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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss electorate in a referendum last month rejected by 503,791 votes to 229,324 the proposal that the building of the Rheinau electric power plant should be stopped. The scheme, on which 52 million francs have already been spent, was objected to on the ground that it would be destructive of amenities.

Here are the particulars of the poll:

	Yes	No
Zürich	81,425	90,865
Bern	26,600	79,125
Luzern	8,180	23,329
Uri	1,364	3,509
Schwyz	3,612	6,412
Obwalden	551	2,452
Nidwalden	1,154	2,428
Glarus	1,665	5,274
Zug	2,056	4,433
Fribourg	1,393	9,979
Solothurn	5,634	19,556
Baselstadt	16,511	21,930
Baselrand	7,004	10,965
Schaffhausen	7,983	6,718
Appenzell A.Rh.	1,339	8,172
Appenzell I.Rh.	325	1,557
St. Gallen	9,478	49,697
Graubünden	3,963	17,332
Aargau	24,856	47,562
Thurgau	6,695	24,225
Ticino	1,849	10,909
Vaud	7,400	25,081
Valais	1,690	12,325
Neuchâtel	2,598	9,013
Genève	3,999	10,943

Total 229,324 503,791

Participation in poll: 50.8 per cent.

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers of Parliament sitting together, elected Dr. Max Petitpierre, Head of the Federal Political Department

(Foreign Office), as President of the Confederation for 1955.

The President was born on the 26th of February, 1899, in Couvet (Ct. Neuchâtel). He studied law at the Universities of Neuchâtel, Zurich and Munich. His thesis for the doctorate in law dealt with the recognition and execution of foreign judgements.

After the conclusion of his studies, he established himself as an advocate and notary in Neuchâtel. From 1926-31, and again from 1938-44, he was Professor of International law at the University of Neuchâtel.

In 1937, he was elected a member of the Grand Council of his native canton, and five years later (1942) he entered Parliament (States Council) as a Liberal.

On the 14th of December, 1944, Monsieur Petitpierre was elected a Member of the Federal Government in succession to Monsieur Pilet-Golaz, since then he has been in charge of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office). M. Petitpierre was President of the Confederation in 1950.

Dr. Markus Feldmann, has been elected Vice-President of the Confederation. He 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 was promoted to Editor-in-Chief of this paper. Seventeen years later (1945) he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Berne. He sat in Parliament (National Council) from 1935-1951. On the 13th of December, 1951, he entered the Federal Government in succession to Federal-Councillor von Steiger. From 1933-1935

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