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Register: Presidents of the Swiss Confederation

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kissed good-bye to democracy not only for their own lifetime, but most likely for several generations to come.

Stage V: No doubt, the first results of MMP do not satisfy everyone. But do not forget, this is New Zealand's first stab at democracy. It will need time to settle down. With this first experience behind us, the next elections will most likely be more straight forward and probably less of a surprise.

Although the road to true democracy is a long and winding one, we are at least on it now and proceeding in the right direction. The next step may now be to argue for the introduction of binding referenda, similar to the way we have them in Switzerland. This may well prove to be an even harder nut to crack than getting rid of the old "First Past the Post" form of government.

PRESIDENTS OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

How good is your memory? How many names of Presidents of the Swiss Government can you recall?

To refresh you memory, here is the list since 1915 as supplied to you by our contributor from Wellington, Emil Flepp.

Giuseppe MOTTA 1915, 1920, 1927, 1932, 1937
He was certainly one of the most popular and best known Federal Councillor Switzerland ever had.

Camille DECOPPET 1916
Edmund SCHULTHESS 1917, 1921, 1928, 1933
Another very popular Federal Councillor

Felix Ludwig CALANDER 1918

Gustave ADOR 1919

Robert HAAB 1922, 1929

Karl SCHEURER 1923

Ernest CHUARD 1924

Jean-Marie MUSY 1925, 1930

Heinrich HAEBERLIN 1926, 1931

Marcel PILET-GOLAZ 1934, 1940, 1945

You will certainly remember his name.

Rudolf MINGER 1935.

Although he was President only once, few people would not know his name. He was a very well known Federal Councillor.

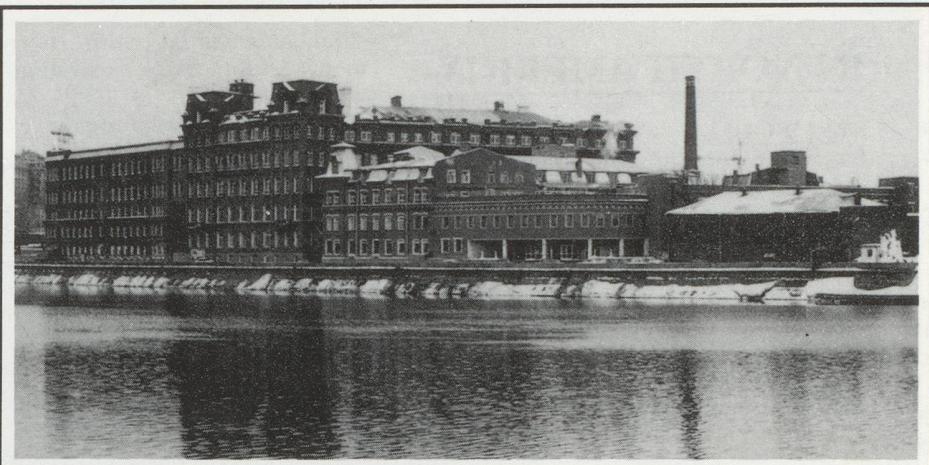
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FIRST QUALITY CHOCOLATE FACTORY FOR MOSCOW.



Red October chocolate factory in Moscow.

Moscow's Red October company has ordered a large chocolate factory from the Swiss company Buhler, a contract worth 29 million SFR. Most factory components will be manufactured at Buhler's Swiss headquarters in Uzwil (SG) and the remainder in one of their subsidiaries in Germany.

The factory is due to be commissioned at the end of 1998.

The factory units supplied by Buhler will include three computerised production lines, raw materials reception infrastructure, mixer food units, refiner

units, installations for enrichment of the chocolate (conche), air conditioning equipment and hot and cold water systems. The factory will produce both milk chocolate and dark chocolate, filler paste for pralines and paste for coatings. This state-of-the-art chocolate factory will have a production capacity of 9 tons per hour.

The Moscow factory is the fourth large installation to be built by Buhler for Russian clients and will serve as an excellent international reference for Switzerland's chocolate industry.

Albert MEYER 1936
Johannes BAUMANN 1938
Phillip ETTER 1939, 1942, 1947
Another very well known Councillor, mainly through his physique
Ernst WETTER 1941
Enrico CELIO 1943, 1948
First President from the Tessin.
Walter STAMPFLI 1944
Eduard VON STEIGER 1945, 1951
Karl KOBELT 1946, 1952
Ernst NOBS 1949
Max PETITPIERRE 1950, 1955, 1960

This President surely needs no introduction.
Who would never have heard of him.
Rodolphe RUBATTEL 1954.

His name became famous for his law which promoted the mixing of red and white wine to get rid of millions of litres of surplus wine. This mixture of red and white wine was quickly nicknamed: "Rubatteller". In the German part of Switzerland, Rodolphe Rubattel became known as the "Weinpanscher".

Markus FELDMAN 1956
Hans STREULI 1957
128 Thomas HOLENSTEIN 1958
Paul CHAUDET 1959, 1962
Friederich WAHLEN 1961
Willy SPUEHLER 1963, 1968
Ludwig VON MOOS 1964 1969
Hans-Peter TSCHUDI 1965, 1970
Hans SCHAFFNER 1966
From here on the names become much more familiar for most of you.
Roger BONVIN 1967, 1973
Rudolf GNAEGI 1971, 1976
Nello CELIO 1972
Kurt FURGLER 1977, 1981, 1985
Willy RITSCHARD 1978
Hans HUERLIMANN 1979
Georges-André CHEVALLAZ 1980
Fritz HONEGGER 1982
Pierre AUBERT 1983, 1987
Léon SCHLUMPF 1984

Alphons EGLI 1986
Otto STICH 1988, 1994
Jean-Pascal DELAMURAZ 1989, 1996
Arnold KOLLER 1990
Flavio COTTI 1991
René FELBER 1992
Adolf OGI 1993
Kaspar VILLIGER 1995
He is not very much liked by the anti-smokers because he produces the famous Swiss Villiger cigars.

No doubt shrewed readers will already have noticed that no Presidents are mentioned for the years 1953, 1974 and 1975. What happened during those years? Was no Federal Councillor prepared to stand for President? Honestly we do not know. Perhaps our friends at the Swiss Embassy in Wellington can throw some light onto this puzzling matter.

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