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Dr. Fritz Brandenberg died in Basle where he lived in retirement, at the age of 77, after a long and severe illness. He specialised in the treatment of juvenile diseases and practised in Basle, Zug (where he was born) and Winterthur; he was for a number of years Master of the Grand Lodge "Alpina."

\* \* \*

Dr. Felix Weingartner, the well-known composer and conductor, died at the hospital at Winterthur, where he had been under treatment. He was 78 and a naturalised citizen.

\* \* \*

To replace the air tubes for bicycles which owing to the decrease of rubber import are almost unobtainable, many people have tried their hand at substitutes, so that already nearly 1,200 inventors have applied for patents. For some time past the Cable and Rubber works in Altdorf have manufactured synthetic rubber, but their production is not sufficient to satisfy home demand.

### THE STEADILY INCREASING POPULATION OF OUR TOWNS.

The following table gives the population of towns according to the recent census together with comparative figures for previous periods. Places with less than ten thousand inhabitants at the end of 1941 are omitted; some of our readers will probably miss Montreux and Davos the residents of which have been decreasing since 1930 to below the ten thousand mark. On the other hand Burgdorf is a newcomer.

	1850	1900	1930	1941	*
Zürich	41,585	168,021	249,820	333,829	+39.2
Basel	27,844	109,161	148,063	161,380	+ 9.0
Bern	29,670	67,550	111,783	129,331	+15.7
Geneva	37,724	97,359	124,121	124,442	+ 0.26
Lausanne	17,108	46,732	75,915	91,738	+20.8
St. Gallen	17,858	53,796	63,947	62,360	- 2.5
Winterthur	13,651	40,961	53,925	59,192	+ 9.8
Luzern	10,068	29,255	47,066	54,841	+16.5
Biel	5,609	29,557	37,726	40,850	+ 8.3
La Chaux-de-Fonds	13,659	35,968	35,252	30,939	-12.2
Fribourg	9,065	15,794	21,557	25,975	+20.5
Neuchatel	7,901	21,195	22,668	23,925	+ 5.5
Schaffhausen	7,700	15,275	21,118	22,400	+ 6.1
Thun	6,019	10,213	16,524	20,193	+22.2
Chur	6,183	11,532	15,574	17,074	+ 9.6
Lugano	5,142	9,394	15,184	17,025	+12.1
Solothurn	5,370	10,025	13,734	15,432	+12.4
Olten	6,969	1,634	13,484	15,282	+13.3
Köniz	5,984	6,886	10,987	14,358	+30.7
Aarau	4,657	7,831	11,666	12,851	+10.2
Herisau	8,387	13,497	13,599	12,737	- 6.3
Vevey	5,602	11,781	13,036	12,613	- 3.2
Zug	3,302	6,508	11,113	12,316	+10.8
Le Locle	7,493	12,559	12,001	11,363	- 5.3
Bellinzona	3,209	8,255	10,706	10,952	+ 2.3
Grenchen	1,581	5,202	10,397	10,900	+ 4.8
Yverdon			10,856		
Uster			10,588		
Rorschach	1,751	9,140	11,005	10,536	- 4.3
Baden	2,745	6,050	10,143	10,813	+ 2.7
Burgdorf			10,156		

\* Indicates percentage of increase or decrease since 1930.

### GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ON WATCH FOR SECURITY AT HOME.

(An address by Federal Councillor Von Steiger delivered at Berne on April 16th 1942.)

Translated by C. J. Bernheim, Esq.

To the Swiss People, candour is the element of political life, suspicion its most dangerous poison. Conscious of its duty, the Government will take care to give reasonably wide scope to candour and to avoid all secretiveness. There is nothing to hide, neither in home nor in foreign politics. The federal chambers, the cantonal governments and the press are kept continually informed.

The Swiss Foreign Policy is like an open book. How could it be otherwise in view of the strict neutrality of the Federal Government? There are no secrets and no hide and seek business. Here also complete openness is the only correct state policy. That with it certain forms of courtesy have to be kept, is a matter of course and an old established custom. Probably nowhere is candour more necessary and secretiveness more dangerous than in the field of secret intrigues against the security of the state. Swiss citizens can rely on it that also in matters concerning the political police they will continually receive all the information which it is at all practicable to give. It must not be overlooked, however, that, in spite of the great ability and zeal of the staff, it is still an extraordinary difficult and delicate problem. Moreover, it is only since a comparatively short time that Switzerland possesses a political police and its necessity is really after all repugnant to us. In all the defence measures against disturbances of our public order, no matter where they come from, we continually find ourselves confronted with the fundamental problem of the safeguard of the freedom of public opinion. Where propaganda no longer means a mere personal, more or less theoretical, expression of views, without offensive aim, but is directed against internal security and against the state itself, it can no longer be tolerated. The security within must be put on a par with that from without. There is no sense in keeping the country safe from without with arms while security at home collapses. The state, no matter how small, loses its right of existence if it does not take care of its internal security.

We do not prosecute anyone who aims at bringing about changes in some of our state institutions in a constitutional way. No obstacle was put in the way of the so-called "Stalder-Initiative" which wanted to replace our present parliamentary order by some sort of "Tagsatzung." Mere "grumbling" is not liable to prosecution either.

What we cannot tolerate, however, and never will tolerate, is the advocacy of aims which are in opposition to the constitution, the forcing on of a constitutional change without or against the will of the people. We cannot allow the illegal brushing aside or endangering of the constitutional order by a so-called "emancipation of the free people," not by means of reform but by revolution. There can be no feeble giving-in, nor can we make any concession here. Any such attempt must be nipped in the bud. More than one group or movement which originally pretended to propagate new ideas for the benefit of the people led in the end to treason and attacks against the state. Such movements endanger the security of the state.