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OLD AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE

The Federal Commission for the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance under the Chairmanship of Dr. Saxer had a meeting to consider various alterations which had been proposed. In particular the following suggestions were reviewed accordingly :-

- The possibility of payment of voluntary contributions.
- The replacement of the temporary benefits by honorary ones
- The raising of the income level
- The lowering of deductions for capital
- The increase of temporary benefits and better conditions for non-working widows.

The Commission decided unanimously against any major alterations at the present moment. This decision was in consideration of the fact that the scheme is hardly two years in operation and not enough experience has been gained. It is not possible to judge the final development on one year's accounts only.

On the other hand it was recommended that an enlargement of the number of those to receive benefits is desirable and possible by raising the income level and the lowering of deductions for capital. Through this most of the existing hardships can be eliminated without endangering the solid financial position of the insurance.

The Commission expressed the wish to examine whether such an alteration could be effected through a decision by Federal Council instead of lengthy legislation through Parliament.

EMPOWERING COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Under the Chairmanship of President Escher, the Empowering Commission of the National Council met on November 30th. It considered a decision of the Federal Council to cancel the existing restrictions on right of settlement. In the opinion of the Commission this decision should take effect on 1st November 1950, whereas other regulations covering housing shortage should remain in force. The Commission also approved of the Federal Council's decision regarding the extension of legislation for the protection of Farm Tenants, extension of regulations regarding the Press and extension of regulations to protect the Swiss Book Trade from foreign influx.

OVER 100 YEARS' OLD TRUSTEESHIP OF COMMUNITY ENDS

The State Council of the Canton of Vaud has decided to terminate on December 31st, 1949 the Trusteeship instituted over the Community of Chardonneys/Morges in 1846. The trusteeship was instituted because on account of its small population the Community was unable to form a Council. The last Administrator, Mr L. Burckhardt was in office since 1935 and was made an Honorary Citizen of the Community in 1945.

PROJECTS FOR NEW BRIDGE IN BERN

The State Council of Bern proposes the approval of credit of Sfrs.198,000 for the erection of new access roads from the West to conform with the plans for the erection of the new Kirchenfeldbrücke bridge.

It is doubtful whether the new bridge will be made in the next 10 or 15 years. However, it will have to come sometime, and the erection of suitable access roads has to be considered as there is considerable building going on in that District. It is planned to carry out this work during the winter time in order to occupy labourers who usually at this time of the year have to be subsidized.

THE BUDGET OF THE CANTON OF SCHAFFHAUSEN

The State Economic Commission of the Parliament of