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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

ANTON MESSMER †.

In St. Gall, died at the age of 79, M. Anton Messmer, late States Councillor, who during nearly half a century has played an important rôle in the political life of the canton of St. Gall. Born in 1858 at Thal in the Rhine valley, he took up a commercial profession, and in 1882 he founded an Embroidery business at Bazenheid.

He started his political career in 1889 with the entry into the "Verfassungsrat"; two years later he was elected a member of the Grand Council and at the same time of the "Erziehungsrat." In 1902 he entered the cantonal government where he occupied the post of Finance Minister, his principal achievement was the new law of taxes. In the years 1907-08 he was "Landammann," in 1912 he retired from the government and re-entered the Grand Council over which he presided in 1916/17.

In 1919, he was sent to Parliament, where he at once made his influence felt, and in 1929 he presided over the States-Council. During his parliamentary life he made a name for himself in the sphere of Finance. Although not a brilliant speaker, he impressed his colleagues by his sound reasoning and his great knowledge in matters of Finance. For a considerable time, he occupied a seat on the Board of the National Bank of which he was Vice-President.

In 1933, he resigned his seat in the Grand Council, and two years later he gave up his seat in Parliament. His native canton as well as the country have lost a great and faithful man, who will be remembered for the many services he has rendered.

KARL ATTENHOFER'S 100th BIRTHDAY
ANNIVERSARY.

On the 5th of this month, was celebrated the 100th birthday anniversary of the Swiss composer and conductor Karl Attenhofer, who was born on the 5th of May 1837, in Wettingen. He died on May 22nd 1914 at the age of 77. He conducted for 48 years the "Zürcher Singstudenten" and for 38 years the "Männerchor" Zürich. In 1889 he received the title of *doctor honoris causa* from the University of Zürich for his merits for Swiss Music. One of his finest compositions is "Das weisse Kreuz im roten Feld." A large number of patriotic and student songs have endeared him to circles where music is appreciated.

NESTLE AND ANGLO-SWISS.

The full report of the Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Holding Co., Ltd., explains that the 1936 net profit of Frs. 24,579,362, against Frs. 20,302,229 in 1935, is hardly comparable with that of previous years, not only owing to the re-organisation of the company, but also very largely as a result of the devaluation of the Swiss franc.

The allocation to statutory reserve is Frs. 1,174,362 and special reserve receives Frs. 1,416,638, against Frs. 1,000,000. Special relief fund receives Frs. 2,500,000, against Frs. 500,000, while Frs. 2,500,000, against Frs. 2,000,000, goes to pension and provident funds. The dividend on the Frs. 200 shares is again Frs. 28 per share, while the distribution on the Frs. 10 shares is repeated at Frs. 1.40, leaving the carry forward at Frs. 6,261,332, against Frs. 5,848,621 brought in.

It is stated that, accompanied by a constant increase in the price of raw materials, the improvement in the world economic situation has been reflected in an increase in the purchasing capacity of the consumer. This tendency has in several cases resulted in an improvement in selling prices, and thus a return to reasonable margin of profit.

NEW GERMAN MINISTER TO SWITZERLAND.

Dr. Otto Köcher, has been appointed German Minister to Switzerland in succession to Freiherr von Weizsäcker, who is retiring to the German Foreign Office.

M. Köcher was born in 1884 at St. Ludwig; he received his early schooling (12 years) in Basle, later on he studied law at the Universities in Freiburg i. Br., Berlin and Leipzig. In 1912, he entered the Foreign Office and a year later he was appointed Vice-Consul at Naples. From 1914-1918 he took part in the war, and in 1919 he was promoted to Counsellor of Legation receiving an appointment in Berne. In 1923, he was recalled to the Foreign Office in Berlin, and a year later he was sent to Mexico, where he remained until 1930. After having spent again three years in Berlin, he received an appointment as General-Consul in Barcelona.

LATE NUNTius P. DI MARIA †.

P. di Maria, Papal Nuntius in Berne from 1925-1935, has died at Moliterno (Italy) at the age of 72.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

A beautiful wreath has been deposited at the monument erected at Wädenswil to the memory of the late Federal Councillor Walter Hauser, who was born at Wädenswil in May 1837.

BERNE.

The couple J. Kissling-Lüthi of Interlaken, have celebrated their "Iron" wedding anniversary (65 years). M. Kissling, "maître sellier," is 93 years old and his wife 87, they married on the 4th of May, 1872.

* * *

A bust in honour of Jeremias Gotthelf was inaugurated in Berne. The bust is the work of the sculptor Arnold Hugger, it has been erected in the "Rosengarten."

LUCERNE.

The organisation committee for the Federal Shooting Competition which will take place in 1939 in Lucerne, has elected M. Franz Wismeyer, Bank Manager as President of the Finance Committee.

* * *

M. Joseph Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia, has spent a few days at Lucerne with his family.

GLARUS.

Amongst the guests of the "Glarner Landsgemeinde" which took place at the beginning of this month, were M. Hauser, President of the States Council (Ständerat), Sir George Warner, H. M. Minister to Switzerland and Colonel of Division Bircher.

BASLE.

The French Ambassador, M. Alphand paid an official visit to the government of the canton of Basle; he was received at the Town Hall where friendly speeches were made. The Ambassador was later entertained by the French Colony in Basle.

FRIBOURG.

M. Léon Ruffieux, advocate and M. Jean Marmier have been elected members of the cantonal Tribunal.

VAUD.

M. Victor Amaudruz, "directeur suppléant" of the 1st "arrondissement" of the Swiss Federal Railways, has celebrated his 40th service jubilee.

* * *

The Lausanne group of the "Front National" which published and distributed a pamphlet entitled "Le miroir moral de la Franc-Maçonnerie"

CITY SWISS CLUB

REUNION D'ETE

à laquelle les dames sont cordialement invitées

MARDI 15 JUIN à 7 HEURES 30

au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, HENDON,

Dîner (7/6) — Dance jusqu'à minuit.

Tenue de Ville.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595)

Le Comité.

has been condemned by the Court to a fine of 21,000 Frs., this amount is to be paid to the Free-masons Lodge in Lausanne.

* * *

M. Alfred Galland, British Consul and Doyen of the Consular Corps in Lausanne, has died at the age of 77. M. Galland was born in 1861 at Geneva: after many years stay in London, he settled down in Lausanne, where he founded the firm of Galland and Co. In 1888, he was appointed British Vice-Consul and five years later Consul.

GRISONS.

The strength of the different parties in the Grand Council, after the recent elections is as follows: 26 Conservatives (31); 28 Liberals (30); 31 Democrats (27); 6 Socialists (7); 4 Independent (4); Four seats are still to be filled. The total number of members is 99.

TICINO.

The Federal Council has delegated M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, to the inauguration of the monument which has been erected in memory of the battle of Giornico.

* * *

Large fires have caused considerable damage amongst the woods on the "San Salvatore."

VALAIS.

M. André Germanier has been appointed clerk of the Court in Siders, in succession to M. Oscar de Chastonay who was elected a member of the Cantonal Government. M. Germanier on taking up his new post will have to relinquish his seat in the National Council.

NEUCHATEL.

Lieutenant Cattin, of the Battalion 20, received serious burns when he and his horse were struck by lightning; the horse was killed outright. It is hoped to save the life of Lieutenant Cattin.

GENEVA.

A performance of a Russian film has been prohibited throughout the canton of Geneva by the Police Dept., as it is feared that it might cause some disturbances.

* * *

The Socialist Party has collected more than 5,000 signatures for a Referendum to nullify the law passed by the cantonal government to ban all communist organisations. This law will therefore come before the electors of the canton on June 12th and 13th.

WALTER MITTELHOLZER †.



We deeply regret to inform our readers of the death of Walter Mittelholzer, the famous Swiss air ace. He was found dead in the Styrian Alps, where he was on a mountaineering expedition.

A detailed obituary notice will appear in our next week's issue.