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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

BANQUE FEDERALE.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Banque Fédérale S.A. (Eidgenössische Bank A.G.), one of Switzerland's "Big Seven," will be held on December 17th, when the board will invite them to agree to a reduction of the share capital from 75,000,000f. to 33,000,000f.

This transaction, amounting to 42,000,000f., will be effected as follows:—

(1) 16,479 shares, already redeemed, of a nominal value of 500f. per share, and totalling 8,239,500f., are cancelled;

(2) the bank's own shares, of a nominal value of 760,500f., will be bought up;

(3) the nominal value of 132,000 shares will be reduced by one-half, bringing in 33,000,000f.

Of the 42,000,000f., there will be used 40,000,000f. to cover losses sustained by the liquidation of German assets and depreciation of other assets, and 2,000,000f. will go to reserve account.

By this measure, it is stated, the bank will be able to pay a dividend for the present trading year. There was no dividend for 1935 as against 3 per cent. for the previous year. At the end of 1935 the balance-sheet total amounted to 307,886,374f.

SWISS LOAN PLAN.

Swiss financial circles are anticipating the issue of a conversion loan of 4,500,000,000 Swiss francs (£214,900,000 at current rates).

This sum is almost equal to the total debt of Switzerland.

The rate of interest may be 3½ per cent., it is believed.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Debt at 31st December, 1935, totalled Frs.2,064,809,243 (£98,328,000), of which Frs.1,752,855,000 (£83,473,000) was consolidated debt and Frs.311,954,243 (£14,855,000) floating debt.

On the same date the Consolidated Debt of the Federal Railways totalled Frs.2,925,028,048 (£139,335,000).

ESPIONAGE IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Military Department warns the public against the activities of agents of an unnamed Power who are said to be endeavouring to secure information about Swiss military institutions, and especially about the sources of electrical energy.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

M. Maurice Trollet, has been elected President of the National Council.

The new "Speaker" of the 2nd Chamber is 57 years old, and is a member of the government of the canton of Valais since 1913; he entered the Grand Council at the early age of 25, and Parliament (National Council) in 1920.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE STATES COUNCIL.

M. Erwin Hauser from Glarus has been elected President of the States Council, he was from 1902 to 1932 a member of the cantonal government, he entered Parliament in 1921.

* * *

M. de Week (Fribourg) has been unanimously elected Vice-President of the States Council.

COLONEL ZIEGLER RETIRES.

Colonel Richard Ziegler, since 1912 head of the "Eidg. Pferderegiment" is shortly retiring from his post. He was born in 1872 at Schaffhausen.

NEW LOCATIONS.

The Federal Council is putting a motion before the two Federal Chambers, to establish a Legation at Prague and at Sofia. Dr. Bruggmann,

hitherto "Chargé d'Affaires" in Prague has been promoted to the rank of Minister.

Minister H. Martin, who is already accredited to Ankara and Cairo will be Minister in Sofia.

Dr. Armin Däniker, formerly Chargé d'Affaires in Teheran, will be Minister of the newly created Legation.

RETIRING FEDERAL JUDGES.

No less than four Federal Judges will retire from their high judiciary office at the end of this year; they are:

Dr. M. Couchebin, President of the Federal Court, he was born in 1869 in Martigny-Bourg (Valais). At the age of 24 he entered the office of his father who practised as an advocate at Sitten.

From 1893-1905 he was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Valais. For eight years (1897-1905) M. Couchebin officiated as town president of Martigny-Bourg. In 1905 he entered the cantonal government of which he was a member for 11 years. In 1916 the retiring judge was elected Federal Judge in succession to M. Felix Clausen.

M. Couchebin is an honorary doctor of law of the University of Berne, he presided over the Supreme Court for the last two years. —

Dr. Karl Engeler, was born in 1864 in Frauenfeld he studied law at the Universities of Basle, Munich, Lausanne and Heidelberg, after which he established himself as an advocate in Wil. In 1901 he entered the Tribunal of the canton of Thurgau.

Dr. Engeler sat for some time in Parliament, and in 1923 he was elected Federal Judge in succession to Dr. Franz Schmid. —

Dr. Heinrich Honegger, was born in 1862 in Zollikon, and after having studied law at various Universities at home and abroad, established himself as an advocate in Zurich. In 1893 he was appointed Clerk of the Federal Court, and eight years later (1901) he was promoted to Federal Judge in succession to Dr. Leo Weber, he was a member of the Supreme Court over which he presided in 1915/16 for altogether 35 years. —

Dr. Agostino Soldati, was born in 1857 and studied law at the University of Turino, he established himself as an advocate in Lugano in 1889. He took an active part in the political life of the canton Ticino, first as a member of the Grand Council and later in Parliament (States Council).

Dr. Soldati was for some time head of the cantonal government, he was elected Federal Judge in 1892 and has thus been connected for 44 years with the Supreme Court.

ANOTHER BATCH OF SWISS RETURN FROM SPAIN.

Over a hundred Swiss (91 adults and 13 children) have arrived in Switzerland from Barcelona, another batch of 300 are expected to arrive during the next few days.

PROFITEER FINED.

A merchant of Liestal has been fined the amount of 15,000 frs. for having increased prices without the authorisation of Federal Economic Department.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The "Landbote" a paper published in Winterthur, has celebrated its 100th Anniversary since its foundation, on this occasion the administration has made a donation of 50,000 frs. toward the Pension Fund of its employees.

* * *

Pastor Gottfried Bosshard has died in Zurich, at the age of 57, he was for over 20 years connected with the "Predigern" congregation, and until lately he was a preacher at the cantonal hospital.

BERNE.

The members of the Federal Council gave a farewell dinner at the de Wattewyl house in Bern to Count Clauzel, the departing French Ambassador in Berne, various high civil servants, as well as the personnel of the French Embassy were present.

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Another farewell dinner, was offered by the government to the Rumanian Minister, Monsieur Brăescu who is retiring to the Foreign Office in Bucharest.

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Miss Martha Spring, a waitress at the Restaurant Schützenhaus in Bümpliz, has won the principal amount (250,000 frs.) in the "Seva,"

lottery. The happy winner was a former servant in the household of Federal Councillor Minger.

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The Federal Council has authorised the Swiss Federal Railways to close down the line Ottolingen-Niederglatt.

LUCERNE.

The late J. Studer-Hofstetter, Wine Merchant in Lucerne, has left an amount of nearly 70,000 to the community of Escholzmatt (where he was born).

FRIBOURG.

The death has occurred at Broc, of M. Alexandre Cailler, at the age of 71, a director of the chocolate works, Peter, Cailler, Kohler, which in 1929 were acquired by the Nestlé concern.

The deceased was born in 1866 at Vevey; from 1888-1898 he was the proprietor of chocolate works in Broc, later on he became a director of the Cailler, Peter, Kohler Works, since 1927 he had been a member of the Board of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co., in Vevey.

M. Cailler was a member of Parliament (National Council) from 1911-1935, when he retired from political life, he was also a member for several years of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg and of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

The elections for the cantonal government in Fribourg took place last Sunday, the following have been elected: Chatton (28,209); de Week (25,506); Bovet (28,414); Piller (23,726); Quarrendou (29,835); all previous members of the government, Bärtschy (28,983) new. There will be a second ballot between Rouvenaz, who received 15,243 votes and Corboz who polled 13,623 votes. All the elected members belong to the Conservative party.

BASLE.

Dr. Fritz Mangold, Professor at the University has been elected *rector magnificus* of the University of Basle for 1937.

* * *

Dr. Fritz Gysin, at present "Adjunkt" of the Historical Museum in Basle, has been elected Director of the Swiss Federal Museum in succession to Dr. Hans Lehmann.

* * *

Dr. Rudolf Stähelin, Professor of Medicine, at the University of Basle, has celebrated his 25th Jubilee as Professor at the University.

ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Vogler, rector of the "Gymnasium" of the "Kantonsschule" has retired, Dr. Kind has been elected as his successor.

AARAU.

M. Hans Hässig, a former "Stadtammann" of Aarau has left the town of Aarau a sum of 300,000 frs. M. Hässig died a few days ago.

THURGAU.

Drunkiness is to be punishable by imprisonment in the Canton Thurgau.

A referendum of the population has given a majority of two to one in favour of legislation making drunkenness an offence by imprisonment.

OBWALDEN.

M. Walter Amstalden, member of the Swiss States Council (Ständerat) has received the degree of *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Fribourg.

NEUCHATEL.

The death is reported from Neuchâtel of M. Paul Comtesse, Professor of Theology at the University of Neuchâtel.

GENEVA.

The population of the canton of Geneva numbers 175,259 inhabitants, the population of the town of Geneva is 124,293.

Schweiz. Unternehmen der Grossindustrie das in England fabriziert sucht tüchtigen energischen Betriebsassistenten, 25-30 jährig, wo möglich in England geboren od. lange ansässig, abgeschlossene technische Hochschul- oder Technikumsbildung und einige Jahre prakt. Tätigkeit. Spez. Branchenkenntnisse nicht erforderlich, doch muss der Bewerber vertraut sein im Umgang mit der Arbeiterschaft. Schriftl. Angebote mit genauen Angaben an Swiss Consulate, 53, Spring Gardens, Manchester 2.