle. After completing his studies in Germany, he was appointed Professor and Director of the Academy in Stuttgart. In 1938, he returned to Switzerland, and established himself in Zurich. Many of his paintings are to be found in the art galleries throughout Switzerland. (A.T.S.).

Frau Ratsherr Legler-Schlittler has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary at Diesbach (Glarus), she is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Glarus. (A.T.S.).

Three small children playing with matches, set fire to a barn at Schwarzenburg (Berne); whilst one of the children was able to get away, the two others were badly burned and died a few hours later. (A.T.S.).

The Mayor of the town of Budapest, Josef Kovago, has paid an official visit to the Mayor of the Federal capital. Kovago was, during the war an important member of the resistance movement, and was at one time imprisoned by the Germans. (A.T.S.).

The Swiss Dining Car Company has appointed Walter Seewer from Interlaken, formerly Director of the "Neuen Waldhotels" Arosa, as Manager in succession to the late Gottfried Muller. (A.T.S.).

Dr. H. Mouttet, a member of the cantonal government of Berne, has celebrated his 40th service jubilee. He started his career as secretary

to the cantonal tribunal, and from 1909-1912 was public-prosecutor of the Jura District. From 1912-1928 he was a member of the Supreme Court of the canton of Berne, and for the last nineteen years a member of the cantonal government. (A.T.S.).

A serious accident occurred in Basle, when three tramway-trains collided at the Aeschenplatz. Five persons were killed, and between 30-40 passengers were hurt, some of them seriously. The names of those who lost their lives are Flora Naf (born 1920) Birsfelden; H. Degen-Schmassmann (born 1871) Reinach; Otto Kohler-Rhiner (born 1911) Winterthur; George Rudin (born 1927) Frenkendorf; Josef Kuhn (born 1894) Birmingham. Investigations are being made as to the cause of the accident. The material damage is expected to exceed 100,000.-frs (A.T.S.).

As a thanks-offering for the help given to Holland by the town of Basle, the Dutch Government has presented the town with 30,000 tulip and narcissus bulbs. These have recently bloomed and adorned the municipal parks. (A.T.S.).

More than 900 persons attended the "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell A.Rh. at Hurdswil, on Sunday, April 27th. The accounts which close with a balance of 350,000.-frs. to the good were accepted. All seven members of the cantonal government were confirmed in their offices. Amongst the guests were present, Federal Councillor Petitpierre and Colonel of Division Brunner. (A.T.S.).

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton Appenzell I.Rh. was held on Sunday, April 27th, at Appenzell. States-Councillor A. Locher was elected "Landammann." (A.T.S.).

The elections for the government of the canton of Grisons show no changes; as before, the parties are represented as follows: 2 conservatives, one liberal and 2 democrats. (A.T.S.).

The distinction of belonging fifty years to the Grand Council of Grisons falls on National Councillor Johann Vonmoos in Remis, who was elected to this body in 1897. He will retire at the next elections. (A.T.S.).

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