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FEDERAL ASSEMBLY NAMES CELIO
AS PRESIDENT FOR 1948.

Switzerland's new President for 1948 is Dr. Enrico Celio, a member of the Swiss Federal Council since 1940, and head of the Department of Railroads and Posts. Dr. Celio served his first one-year term as President in 1943, and this year succeeds Philip Etter. Both are members of the Catholic Conservative Party.

The 58-year-old President-elect is a native of Switzerland's Italian speaking canton of Ticino. He was born in Ambri, a small town near the 9½-mile-long St. Gosstahr tunnel, which connects the German-speaking part of Switzerland with the southern canton.

As a boy, Dr. Celio first attended local schools, and then the Salesian Institute of Balerna. After studying in a Jesuit College in Belan, and in the Benedictine Abbey School in Einsiedeln, he majored in philosophy at the University of Fribourg. While a student, Dr. Celio assumed in 1909 the Presidency of the Ticino Catholic Students' League "Lépontia." He did considerable writing and his pieces mainly on literature, appeared in many newspapers and reviews. Dr. Celio then turned to law, and after further studies, set up practice in the picturesque village of Biasca.

Soon after he became a member of the Ticino Assembly, to which he belonged without interruption until 1932. In 1924, when he was only 35 years old, Dr. Celio was elected to the National Council or House of Representatives, and in 1932, he became Ticinese State Senator. After the death of Federal Councillor Giuseppe Motta, another well known Swiss statesman from the Ticino, Dr. Celio became a member of the Swiss Federal Council.

The Federal Council, and not the President, is the executive power in Switzerland. It consists of seven members elected for a term of four years by the Federal Assembly. Two members of the Federal Council hold the offices of President and Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation for one year only. The Vice-President becomes President, and another member of the Council of seven becomes Vice-President.

"RODOLPHE RUBATTEL"

(Successor to Federal Councillor Stampfli).

The newly-elected Federal Councillor Rodolphe Rubattel, was born on September 4th, 1896, at Villarzel (Vaud). He studied Law and later became a Journalist and for a period he was Chief Editor of the "Tribune de Lausanne." From 1930 to 1932, he occupied the office of Chief of a Section of the Federal Department of Economy; as a result of this office, in 1930, he was a member of the Swiss Delegation to the League of Nations.

Mr. Rubattel belongs to the Liberal Party (Radical Democratic Party). In 1933 he was elected a member of the Cantonal Parliament of Vaud, and since 1944, he has been the head of the Department for Agriculture, Industry and Commerce of this Canton. In 1946 he was President of the Cantonal Government. He is now elected a Federal Councillor for a period of four years, at the end of which time he is eligible for re-election.

Dr. Walter Stampfli, who relinquished his office as a Federal Councillor, was born in 1884 in Büren (Solothurn) and studied law at the Universities of Zurich and Göttingen. In 1906 he obtained the degree of Doctor rer. pol. After a short activity in the insurance world he took over the editorship of the "Oltener Tagblattes" in 1908, this position he occupied for ten years.

In 1918 Dr. Stampfli was elected Secretary of the "Solothurn Chamber of