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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS REFERENDUM ON BUDGET.

The Swiss people have accepted by 506,712 votes to 194,069 the Government's proposals to balance the Federal Budget during the next three years.

The figures of the voting are as follows:

Cantons	Yes	No
Zürich	96,562	25,687
Bern	69,430	21,124
Luzern	25,984	5,707
Uri	3,536	991
Schwyz	6,611	2,658
Obwalden	2,102	775
Nidwalden	1,652	593
Glarus	5,128	1,047
Zug	4,929	1,353
Freiburg	13,435	5,458
Solothurn	20,695	4,519
Baselstadt	20,683	9,152
Baselland	14,417	5,847
Schaffhausen	9,588	2,304
Appenzell A. Rh.	5,847	3,501
Appenzell J. Rh.	1,514	685
St. Gallen	42,997	14,806
Graubünden	13,974	4,023
Aargau	43,760	17,316
Thurgau	20,577	8,181
Tessin	12,631	1,726
Waadt	47,779	33,506
Wallis	8,011	3,257
Neuenburg	11,140	4,024
Genf	3,730	15,917
Total	506,712	194,069

COLONEL DE DIESBACH +.

Colonel of division Roger de Diesbach has died in Berne at the age of 61.

The deceased started his military career with the cavalry, and with the rank of captain commanded the "Guiden-Schwadron 4." From 1906-1912 he was employed on the General Staff.

On his promotion to the rank of major he took over the command of the "Guidenabteilung 1." Five years later he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel, in which capacity he was put at the head of the Infantry-Regiment 7. (Fribourg).

In the year 1924, he reached the rank of colonel, and the Infantry Brigade 4 was put under his command. Seven years later (1931) he was promoted Colonel of division and put at the head of the 2nd Division.

On the 1st of January of this year he retired from this command which he had held for six years, in order to make room for a younger man.

Colonel of division, R. de Diesbach rendered during his long and distinguished career, great services to our army.

EMIL REICHENBACH +.

The death is reported from Paris of M. Emil Reichenbach, one of the partners of the Embroidery firm Reichenbach & Co., of St. Gall. He was for the last fifty years in the service of the St. Gall embroidery industry. M. Reichenbach, who took a great interest in the work of the Swiss Colony in Paris, had reached the age of 79.

ADULTERATION OF SPIRITS.

Large quantities of bogus kirsch have been put on the Swiss market by various firms in Zug, Schwyz, Lucerne, Berne and Basle. Some of their products were tested at the Zurich public laboratory, and it was found that the bottles contained cheap alcohol flavoured with some essence.

Several of the key men in this illicit business are described by the authorities as "influential personalities in their home town."

LOCAL.

BERNE.

Celebrations on a big scale are planned for the 24th and 25th of June next year, on the occasion of the 600th Anniversary of the battle of Laupen.

BASLE.

A well-known personality, representative of the "old guard" of Bâle's teaching profession, has died with Dr. Ferdinand Weckerle, at Bâle on the 22nd November. He reached the venerable age of 79, and his upright, sturdy figure and flowing beard will be remembered by a great many Bâlois who had the good fortune, at one time or another, to have sat at his feet.

Born in 1859, he pursued his studies of mathematics and natural science at the universities of Bâle and Munich. Having taken his degree, he started his teaching career in Herisau; to be called thence to the "Untere Realschule" in Bâle on November 1st, 1888, for mathematics, natural science and gymnastics. Later he took over, in addition, evening classes at the "Gewerbeschule." From 1909 onwards he taught commercial subjects at the Cantonal "Handelschule," the mercantile section of the "Ober Realschule," where he was fully employed from the year 1912 until his retirement in 1926. Without exaggeration it may be said that Dr. Weckerle was ideally suited for his lifework of teaching, to which he devoted himself with unbounded enthusiasm, great skill and a high sense of duty.

The devotion of his old pupils was well illustrated when, earlier this year, a former class of the "Untere Realschule" celebrated the 50th anniversary of their entering that school and, as reported in the S.O. at the time, sat once more at the feet of their master of old.

A busy and useful life has come to an end. All who knew him are conscious of a great loss. Though he has passed from our midst, the seed he was privileged to sow will surely continue to bear fruit for many years to come. (M.G.)

AARAU.

Mme. Katharina Obrist, the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Aargau has celebrated her 100th birthday.

GENEVA.

The well-known lake restaurant "L'Ermitage" in La Bérolle, near Geneva, has been completely destroyed by fire, the damage is estimated to exceed 150,000frs.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club is taking place on Tuesday next. We have just had a chat with our friend Bingnely to find out what kind of a surprise he is going to spring on us, and it appears that this is a secret; but he assures us there will be something really attractive and novel, and the Committee look forward to a great attendance. Now that members took most enthusiastic, judging by their mood on Banquet night, it is hoped they will continue to turn up in good numbers at every meeting, bringing as many friends with them as they wish.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que
L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE
aura lieu Mardi 6 Décembre au Restaurant PAGANI,
42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée
d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.

Démissions.

Admissions.

Divers.

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 2321/2).

Le Comité.

FAREWELL SERVICE AT THE SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(St. Anne's, Gresham Street).

Conducted by The Rev. C. Th. Hahn, assisted
by M. le Pasteur Pradervand.

First Advent Sunday — A frosty, but beautiful and sunny morning. The little church of St. Anne's and St. Agnes stands peacefully, behind the almost leafless trees of its erstwhile burial ground. St. Martins-le-Grand and Gresham Street, such busy thoroughfares all through the week, are almost deserted. The heavy traffic has come to its week-end standstill and the usual bustle of City life has given place to the impressive quiet of the Lord's Day.

Yet a steady flow of worshippers wend their way towards St. Anne's, to attend the Farewell Service of their beloved Pastor of the Swiss Church, The Rev. C. Th. Hahn, who, after 14 years' ministry there, is going back to our dear home land, having accepted the living of Sierre, in the Canton de Valais.

At 11 o'clock the church is filled to capacity by his faithful flock, swelled by countless friends and well-wishers. The Swiss Legation is represented by Monsieur de Jenner, in the absence of the Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, and by other members. Young and old are gathered together; adolescents and children, even some very little ones. After the service has already started, some, who have probably come from a considerable distance, try to find a seat or are content to stand. Over 400 worshippers lift up their voices to join in the opening hymn.

Then follows a prayer and, after the reading of the Scripture, M. Pradervand, Pasteur of the Eglise Suisse at Endell Street, rises to address the congregation from the lectern. Speaking in French, he dwells on the sadness in every one's heart at having to say farewell, he to his esteemed colleague, we to our beloved pastor, not forgetting Mme. Hahn, both of whom have done so much for the Church, for the Swiss Colony in London and for all who came to them in times of joy and sorrow. Having to bid good-bye to them, who will be sorely missed for all they did during these many years, especially for the poor, the sick and the needy. M. Pradervand knows what it means to say farewell to a Parish, having exchanged his old one in Switzerland for his new one in London but a few months ago. He describes it as a terrible wrench. Then M. Pradervand goes on to speak of the great pioneer-work done by the Rev. Hahn, in having built up a Parish for the German-speaking Swiss in London and having made St. Anne's a centre for their spiritual needs and ministrations. He expresses his conviction that the most heart-felt wishes and prayers of all the congregation will accompany our dear friends to their new sphere of activity and invoke the Lord's blessings on the new life and the new great work that lie before them. This warm tribute by M. Pradervand to his departing colleague, couched in beautiful language and delivered with deep feeling and sincerity, visibly moves the congregation.

During the singing of the second hymn the Rev. Hahn has ascended the pulpit, to deliver his farewell sermon, which proved a powerful and most impressive one on all those who had the privilege of being present. The preacher takes as his Text the eleven first verses from St. Matthew, Chaptr 21:—

"And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, saying unto them: Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them and bring them unto me."

"And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say: The Lord hath need of them, and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Tell ye the daughter of Sion: Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek and sitting upon an ass, and a colt, the foal of an ass. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them. And brought the ass and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon."

"And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down