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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

At the same time as the general elections a number of cantonal and municipal proposals were submitted for the approval of the electors. In Basle a proposed extension of the public dental clinic attached to the University was rejected by a small majority. More fortunate were two bills in Zurich, where the municipal theatre will now receive an increased state subsidy and the town a modern system of fire brigades.

The military tribunal of the fourth division at Basle dealt with a number of cases where recruits for various reasons failed to join their units for the prescribed repetition course. Amongst the accused was a young man who, having been out of work for a long time, happened to obtain a situation just before being called up and for fear of losing same omitted to put in an appearance. Four weeks' imprisonment and the loss of civil right for one year was the verdict.

On the eve of the general elections a political acrobat hoisted without being noticed a large red flag on one of the two large steeples of the Basle cathedral; a police enquiry has been opened.

Owing to floods an interruption on the Gothard railway took place last Sunday between Castione and Bellinzona; the mail and passenger service on this particular section is being maintained by motor-cars. The inundations have made it necessary to evacuate a number of houses and in order to render possible assistance the troops stationed at the barracks in Bellinzona have been ordered to the spot. The railway bridge over the Calanchini torrent at Molinazzo is under water.

A large collection of water colour paintings have been bequeathed to the Federal Council by the late George Flenwell, an English painter of repute who spent most of his life in Switzerland. The pictures have been entrusted to the National Library at Berne.

For fraudulent misuse of their official position the president and two other members of the local council at Kreuzlingen (Thurgau) have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from 30 to 50 days in addition to fines.

Lieut. Heinrich Kauert from Wohlen (Aargau) contracted serious injuries when, on flying from Basle to Lausanne, he had to make a forced landing at the latter place on account of bad weather conditions; his military aeroplane was totally destroyed.

Councillor Robert Grieshaber, who for 41 years without an interruption represented Schaffhausen in the National Council, died at Hallau at the age of 83.

## EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

**Une Nomination bien accueillie.**—Dans les milieux politiques comme dans les hautes sphères commerciales on se félicite de la nomination de M. Henri Martin au poste de ministre de Suisse en Turquie. Le distingué diplomate qui a derrière lui une si utile carrière déjà et que son stage comme conseiller commercial auprès de notre légation à Londres a mis en contact avec tous les problèmes vitaux de notre commerce extérieur était particulièrement qualifié pour poursuivre à titre définitif la mission qu'il avait si bien inaugurée dans la Turquie nouvelle.

Dans ses nouvelles fonctions, il n'est pas douteux qu'il sera pour l'industrie de notre pays un collaborateur informé, avisé, entreprenant. Un Etat en pleine restauration comme l'actuelle Turquie a d'impérieux besoins, en effet, et il peut offrir à nos entreprises des débouchés considérables. C'est dire que la nomination de M. Henri Martin est tenue pour tout à fait opportune et qu'on s'accorde à penser que le Conseil fédéral ne pouvait trouver une autre personnalité réunissant à ce point de belles qualités diplomatiques et une expérience économique éprouvée.

—*La Suisse, Genève.*

**Zürcher Aerztin in Mittellafrika.**—Dem guten Beispiele mehrerer schweizerischer Aerzte folgend, wird nun als erste einheimische Aerztin Fräulein Dr.

## THE GENERAL ELECTION IN SWITZERLAND.

CANTON	Radicals	Liberal Conservatives	Catholic Conservatives	Agrarians	Socialists	Communists	Social Policy Candidates	Non-Party
Zürich	8 (8)	—	2 (1)	5 (6)	11 (10)	0 (1)	—	1 (1)
Berne	6 (6)	—	2 (2)	17 (14)	11 (12)	—	—	—
Lucerne	3 (3)	—	5 (5)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—
Uri	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schwyz	1 (0)	—	2 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	—	—	—
Obwalden	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Nidwalden	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Glarus	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1)	—
Zug	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Freiburg	2 (2)	—	5 (5)	—	—	—	—	—
Solothurn	3 (3)	—	2 (2)	—	2 (2)	—	—	—
Basel-Stadt	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—
Basel-Land	1 (2)	—	1 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)	—	—	—
Schaffhausen	1 (1)	—	—	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	—	—
Appenzell A.Rh.	2 (2)	—	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—
Appenzell L.-Rh.	—	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
St. Gall	5 (5)	—	7 (6)	—	3 (3)	—	0 (1)	—
Graubünden	2 (2)	—	2 (3)	—	1 (0)	—	1 (1)	—
Aargau	2 (2)	—	3 (3)	—	4 (4)	—	—	—
Thurgau	1 (1)	—	1 (1)	3 (3)	2 (1)	—	0 (1)	—
Tessin	4 (4)	—	3 (3)	—	1 (1)	—	—	—
Vaud	8 (8)	2 (3)	—	2 (1)	4 (4)	—	—	—
Valais	1 (2)	—	5 (4)	—	—	—	—	—
Neuchâtel	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	—	3 (3)	—	1 (1)	—
Geneva	2 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)	—	3 (3)	—	—	1 (1)
Total	58 (59)	6 (7)	46 (42)	31 (31)	50 (49)	2 (3)	3 (5)	2 (2)

(The figures in brackets indicate the strength in the old Council.)

From the above table based on the results published but not complete in every case it will be gathered that there is very little variation as regards the adherents of the different parties. Actual changes have taken place in only nine cantons. In Zurich the one mandate held by the Communists has been captured by the Socialists and the Catholics have won a seat from the Agrarians. The latter, however, recouped themselves by ousting a Socialist in Berne. Another seat was lost by the Socialists in Schwyz which they made good by taking one from the Catholics in the Grisons and one from the

Democrats in Thurgau. The Catholics, apart from the above, scored in Valais and Basel-Land at the expense of the Radicals; they also secured an additional seat in St. Gall.

As regards the States Council (Ständerat) thirty eight of the forty-four old members have been returned, the notable exceptions being in Geneva and Basle, where the only two Socialists in this Council, Burklin and Wullschlegler, were unseated. There was also some controversy in Basel-Land where the Radical was opposed by a Socialist and in Vaud where the new Liberal member had to fight against an Agrarian and a Socialist candidate.

med. Ilse Schnabel aus Zürich das verdienstliche grosse Hilfswerk von Professor Albert Schweitzer in Aequatorial-Afrika durch persönliche Dienstleistung unterstützen. Die Zürcher Medizinerin begibt sich in kurzer Zeit mit einer elsässischen Pflegerin auf die Reise nach Lambarene, wo bekanntlich Professor Schweitzer aus Geldern, die ihm seine Konzert- und Vortragsreisen eingetragen haben, ein Spital errichtete, wobei er auch als Zimmermann selbst Hand anlegt. Der Spitaldienst wird jetzt von europäischen Ärzten und Pflegerinnen allein versehen, wobei sich hauptsächlich schweizerische Kräfte zur Verfügung gestellt haben. Fräulein Dr. Schnabel gedenkt etwa zwei Jahre in Lambarene zu bleiben.

—*Tagesanzeiger, Zürich.*

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

### Italo-Swiss Relations.

The *Manchester Guardian* (Oct. 25th) deals with the latest developments as follows:—

"Although the diplomatic conversations between Switzerland and Italy on the Rossi incident have not yet concluded, there has already been a remarkable improvement in Swiss-Italian relations. Both Governments have reached agreement on the question of transit facilities affecting the frontier population, for whom it is desired that passport formalities should be abolished. For Switzerland it will be specially satisfactory that these facilities cannot be abruptly withdrawn, as was done by Italian officers some weeks ago. In future three months' notice will be necessary.

Still more important is the satisfactory statement of the Italian Government to the Swiss Minister in Rome on the famous circular which Signor Farini, general secretary of the Fascist party in Rome, addressed to all Italian Fascists living in Switzerland and in which he encouraged them to maintain quietly but firmly their faith in Fascism, "notwithstanding all the singular and illegal measures of the Swiss authorities towards them." In their conversations with the Swiss Minister in Rome the Italian Government plainly expressed disapproval of this Fascist manifesto.

It is noteworthy also that all secretaries of Fascist organisations in Switzerland left Switzerland this week for Rome, where it is considered

probable that Signor Mussolini will recommend them to practise a little more moderation than has been indicated in the Fascist papers appearing in Switzerland in the last few weeks."

### Swiss Architecture.

Several English magazines have recently enlarged on this subject. The October issue of *Building* singles out a few particular edifices with the help of illustrations. The buildings referred to are known to most of our readers, so that the article can be enjoyed even without the illustrations.

"Switzerland is, architecturally, one of the most conservative countries in Europe. This is a reminder that England does not stand alone in its veneration for the antique. Indeed, there are many others besides; and for no such reason as racial affinity, sociological or climatic conditions, or conditions of geographical location, the modern work of Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, and England is remaining conservative, while the work of Germany, Austria, France and Holland—and to some extent Sweden—is becoming more and more experimental and divorced from classical traditions.

There is no psychological clue to this dispersion of modernity or conservatism. Strangely enough, countries that are dissimilar in every other respect, such as France and Germany, are alike in their attitude towards modern architecture; and countries that have so much in common—such as England and Holland (who in the past ran side by side in domestic architecture—are now as different architecturally as a Sedan chair is from an automobile. Moreover, the dividing line between the aggressively progressive and the cautiously conservative does not in any way fall in with those too-easy classifications of Latin or Teuton, mountainous or flat, warm or temperate. This is just as well, for it saves us from falling ourselves into that habit of assuming that the reasoned actions of others is due to some instinctive urge that we know of, and they do not. Even the ancient explanation of the influences of building materials does not help us, for all countries are at least agreed on a total disregard of them. Nor does the suggestion that one country reacts against its neighbour out of sheer cussedness take us any farther, for modernist