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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss Federal Assembly, or joint meeting of the two Chambers of Parliament, have elected Federal-Councillor, Dr. Karl Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation for 1952.

Dr. Kobelt was born on the 1st of August, 1891, in Marbach (Ct. St. Gall) and was educated in the town of St. Gall. He studied engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, where he obtained his diploma as a "Bauingenieur".

From 1919-1933, he was chief of section of the Federal Department for "Wasserwirtschaft" in Berne. In 1933, Dr. Kobelt was elected a member of the government of the canton of St. Gall, and in 1939, he entered Parliament (National Council).

In the army, he was in command of the 31st Infantry regiment, and later, on promotion to the rank of Colonel, he occupied the post of chief-of-staff of the 4th army-corps.

He was elected a member of the Federal Government in 1940, in succession to Federal-Councillor Baumann, as Head of the military department.

Federal President Kobelt is a member of the Liberal Democratic Party and was President of the Confederation in 1946.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Philipp Etter has been elected Vice-President of the Confederation for 1952.

Dr. Etter was born on December 21st, 1891, at Mönzingen (Ct. Zug), he received his schooling at the "Kantonsschule" in Zug, and the "Stiftsschule" in Einsiedeln.

He studied law at the University of Zurich, and in 1917 established himself as a lawyer at Zug. Dr. Etter took a great interest in the politics of his native canton, and sat from 1917-1922 in the "Kantonsrat", and became later on (1927) a member of the cantonal government.

In the year 1930, he entered Parliament (States Council) where he soon made a name for himself as a shrewd parliamentarian. Four years later (1934) he

became a member of the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor Musy, who had vacated his office.

Dr. Etter occupied the Presidential chair in 1939, 1942 and 1947. In the army he holds the rank of major (Infantry); he belongs to the catholic-conservative party, and is the first representative of the canton of Zug to become a member of the Federal Government.

Dr. Markus Feldman, has been elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor Edouard von Steiger, who has resigned from his office.

Dr. Feldmann was born on the 21st of May, 1897, in Thun (Ct. Berne). He received his schooling in Thun and Berne and afterwards studied law at various Universities. In 1924, he became a member of the editorial staff of the "Neuen Berner Zeitung" and in 1928, he became Editor-in-Chief of this paper. Seventeen years later (1945) he was elected a member of the government of the canton of Berne. He has sat in Parliament (National Council) since 1935. From 1933-1935, he occupied the post of "Zentral President" of the Swiss Press Association.

Dr. Max Weber has been elected a member of the Federal Government, he succeeds Mr. Ernest Nobs, who has vacated his office.

Dr. Weber was born on the 2nd of August, 1897, in Zurich. He studied economics and afterwards became Editor of the Socialist paper "Volksstimme" of St. Gall. From 1926-1940 he was an active collaborator of the "Schweizerischen Gewerkschaftsbundes" (Trade Union) of which he became its Secretary, and in 1944, its President. In 1948, he was appointed Professor of National Economy at the University of Berne. He has sat in Parliament (National Council) since 1939 as a Socialist.

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