

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1934)
Heft: 687

Artikel: Christmas 1934
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694719>

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 13—No. 687

LONDON, DECEMBER 22, 1934.

PRICE 3d.

A Merry Christmas to all our Readers

CHRISTMAS 1934.

Most of us, at this time of the year, look backwards and take stock not only of our chattels, but of our ideals and, when we balance our accounts, or try to balance them, we are apt to become just a little bit melancholy because so many of our hopes and aspirations have gone under again. At the end of this year 1934 when we read so much of distress prevailing in many quarters, of unemployment clouding so many homes, of poverty, mostly unmerited, sapping the courage of so many of our brethren, we are forcibly reminded of that passage in Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell"

"Und es war ein Volk weit hinten im Lande,
DAS LITT AN GROSSER TEURUNG."

We all know the decision that people came to: EMIGRATION.

I think that in these concluding days of the year 1934 we might resort to *emigration* in a spiritual sense. I think that most of us would benefit considerably if we abandoned the sterile wilds of despair and unhappy brooding over the seeming unconquerable questions of how to help our poorer brethren, of how to get the human family on to a greener field of existence. Emigration of the Spirit! Let us resolve to be more courageous in the new year, to battle with renewed vigour against odds, to fight the battle of life with zest and with a glad optimism, to laugh, where we want to weep, to smile where we want to frown, to make little of the obstacles we have hitherto considered unconquerable and to get that frame of mind which will make us convinced that we are winning the battle, that we are making progress, that we are getting nearer our goal, that we are really winning through at last. Let us resolve to see the good in the first place in our brethren's endeavour, to believe in their honest intentions, to feel sure of their sincerity and to be the first to hold out the true hand of good fellowship to all and especially to those among us who are weak and so, by helping others, earn for ourselves that rich reward of that feeling comparable to no other, of duty done willingly.

A little sermon! Yes. Platitudes! Yes! . . . but, oh, so necessary!

Kyburg.



HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

The two Chambers, sitting as one body, elected last week the new President and Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

M. Rudolf Minger, hitherto Vice-President, has been elected President for 1935 with 139 votes out of 164. —

M. Minger entered the Government in 1929, as successor to the late M. Scheurer; like his predecessor, M. Minger is a Bernese; and he was the first farmer who entered the Federal Council. He is 53 years of age. Until the year 1918 he was quite an unknown personality in politics; he occupied himself in administering the large farm at Schüpfen, which was left to him by his father. He entered Parliament in 1919; during the previous year, M. Minger had founded the Peasants party, which he represented in the Grand Council of the canton of Berne. M. Minger reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Army, and since his entry into the Government, the Federal Military Dept. was assigned to him.

The new President is a man who has rendered great services to our country, in many offices, which he held with distinction, and we join the Swiss Press in congratulating him on having been elected to this high and responsible office.

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

Dr. Albert Meyer, the new Vice-President of the Confederation was born in 1870 at Fällanden (Zurich), he studied law at the Universities Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin, in 1895 he got his degrees as *Doctor juris utriusque*, as well as *Doctor juris publicae et rerum cameralium* at the University of Zurich.

In 1897 he joined the editorial staff of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung" where he edited the commercial pages of the paper. From 1915-1929, Dr. Meyer was editor in chief of the N.Z.Z., he entered the town council of Zurich in 1907, over which he presided in 1912; three years later he was elected to Parliament. (National Council). From 1923-1929 M. Meyer acted as President of the central committee of the Liberal-democratic Party of Switzerland, from 1927-1929 he was a member of the Board of the National Bank. He was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1929 in succession to Federal Councillor Haab. In the army he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel of Infantry.

BRITISH MINISTER TO SWITZERLAND KNIGHTED.

The King, at Buckingham Palace on the 14th, received in audience Mr. G. R. Warner, who kissed hands on appointment as British Minister at Berne. The King knighted Mr. Warner and invested him with the K.C.V.O.

NEW FEDERAL JUDGE.

The two Chambers elected Dr. M. Robert Petitmermet, as a Federal Judge, in succession to M. Henri Thélin, who recently retired from his post.

M. Petitmermet, was born in 1886 at La Sagne (Neuchâtel), he studied law at the Universities of Lausanne and Berlin. From 1912-1916 he was assistant of the Public Prosecutor of the canton of Neuchâtel, in 1916 he was elected President of the district Court. (Avenches, Payerne, Moudon, Oron); three years later he was appointed secretary of the Federal Tribunal. In 1920 he resigned his post and became President of the Vaudois District Court. (Vevey and Lavaux). Ten years later (1930) he was made a member of the cantonal tribunal of the canton of Vaud, over which he presided in 1933. Dr. Petitmermet is the author of several books on matters of law, and editor of the "Journal des Tribunaux."

RETIRING PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL COURT.

M. Henri Thélin who has just retired from the Presidency of the Federal Court, was born in 1867 at La Sarraz (Vaud). After completion of his studies at various Universities, he established himself as an advocate in Lausanne, where he enjoyed the reputation of a brilliant lawyer. He was elected a member of the Grand Council and later on entered Parliament (National Council). From 1909 until 1912, he was President of the Swiss Touring Club; he was also Principal Judge of the 1st Division. In 1912, M. Thélin was appointed a member of the Federal Tribunal, an office which he held for 22 years, he presided over the Supreme Court in 1933/34.

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL COURT.

M. Couchepin, (Valais) was elected President of the Federal Court for 1935; M. Strebel, (Aargau) was appointed Vice-President.

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL SINGING COMPETITION.

M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation, has been nominated honorary President of the Federal Singing Competition, which will take place next year at Basle.

UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

According to official figures published by the Federal Statistical office, the numbers of Unemployed in Switzerland at the end of November amounted to 76,000 or 17,000 more than at the end of October of this year.

ZURICH.

M. Hans Tschanz, editor of the "Zürcher Tagesanzeiger" died in Zurich at the age of 65.

Dr. Bullet, a well-known medical practitioner in Zurich, fired two shots from a revolver at his wife, and afterwards shot himself; his wife is in a critical condition. It is reported that Dr. Bullet, who lived on affectionate terms with his wife, has committed this deed in a moment of insanity.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the "Maschinenfabrik Rüti," the management has given an amount of 70,000 frs. to be distributed amongst the staff, furthermore a sum of frs. 230,000 has been paid into the "Fürsorge Fonds" of the personnel.

The death is reported from Zurich, of Dr. W. Kolatschek, for many years Professor at the "Töchterchule" in Zurich, at the age of 55.

BERNE.

Georges Erbetta, a watchmaker, of Saint Imier, has just completed a working model of a merry-go-round on which he has been working for 20 years.

The model has 1000 parts, and is only about 16 inches in diameter.

BASLE-COUNTY.

The works at Münchenstein of the firm Brown, Boveri & Co. A.G., have been closed down on account of lack of orders.

GLARUS.

Various institutions of the canton of Glarus will benefit by the will of the late Mlle. Adeline von Tschudi, the amount to be distributed exceeds 1½ million francs.

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