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HOME NEWS

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LOCAL.

SWISS REFERENDUM.

The referendum held in Switzerland last Saturday and Sunday on the "crisis initiative" has resulted in the rejection of the proposed temporary amendment of the Federal Constitution by 567,624 votes against 425,673, and by eighteen cantons against four. The four cantons in the minority are Berne, Basle Town, Basle County, (counting as one canton), Schaffhausen and Solothurn.

The poll was unusually heavy (84 per cent.), and the defeat of the initiative is much more decisive than any of its opponents had ventured to hope. It is particularly remarkable that it should have been adopted only in four cantons, whereas to secure success it had to be adopted in a majority of the cantons as well as by the majority of the voters in the whole country.

The total vote in favour of the proposed constitutional amendment is only about 90,000 more than the number of signatures obtained for the initiative. The cantonal results show that the authors of the initiative failed in their attempt to get the support of the peasants in the canton of Geneva.

Cantons	Yes.	No.
Zürich	79,974	82,820
Bern	90,634	78,443
Luzern	13,552	32,715
Uri	1,868	3,607
Schwyz	4,034	9,895
Obwalden	812	3,674
Nidwalden	594	2,720
Glarus	2,282	6,458
Zug	2,679	5,220
Freiburg	7,518	26,572
Solothurn	18,148	17,989
Baselstadt	20,044	18,005
Baselst.	13,108	9,558
Schaffhausen	6,862	6,045
Appenzell A.-Rh.	4,582	6,592
Appenzell L.-Rh.	503	2,176
St. Gallen	24,726	41,634
Graubünden	13,464	15,169
Aargau	31,562	34,101
Thurgau	12,392	20,803
Tessin	10,907	20,159
Vaud	29,920	61,992
Valais	9,579	21,036
Neuchâtel	12,308	18,004
Genève	13,648	22,237
Total	425,673	567,624

MINISTER VON SEGESSER †.

Monsieur Hans Albrecht von Segesser, Swiss Minister at Warsaw, has died at Bad Nauheim, where he was recuperating from a recent illness. M. Segesser was born in Lucerne in 1877; he studied law at the Universities Fribourg, Munich and Zurich. In 1902 he entered into the diplomatic service of the Confederation, and received an appointment as *Attaché* at the Legation in Paris; two years later, he was promoted to Secretary of Legation, and was transferred to Buenos Ayres, where he was *Chargé d'Affaires* until 1905. In 1913 M. Segesser advanced to Counsellor of Legation, after having previously occupied posts as first Secretary of Legation in Paris and Vienna. In 1915 he was transferred to the Political Dept in Berne where he was principally engaged with Prisoners of War work, two years later he went to the Legation in Rome. Since 1924, M. Segesser had been Swiss Minister at Warsaw, where he enjoyed great popularity both in the Swiss Colony as well as in Government circles.

MINISTER STUCKI IN AMERICA.

Minister Stucki has arrived at Washington at the head of a delegation in order to study economic relations between the two countries.

SWISS SUBJECTS ARRESTED BY NAZIS.

The alleged arrest by German Nazis of two Swiss subjects is arousing intense indignation in Switzerland.

It is stated that two young men, brothers, from Zurich, were spending their holidays at Stuttgart early this month. They made the acquaintance of a young German over a glass of beer, and foolishly talked politics.

The German professed to be a Communist, and wrote on his own photograph, "Red Front, we fight for Soviet Russia," and then exchanged it for a photograph of the younger Swiss visitor, who wrote the same inscription on his own portrait.

A few minutes later both brothers were arrested. The elder was released last Monday, but the younger one is still in jail, on the grounds that he was preparing an outrage.

The names of the two young men are Alfred and Ernst Sturzenegger, and they are employed in the Swiss Tramways.

SMALLER GOLD LOSS.

The Swiss National Bank lost 10,000,000f. of gold and gold exchange during the week ended May 31st, against 58,000,000f. a week previously.

On May 31st, notes in circulation and other sight liabilities were covered by gold and gold exchange to the extent of 77.57 per cent., against 81.67 per cent. a week ago.

SWISS ENTRIES FOR HENLEY.

Although H. Buhtz, last year's German winner, is not defending, there is a strong foreign challenge for the Diamond Sculls at Henley Regatta, from July 3rd to 6th. J. V. J. Zazrel, the Czechoslovakian sculler, is again competing, and other entries are E. Ruffi (Zurich, Switzerland), E. Studach (Grasshopper Club, Switzerland) and R. W. Verey (Cracow, Poland).

The only overseas challenger in the Grand is Zurich, Princetown University having decided not to come over this year. Zurich is also in the Stewards' Challenge Cup. Tabor University is the only American entry in the Thames Challenge Cup. Last year they were accompanied from America by Kent School and Yale University.

CIVIL PILOTS IN SWITZERLAND.

According to official lists there are at present 310 licences valid for Swiss Civil Pilots, of which 285 authorise the piloting of aeroplanes and 25 the steering of balloons. Of these 61 aeroplane pilots were licensed during the last twelve months. Among these 285 plane pilots there are 6 ladies. 20 men belong to the high category of Air line Pilots, 7 of them possessing the rank of "Air Captain." Three pilots have a special licence for the steering of Autogyros. Among veteran Swiss pilots may be mentioned Durafour and Weber in Geneva, Pillichody and Gsell in Berne, and Koepke in Basle.

COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF MORAT-MURTEN: JUNE 22.

Between 1474 and 1477 the Swiss fought four great battles against Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, in defence of their independence. The great victory of Morat, or Murten, is commemorated by the local population, who form a procession, which reaches the church, where a memorial service is held. Then from 11 to 12 a.m. a Childrens' Ballet is performed in front of the school-house. In the afternoon a pageant is formed, which marches to the "place de fête," where athletic sports and games are the order of the day. On June 23rd, a historical Shooting Competition is held, for which 57 Clubs of various parts of Switzerland have already entered their teams.

DR. HANHART RELEASED.

It is reported from Marseille, that the French authorities have released Dr. Hanhart from Zurich, who was under arrest for espionage.

RE-OPENING OF THE CONVENT-MUSEUM OF STEIN A. RHEIN.

One of the chief sights of ancient Swiss architecture is the famous Convent of Stein, a Swiss town situated on the Rhine between Schaffhausen and Constance. It is the old Benedictine Convent of *St. Georgen*, which in its present form was constructed in 1500, i.e. shortly before the Reformation and its own secularisation which took

place in 1525. For years this beautiful building has been public property, and expensive renovations have been carried out in recent times by Herr Wolfgang Müller, architect, under the supervision of Professor Zemp of Zurich University. At first only the Romanesque convent church (now the town church) and the famous abbots' hall were renovated. Now a number of late Gothic rooms have been repaired, among which the Zwingli Room, the Kitchen, and the convent inn, and the crest of the abbot, David of Winkelsheim, is seen in the oriel windows. The former Bailiff Hall will now be the nucleus of a local Museum. Much admired is the wonderful Gothic Cloister with its picturesque courts.

FEDERAL.

ZURICH.

M. Carlo Tommasi di Vignano, General-Manager of the Lonza Works has died at the age of 60. M. Tommasi was, for the last 25 years one of the leading personalities at the Lonza Works.

The well-known Publishing house Gebrüder Fretz A.G. in Zurich, has celebrated its 75th Jubilee.

Dr. Franz Glättli, State Prosecutor of the canton of Zurich since 1903 has resigned from his post for reasons of age; he is 69 years old.

Dr. Wilhelm v. Muralt, a noted surgeon in Zurich, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary, he was for over 50 years head of the Children Hospital.

BERNE.

Mme. Anna, Barbara Richard, née Graber in Krauchthal, has celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

M. Ernst Schürch, editor in chief of the "Bund" since 1925, has celebrated his 60 birthday anniversary. M. Schürch was at one time State Prosecutor of the canton of Berne, and until 1932 President of the Liberal Party of the canton of Berne, as well as a member of the Grand Council.

LUCERNE.

Over 170 bands with about 9,300 musicians will compete at the Federal Music Festival, which is taking place in Lucerne on July 27th and 29th.

BASLE.

The death is reported from Basle of M. Albert His-Veillon, senior partner of the knitting firm His and Co., in Murgenthal, at the age of 77. The deceased was well-known in Swiss Industrial circles, and was a director of numerous big concerns, amongst them the Chemical Works vorm. Sandoz in Basle.

Dr. Hans Zetter, since 1926 Swiss Consul General at Munich, has died in Basle at the age of 58. Dr. Zetter, who hails from Solothurn, was since 1918 in the diplomatic service, he was in 1918 *Chargé d'Affaire* in Berlin.

BASLE-COUNTY.

The elections for the cantonal government have brought no change, all the former members have been confirmed in their office.

GLARUS.

The result of the elections for the "Landrat" are as follows: Labour Party 24 (24); Bourgeois Party 29 (30); Catholic-Conservative Party 10 (9); Socialist Party 9 (9); Unattached 1 (1).

GENEVA.

During an exhibition flight, which took place last Sunday at Planypse near Colombier, an aeroplane piloted by M. Debruit came in contact with a tree on landing. The pilot received slight injuries whilst his wife was badly hurt, much damage was done to the machine.

AARGAU.

The "Aargauische Bezirks Schule" in Baden is celebrating, on the 15th of this month, its centenary, members of the cantonal government will attend the festivities which will take place on that date.

APPENZELL A.-RH.

At Herisau died at the age of 82, M. Ferdinand Büchler, a former member of the Cantonal Government (1909-1919).