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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

FEDERAL COUNCILLOR DR. A. MEYER.

As reported recently, Dr. A. Meyer, Minister of Finance, has informed the Federal Chambers that he wishes to relinquish his office at the end of the year.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. A. Meyer was born on the 13th of March in Füllanden (Ct. Zurich). On the conclusion of his studies at the Universities of Zurich, Leipzig and Berlin, he took a post as secretary to the Finance Dept. at the municipality of Zurich. Two years later he went over to journalism, where he edited for a great number of years the commercial section of the "Neuen Zürcher Zeitung." In the year 1915 he was appointed editor-in-chief of this paper.

His political career started in 1907, when he was elected a member of the "Grossen Stadtrates" of the town of Zurich, and eight years later (1915) he entered Parliament (National-Council). From 1923-1929 Dr. Meyer was the President of the Swiss Liberal Party.

On the 12th of December 1929, he entered the Federal government, in succession to Federal Councillor Haab.

In the army, he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel of the infantry. For six years Dr. Meyer was in charge of the Dept. of the Interior, and when in 1935, Federal-Councillor Musy resigned, he took over the Finance Dept.; in the year 1936 he was President of the Swiss Confederation.

In a few weeks the Department of Finance will receive a new chief, this does not prevent us already now acknowledging the eminent services which Federal Councillor Meyer has rendered to our country during the few years in which he was a member of the government. Even his most bitter antagonists cannot deny, that he has been an untiring worker, and that he has served his country with great zeal and ability.

SUCCESSOR TO FEDERAL COUNCILLOR

DR. A. MEYER.

Amongst the candidates mentioned for the vacancy in the Federal Government are: National-Councillor Dr. E. Wetter, President of the "Vorortes des Schweizer. Handels & Industrievereins." He belongs to the Liberal Party.

Dr. Wetter entered Parliament in 1929, he was formerly, Professor at the Cantonal Commercial school in Zurich, and "Direktor der Handelsabteilung des Eidg. Volkswirtschafts-Dpt." in Berne. —

States Councillor, Dr. Emil Klöti, Mayor of Zurich; since 1930 a member of Parliament. Dr. Klöti is a member of the Socialist party, and a *doctor honoris causa* of the Technical University in Zurich.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

M. Henry Vallotton, has been elected President of the National Council for the year 1939. He is forty-eight years of age, and one of the best-known politicians in Switzerland.

M. Vallotton is the leader of the radicals in the canton of Vaud, and a member of the Grand Council for the last twenty years. He entered Parliament (National Council) in 1925, on various occasions he has been entrusted by the Federal Council with missions abroad. In the army M. Vallotton advanced to the rank of colonel, and at present is in charge of the "Automobile Dienst" of the 1st Division.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE STATES COUNCIL.

M. E. Löpfe, the newly elected President of the States Council (Ständerat) is one of the best-known Publishers in Eastern Switzerland. For the last twenty-four years he sat in the "Kantonsrat" (St. Gall), over which he is presiding at present.

M. Löpfe was elected a member of Parliament (States Council) in 1931, he is 61 years old.

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

M. Hans Stähli, a member of the cantonal government of Berne, has been elected Vice-President of the National-Council. He is fifty years of age.

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE STATES COUNCIL.

The newly elected Vice-President of the States Council (Ständerat) M. Albert Zust, is 64 years old and was born in Sursee (Lucerne).

On completion of his studies at the Universities of Fribourg i. Br., Leipzig, Basle and Berne, he established himself as an advocate in Lucerne. From 1912-1920 M. Zust was a Judge of the Superior Court of the canton of Lucerne, he was a member of the Grand Council from 1911-1920. In the year 1920 he entered the cantonal government of which he was a member until 1929. He entered Parliament (States Council) in 1929.

SAFEGUARDING SWISS NEUTRALITY.

The Swiss Parliament approved in principle a draft decree submitted by M. Baumann, President of the Confederation, for the suppression of "dangerous political activities in Switzerland" and "for the protection of democratic institutions."

The Swiss Press applauds this movement for safeguarding Switzerland's traditional neutrality.

PAUL JOHNER †.

The death has occurred recently in Berlin of M. Paul Johner, the world-wide known Swiss chess champion, at the age of 51.

The deceased had taken part in tournaments all over the Continent and in America for more than thirty years, winning championships and achieving outstanding successes as composer of chess problems. At 16 years of age he was already playing in the master tournament at Coburg, and became champion of Switzerland soon after. At 19 he was in New York and became champion of the Manhattan Chess Club. After that he played in international tournaments: 1916 saw him as first master at Copenhagen, 1920 at Gotenburg, 1923 at Scheveningen and at Trieste, where he won no fewer than nine and a half games out of eleven. He played against Canal, Roselli, Yates, Tarrasch, Rubinstein and Teichmann, till at last he became champion of Berlin. From 1925 he competed yearly for the Swiss championship, and often played against his brother, Hans Johner. They beat each other alternatively and in 1932 they were both chess champions of Switzerland, having drawn their game.

SWISS JOURNALIST EXPELLED.

M. René Bovey, correspondent of the "Tribune de Genève" in Rome has been asked to leave Italy, no reason was given.

M. Bovey is the fifth Swiss Journalist to be expelled from Italy.

ICE-HOCKEY MATCH

SWITZERLAND v CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The International Ice-Hockey Match between Switzerland and Czechoslovakia was played last Sunday in Zurich.

The Swiss team won with 3:1 goals, 12,000 spectators witnessed the Match.

SWISS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FOR EXILED

INNSBRUCK STUDENTS.

Catholic students who have been turned out of the International College of Theology at Innsbruck since the absorption of Austria in the German Reich are to find a scholastic home in Switzerland.

The hospital at Sion in the Canton of Valais is to be turned into a theological college to accommodate them, the hospital patients being taken into a nursing-home.

Some 100, including British and American, students will be in residence before Christmas.

PROPAGANDA IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Federal Government published their decree against foreign propaganda and intrigues. It contains the following provisions:—

Imprisonment up to one year and fines up to £100 for those who attempt to overthrow the constitutional régime of the Confederation or of the Cantons, or who favour any foreign propaganda tending to modify the political institutions of Switzerland.

Three months' imprisonment and a maximum fine of £100 for those who issue or propagate inaccurate news or news so altered that it might endanger the Confederation internally or externally; for those who systematically ridicule democratic principles; and for those who provoke hatred against any groups of the population on account of their race, religion, or nationality.

The Federal Council to have the power to dissolve any group or undertaking which threatens the country internally or externally, to limit or stop their activity, and to confiscate their property. The Government also to be empowered to suspend, for a maximum period of six months, newspapers or reviews which help to commit one of the foregoing offences.

The decree is to come into force at once and remain in force until Parliament has discussed the question and voted a law. It is generally criticized as going too far and constituting a serious threat to the liberty of the Press. The newspapers of French-speaking Switzerland say that it makes it possible for the Government to take penal measures even against those who in domestic politics disagree with their policy.

The publication of this decree was followed by the issue of another for the "safeguarding of the Swiss spiritual heritage." The Federal Government will devote to that purpose a yearly subsidy of about £25,000, which will help in the teaching of national history and traditions.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Professor Gustave Gull, the well-known architect in Zurich has celebrated his 80th birthday.

Dr. Willy Spühler, head of the "Stadt-Arbeitsamt" in Zürich, will succeed to the seat in the National-Council, vacated by Dr. Farbstain.

Dr. Hans Schinz, a former Professor of Botany at the University of Zurich, and late Director of the Botanical Gardens in Zurich, has celebrated his 80th birthday.

BERNE.

Dr. Max Töndiery, Professor of Sociology at the University of Berne, has died in Berne at the age of 55.

M. Alfred Comte from Delsberg has celebrated his 25th anniversary as a military pilot.

FRIBOURG.

M. Albert Dessonaz, editor-in-chief of the "Liberté," has celebrated his 40th anniversary as editor of the paper.

ST. GALL.

M. Max Thomann, Manager of the "Schweiz. Kreditanstalt" in St. Gall, has retired from his post, which he had held for the last twenty-five years. As his successor, follows, M. Theodor Frey, who was from 1924-1933 connected with the "Kredit-Anstalt" in St. Gall.

AARAU.

The death is reported from Baden of M. Emil Hunziker, a former chief engineer of Brown-Boveri in Baden, at the age of 69. The deceased was connected with the establishment for forty-three years.

VAUD.

M. Philippe Meylan of the University of Lausanne has been honoured by the University of Dijon, with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

NEUCHATEL.

The death is reported from Neuchâtel of Dr. H. Blumer, Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Neuchâtel at the early age of 36.