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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION.

A Commission of experts under the chairmanship of Federal Councillor von Steiger, has been formed to prepare new legislation dealing with agricultural questions. It comprises thirty representatives of rural societies and interested circles.

TRAGIC DEATH OF LEGATION COUNSELLOR de DIESDACH.

On July 23rd, Legation Counsellor de Diesdach, while with his Wife and Sister on a boat trip on the Wannsee Lake, near Berlin, fell into the water and, due to heart failure, drowned immediately. Maj. de Diesdach was born in 1907 in Fribourg. After the conclusion of his juridical studies in Bern and Paris he entered the services of the Political Department in 1935. At the end of the War he became liaison officer to the Army Headquarters of General de Lattre de Tassigny in Austria, and later in the same year was appointed Head of the Repatriation Commission in Berlin. This post was occupied by Maj. de Diesbach until his death. The Swiss community in Berlin has lost in him a protector whom they could look upon as a father.

SWISS EUROPEAN AID.

As a result of the liquidation of the "Swiss Gift to War Victims", the whole responsibility for Swiss assistance abroad rests on the organizations affiliated to the "Swiss European Help". The means at the disposal of this organisation are limited, and a number of requests for credits have had to be refused. At its last meeting the committee decided to give assistance to refugees in Germany, Austria and Greece.

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SWITZERLAND. (Freisinnig Demokratisch).

On July 19th, the committee of the Liberal Democratic Party met under the chairmanship of National Councillor Dr. A. Pini. Questions regarding adjustments in the treatment of certain categories of the Federal Employees were dealt with. It was agreed that some measures were necessary, and the proposals which the Federal Council placed before Parliament were endorsed; however, the heavy financial burden should not be overlooked, and a curtailment in the number of employees is recommended. The party will support the new legislation dealing with Federal employees, in case this should be brought to a popular referendum. Various other questions were discussed such as price control, of which an easing is desirable, and technical matters regarding the Old Age and Insurance Scheme.

SUDDEN DEATH OF CÄSAR von ARX.

Cäsar von Arx, writer and dramatist, died at the age of 54 years. He was a citizen of Stusslingen and Basel. He attended school in Basel, (where he was born,) and also the University. The best-known of his works are:-

"General Suter"  
"Vogel friss oder stirb"  
("Bird - Eat or Die")  
"Der Verrat von Novarra"  
("The Betrayal of Novarra")  
"Der heilige Held"  
("The Holy Hero - Niklaus von der Flüh")  
"Land Ohne Himmell"  
("Land without Sky")

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