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The Swiss Observer

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FEDERAL.

ARMY-CORPS COMMANDER EDUARD WILDBOLZ.

As reported in our last issue, the death occurred in Berne of the late Army-Corps Commander Eduard Wildbolz, at the age of 74.

Colonel Wildbolz, a Bernese, started his military career in 1878 as a cavalry officer; in 1881 he entered the Federal Instruction Corps where he was attached to the cavalry. In order to gain experience, he was sent to Germany, where he served one year with a German cavalry regiment, on his return he entered the General Staff where for some years he was under the tuition of Colonel Pfyffer von Altishofen. In the year 1896 he was gazetted to colonel and in the same year he was appointed chief instructor of cavalry; throughout his military career he kept a warm corner for this special branch of our army, which he, together with Colonel Wille (later General Wille) reorganised from top to bottom, and the high level which the cavalry attained in Switzerland is greatly due to Colonel Wildbolz.

During his appointment he held various commands, such as chief of staff of the 2nd Army-Corps, commander of a cavalry brigade and head of the 6th infantry brigade. The promotion to a division commander took place in 1908 when he took over the 2nd division, two years later he exchanged his command with that of the 3rd division, and it is the latter one which he lead to the frontier when the great war broke out. Throughout the frontier occupation he held this responsible command where he enhanced his reputation not only as an efficient leader, but also as a commander who had the welfare of all soldiers under his command at heart. He was liked by his officers and men almost like a father.

In 1917 ensued the promotion to commander of an Army-Corps, in which position he rendered invaluable services to his country, especially after the return of the troops from the frontier and on the occasion of the general strike, during which he showed a firm hand, but he was ever ready to foster a spirit of reconciliation, his unfaltering love for his country, his faith in the good of his fellow countrymen was based on a deep religious conviction, which enabled him, even after his retirement from the active list, to serve his country well. He was not only a great soldier but also a great man, and Switzerland has lost in him one of its famous sons.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Dr. Ruggiero Dollfus has been elected President of the National Council for the year 1933. Dr. Dollfus was born in 1876 at Milan, he studied law and national economy at the University of Basle. For 20 years he was manager of the Bank Vonwiller in Milan. In the army he reached the rank of a brigade commander. He entered Parliament in 1922 as the representative of the catholic-conservative party of the canton of Ticino, although Dr. Dollfus is a protestant. The new speaker of the Federal Chamber has travelled extensively and is no stranger to the London Colony to which he has paid frequent visits; his patriotic appeal which appeared in the Swiss Observer two years ago, on the occasion of the 1st of August, is still remembered.

VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Dr. Johannes Huber is the new Vice-President of the National Council, he was born in 1879 in Töss, and studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig, Berlin and Berne. In 1903 he started practice as an advocate in Rorschach, in 1913 he settled down in the town of St. Gall. Dr. Huber was for many years a member of the Grand Council over which he presided in 1919. He entered Parliament in 1919 and is a member of the socialist party.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE STATES COUNCIL.

The new President for 1933 of the States Council, M. Andreas Laely was born in 1864 at Davos. From 1909-1917 he was a member of the cantonal government. He is also well-known as a Journalist having been in turn editor of the "Davoser Zeitung," "Davoser Blätter" and "Freien Rüttler." M. Laely has been for many years a member of the Grand Council over which he presided in 1920. He entered Parliament in 1913.

VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE STATES COUNCIL.

M. Antonio Riva, who has been elected Vice-President of the States Council was born in 1870 in Lugano. He studied law at the Universities of Zurich, München and Freiburg. M. Riva has been since 1900 a member of the Grand Council, he is a lieutenant-colonel in the army. On his entry into Parliament in 1917 he joined the catholic-conservative party.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The Federal Council has elected M. Robert Stehli-Zweifel, Silk Merchant at Zurich, as a member of the Board of the National Bank, in succession to Dr. O. von Waldkirch, late Chairman of the Federal Bank, who has resigned from his post.

BASLE COMMUNISTS AND THE B.I.S.

The Communist Party of the Canton and the City of Basle has decided to organize a referendum with the object of vetoing the taxation agreement between the Bank for International Settlements and the Cantonal authorities which exempts the officials of the bank from the income and inheritance tax on their private fortunes in return for an annual payment of 50,000 Swiss francs (£2,000 at par). The Hague Agreement only gives freedom of taxation to the bank itself and the salaries of its officials.

The Communist Party contends that the sum of 50,000 francs is ridiculously low, since the salary of the president of the bank is 250,000 francs and other officials receive salaries of 100,000 francs and upwards.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The well-known writer Jakob Bührer has become a member of the socialist party, in whose service he was for some time as a propaganda writer.

* * *

M. G. Muller, socialist has been re-elected as town President of Biel, the elections for the town Council have brought no change in the distribution of seats.

* * *

M. Samuel Häusermann, has celebrated his 40th service jubilee as an inspector at the Federal Customs office. M. Häusermann, who hails from the canton of Aargau has been for the last few years the substitute of the Customs Director.

LUCERNE.

Nine persons were killed and eight seriously injured in a head-on collision between electric trains in the Gütsch Tunnel, near Lucerne, about three o'clock on the 13 inst.

The two trains were an express from Zurich and a slow train on the St. Gotthard line from Lucerne to Bellinzona.

The express was travelling at about fifty miles an hour, and the other train at about thirty miles. The resulting smash completely wrecked both locomotives, telescoped several carriages, and plunged the tunnel into utter darkness.

Failure of the lights in the tunnel made the work of rescue extremely difficult. In the early stages it had to be carried out with flares and lanterns as the only source of light, and it was the moans and cries of the injured that chiefly guided the steps of the rescuers.

After three hours' strenuous work among the wreckage, six bodies were found, and eleven injured were removed to hospital. Three of the injured died in hospital a few hours later. Both engine drivers and one of the train conductors were killed outright. The remaining dead were passengers — four men and two women.

Search Continues.

Oxy-acetylene lamps and mechanical saws are being used to force a way into the wreckage, as it is feared that there may be more bodies yet to be discovered.

The telescoped trains completely blocked the railway lines, and it is expected that breakdown gangs will have to work throughout the night if traffic is to be resumed soon. As all the trains from Lucerne to Berne, Bale, Zurich, and St. Gotthard pass from the Lucerne railway station

through the Gütsch tunnel, railway communications in all directions are temporarily held up.

BASLE.

Lieutenant Gustav Tappolet fell with his horse in the Langen Erlen and was killed instantly. Lieutenant Tappolet was a son of Professor Tappolet.

* * *

Prof. Dr. Henri Veillon, Professor of Physics at the University of Basle since 1896 has died after a long illness.

FRIBOURG.

A widespread epidemic of diphtheria is rampant at Fribourg, various schools have had to be closed.

GENEVA.

The "Conseil d'Etat," has elected M. Paul Lachenal as its President and M. Albert Picot as its Vice-President for the year 1933.

ARGAU.

Three persons were severely injured in a motor accident which happened at the lower Hauenstein. M. Wilhelm Rudin, his mother and his bride Miss Emma Imber, all from Basle were motoring at the Hauenstein, when at one of the curves, the car left the road and fell down a ravine, all three were taken to the hospital at Olten.

* * *

Dr. Emil Isler, for nearly 50 years member of Parliament has laid down his mandate for reasons of health. Dr. Isler entered the National Council in 1884 and since 1890 was a member of the States Council.

LAUSANNE.

Doctor Maurice Jeanneret-Minkine, a medical practitioner and noted communist at Lausanne has been sentenced to three months imprisonment, for having insulted the Swiss flag and the army.

* * *

Sentences of from 26-90 days' imprisonment were imposed by the Military Tribunal on four soldiers who were found guilty of serious infringements of duty in connection with the Geneva shooting affair last month. One of the soldiers has also been dismissed from the army.

TICINO.

The death is reported from Bellinzona of M. Germano Bruni, at the age of 82. M. Bruni was a member of Parliament from 1893-96. (National Council), in 1895 he was appointed public prosecutor of the canton of Ticino, which office he gave up in 1890 on the occasion of his appointment as a member of the cantonal government. From 1911-1922 he was the presiding judge of the criminal court. The deceased was one of the leaders of the radical party in his home canton.

CAMBRIDGE FAVOURITES FOR THE SKI RACES.

Snow to the depth of over two feet has already fallen at St. Moritz, where the Oxford and Cambridge ski teams shortly hold the annual International Ski Race Meeting.

Some members of the ski clubs are already here, but the captains do not actually pick their teams until they have put the probables and possibles through their paces on the spot.

Last year, for patriotic reasons, the races were run in Canada, but conditions there were found less pleasant than at St. Moritz. The long sea voyage at this time of the year can be anything but enjoyable; above all, the skiers missed the radiant sunshine and blue skies of the Swiss Alps. Nor was the snow itself of so perfect a quality.

The races and ski-jumping competition always take place at Christmas; the date this year is from December 23 to 25th.

The Cambridge team are strong favourites. The light Blues are fortunate in having two skiers of exceptional merit to race for them. These are the captain of the team, C. S. F. Taylor, and last year's captain, R. J. Bushnell.

FOOTBALL.

December 11th, 1932.

CHALLENGE NATIONAL.

Grasshoppers	.....	2	Blue Stras	.....	0
Zurich	.....	2	Young Fellows	.....	1
Concordia	.....	0	Urania	.....	3
Carouge	.....	2	Young Boys	.....	3
Aarau	.....	1	Basel	.....	2
Lausanne-Sports	.....	5	Chaux-de-Fonds	.....	5
Biel	.....	3	Servette	.....	0
Lugano	.....	5	Nordstern	.....	3