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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers of Parliament sitting together, elected Dr. h.c. Hans Streuli, head of the Federal Finance and Customs Department, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1957.

The President was born in 1892, and is a citizen of Wädenswil and Richterswil. He studied architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and at the University of Munich. From 1928 to 1935 he was President of the commune of Richterswil. In 1935 Dr. Streuli was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich where he took over the Finance Department, which post he held until his election to the Federal Council in 1953. In 1940 the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in recognition of the work he had rendered as President of the organisation committee of the "Landesausstellung" in 1939. In the army Dr. Streuli held the rank of Colonel (Engineering Corps).

Dr. jur. Thomas Holenstein has been elected Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Vice-President was born in 1896, and is a citizen of Buetschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He studied law at various Universities in Switzerland and abroad, after which he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall. From 1933 to 1946 he was a lecturer at the Commercial University, St. Gall. Dr. Holenstein entered the National Council in 1937. He had been previously a member of the St. Gall cantonal Government, and in 1954 he was elected a member of the Federal Government. In the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel.

The National Council has elected Mr. Robert Bratschi (Socialist), of Berne, to be its Vice-President. He is 65 years old. After 10 years' service with the Swiss Federal Railways he became General Secretary of the "Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbunds", and of the "Schweiz. Eisenbahnerverbands". He relinquished

these posts when in 1954 he was appointed Manager of the Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon railway. Mr. Bratschi has been a member of the National Council since 1922.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Max Holzer to the post of Director of the "Bundesamtes für Industrie, Gewerbe & Arbeit" (BIGA), in succession to Mr. Max Kaufmann who has relinquished his post on reaching retiring age.

Dr. Holzer was born in 1902, and is a citizen of Berne. After having studied at the Universities of Jena, Munich and Berne, he entered in 1933 into the service of the "BIGA" where he occupied several important posts. He is also a Professor for Economic History at the University of Berne.

* * *

M. Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department gave the National Council the broad lines of expenditure for extra defence credits totalling about 160 million francs which will be asked by the Government in the light of the international situation.

He outlined a big new military construction programme, including places to install many fuel reservoirs and extend aircraft facilities.

Some 87 per cent of defence credits, he added, were spent in Switzerland, and 13 per cent abroad (mostly for British aircraft and tanks).

* * *

Professor Pierre Gavin and M. André Grisel have been elected members of the Federal Supreme Court, Lausanne.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

MONTHLY MEETING

takes place on Tuesday January 15th, 1957, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.** (Orchid Room).

The Dinner will be followed by a talk by **Monsieur Salvador de Madariaga**, on "The part played by Switzerland in International life."

THE COMMITTEE.

