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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers (National and States Councils) in a combined sitting, elected M. Paul Chaudet (Radical), Chief of the Military Department, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1959.

The new President was born in 1904 and is a citizen of Corsier, near Vevey. By profession a vine grower, he became Mayor of Rivaz — where he was born — and a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud. In 1946 he was elected a member of the cantonal Government. In the army he held the rank of Lt.-Colonel (Infantry). M. Chaudet became a member of the Federal Government in 1954 as successor to Federal Councillor R. Rubattel.

* * *

The Vice-President is Mr. Giuseppe Lepori, Head of the Federal Post and Railway Department. He was born in 1902 in Massagno and is a citizen of Lopagno (Ct. Ticino). M. Lepori studied Law at the Universities of Fribourg and Munich. From 1925 to 1935 he was editor of the paper "Popolo e Libertà", and from 1935 to 1940 he practised as a lawyer in Bellinzona. In 1940 he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Ticino, and in 1954 he entered the Federal Government.

* * *

Professor F. T. Wahlen has been elected a member of the Federal Government in succession to the late Dr. Markus Feldmann.

The new Federal Councillor was born in 1899 in Gmeiss (Canton Berne) and is a citizen of Trimstein-Rubigen. He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, where he obtained the degrees of Doctor of Science and Eng. Agr.

From 1922 to 1929 he was in Canada, and since 1924 had occupied the post of Chief of the Canadian Agricultural Department. In 1929 he returned to Switzerland and was appointed Head of the Federal Agricultural Testing Office in Zurich-Oerlikon, which post he held until 1943, when he was appointed Professor of Agriculture at the Federal Institute

Technology (ETH) Zurich, which appointment he relinquished on his nomination as Director of FAO in Washington, where he became Vice-General Director in 1957.

Some time ago he was awarded the Marcel Benoist Prize for Scientific Research. Professor Wahlen is also a *doctor honoris causa* of the Medical faculty of the University of Zurich.

* * *

Dr. Eugen Dietschi (Radical) was elected President of the National Council for 1959. He was born in 1896 and is a citizen of Lostorf, Olten and Basle. Since 1921 he has been editor of the "National Zeitung" Basle, and since 1929 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Basle-Town. Dr. Dietschi entered the National Council in 1941. In the army he reached the rank of Colonel, and at present holds the office of Central President of the Swiss Liberal-Democratic Party.

* * *

M. Gaston Clottu (Liberal), of Neuchâtel, has been elected Vice-President of the National Council.

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He was born in 1912 at St. Blaise and is a citizen of Cornaux and Neuchâtel. M. Clottu studied Law and National Economy at the Universities of Neuchâtel, Berne and Paris. From 1935 to 1953 he practised as an advocate and notary in Neuchâtel, and in 1953 he entered the cantonal Government. M. Clottu was from 1941 to 1953 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, and he was elected a member of the National Council in 1951.

* * *

Dr. Augustin Lusser (Cons.Chr.Soc.), of Zug, has been elected President of the States Council. He was born in 1896 in Baar (Ct. Zug) and is a citizen of Altdorf. Dr. Lusser studied National Economy and Law at the Universities of Fribourg and Berne. In 1931 he became a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zug. Since 1934 he has occupied the post of Central President of the "Kranken- und Unfallkasse Konkordia". Dr. Lusser is Mayor of the town of Zug. He entered the States Council in 1941.

* * *

M. Gabriel Desplands (Radical) has been elected Vice-President of the States Council. He was born in 1901 and is a citizen of Cossonay, Rougemont and Geneva. He studied as a veterinary surgeon at the University of Berne. In 1926 he was elected President of the commune of Echallens, and in 1934 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, later in 1934 entering the cantonal Government. M. Desplands was elected a member of the National Council in 1941, and has sat in the States Council from 1943 to 1944 and since 1947.

* * *

Dr. Carlo Pometta has been elected President of the Federal Supreme Court for 1959-1960. He was born in 1896 at Giornico (Ct. Ticino). Dr. Pometta studied Law at the University of Berne, where he obtained his doctorate. He practised as a lawyer first at Lugano and afterwards at Geneva, and became Secretary of the Supreme Court. In 1936 he was elected a member of the Federal Tribunal.

* * *

Monsieur Fernand Bernoulli, Swiss Ambassador to China, has been appointed Ambassador to Mexico in succession to Monsieur Edouard de Bavier, who is vacating his post on reaching retiring age.

Ambassador Bernoulli was born in 1905 and is a citizen of Basle. He entered the service of the Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1934, and successively held posts in Buenos Aires, Belgrade, Rio de Janeiro and Washington. M. Bernoulli was appointed Swiss Minister to China in 1954, and three years later (1957) he received the title of Ambassador.

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Dr. Wilhelm Schoenenberger has been elected Vice-President of the Federal Supreme Court. He was born in 1898 and is a citizen of Luetisburg (Toggenburg). He obtained his degree of Doctor of Law from the University of Fribourg, after which he practised as an advocate in St. Gall. From 1927 to 1936 he held the post of Professor of Law at the University of Fribourg. He entered the Supreme Court in 1936; in the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed M. Antonio Torriani, of Soglio (Ct. Grisons), to the post of Director of the Federal Munition Works.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of November 1958 amounted to 68.2 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation receives 48 million francs, or 5.3 million francs less than in November 1957.

Receipts during the first eleven months of 1958 total 635.2 million francs of 7.6 million francs less than during the same period in 1957.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in the month of October 1958 17.5 million passengers or 800,000 fewer than in October 1957. Receipts: 27.6 million francs (October 1957: 28.8 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.24 million tons, or 104,000 tons less than in October 1957. Receipts: 45 million francs (October 1957: 46.5 million francs).



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Cantonal

The Art Prizes (of 2,000.— francs each) of the town of Winterthur have been awarded to musician Victor Desarzens, of Sarzens, and to authoress Mrs. H. Ertini-Brack, of Rueschlikon. [A.T.S.]

The shop window of a jeweller's establishment in the Kalkbreitestrasse in Zurich was smashed with a stone and goods to the value of 15,000.— francs were stolen. [A.T.S.]

The "Conrad Ferdinand Meyer Foundation" has awarded Prizes for 1958, of 3,500.— francs each, to Dr. Erwin Jaeckle (author), of Zurich, Harry Buser (painter), of Zurich, and Klaus Huber (composer), of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

The new Ambassador of the West German Republic, Dr. E. G. Mohr, has paid an official visit to the Government of the canton of Zurich, on which occasion he was entertained to dinner. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Emil Schaffer, "Regierungsstatthalter" of Langenthal, has entered the National Council in succession to the late Ernst Aebersold. [A.T.S.]

A mountaineer, Hanspeter Allenbach (25), of Adelboden, lost his life on an ascent to the Wildstrubel. [A.T.S.]

The Polish Ambassador in Berne, Monsieur Josef Koszutski, was received by the Government of the canton Basle-Town. [A.T.S.]

The insurance company "Helvetia", of St. Gall, has celebrated its 100 years jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Gartmann-Koller has been elected Mayor of St. Moritz, in succession to the late Mr. M. Andreossi. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Kocher (26), a ski-ing instructor, of Klosters-Dorf, lost his life in an avalanche on the Casanna-Hochroute. [A.T.S.]

Mrs. Josy Geser-Rohner, of Rebstein (Ct. St. Gall), has made a donation of 200,000.— francs towards the costs of a new Catholic church. [A.T.S.]

A serious accident occurred near Churwalden (Ct. Grisons) when a jeep left the road and overturned; one of the occupants, Jakob Schocher-Fausch (63), of Malix, was killed, and two other occupants received serious injuries. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the warehouse of the firm of Bertschinger & Rohr, A.G., in Lenzburg, caused damage amounting to 140,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

The paper "Feuille des avis officiels du canton de Vaud", published at Lausanne, has celebrated its 125 years jubilee. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Marie Douillon-Imer, of Lausanne, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

M. Jean-Jacques Bolli has been elected Director of the Swiss Watch Chamber in succession to M. Albert Amez-Droz, who will relinquish his post on 30th

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January 1959. M. Bolli was appointed Vice-Director in 1955. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Burglars entered the premises of a jeweller's establishment at the corner of the Corraterie and the Rue du Stand in Geneva, and decamped with goods estimated to be worth 200,000.—francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Alfred Nicole has celebrated 50 years as commercial manager, and later as a member of the Board, of the "Sonor A.G.", the publishers of the paper "La Suisse". [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Emil Dupont has been elected President of the Government of the canton of Geneva, and M. Jean Treina, Vice-President. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Professor Dr. William Brunner, in Zurich, at the age of 81. The deceased was until 1945 — when he retired — Professor of Astronomy both at the University of Zurich and at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. He was also Director of the Federal Astronomical Observatory. Professor Brunner enjoyed a world-wide reputation for his research on solar activity.

Dr. phil. Gotthold Schmid, in Fribourg, aged 54; schoolteacher and author, he was for many years editor of the dialect periodical "Schwyzer Lüt".

Dr. phil. Marguerite Losli-Usteri, lecturer at the "Institute des sciences de l'éducation", at the University of Geneva, in Geneva.

Dr. Walter Laedrach, well-known writer, and originator of the "Schweizer Heimat Bücher", in Hasle-Ruegsau, at the age of 67.

Dr. med. Edmond de Reynier, the oldest medical practitioner in Switzerland, in Neuchâtel, aged 99. He was the founder, and for many years chief surgeon, of the Children's Hospital in Neuchâtel.

Major Heinrich Senn, for many years "Waffenkontrollleur" of the 3rd Division, in Lugano, at the age of 88.

Rudolf Jung, a leading tenor at the Opera Houses in Berne, Zurich, Basle and Stuttgart, in Lausanne, aged 77.

Professor Dr. Wolfgang Pauli, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, in Zurich, at the age of

59. He was the author of the celebrated "Paulische Prinzip", for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize.

Adrien Gogler, for many years drawing master at the *Gymnasium* of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in Geneva.

Mgr. Emilio Poretti, for 42 years a priest at the Cathedral of San Lorenzo Lugano, in Lugano, aged 70.

Dr. Johannes Schwendimann, editor of the "Luzerner Volksblatt" and the "Kompass", in Lucerne, at the age of 90. [A.T.S.]

* * *

ANNIVERSARIES.

Dr. Robert Billwiller (80), of Zurich, from 1941 to 1944 Director of the Meteorological Institute Zurich.

Dr. Otto Karrer (70), of Lucerne, priest and well-known author. On the occasion of his 70th birthday the President of the West German Republic honoured him with the "Verdienstkreuz". [A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Colomb, of Le Locle; Mr. and Mrs. F. Gabriel-Nigsch, of Rüschlikon (Ct. Zurich); Mr. and Mrs. Komeda-Bollinger, of St. Gall; Mr. and Mrs. F. Berger, of Prez-vers-Noreaz (Ct. Fribourg). [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS.

Henry Werro, a Swiss violin dealer, was given a suspended sentence of one year's imprisonment and fined 5,000.—francs for selling instruments made to look like old masterpieces. The court found Werro, former president of the Swiss violin dealers' association, guilty of selling two forged instruments and falsifying the labels on 12 instruments he sold during the past 14 years, at prices ranging up to £10,000.

The president of the court said Werro was acquitted on 21 other charges of selling forged instruments — including three violins alleged to have been made by Stradivarius.

The trial first opened in February last, but was post-poned when Werro demanded that violin experts, rather than laboratory technicians, should give their opinion. On many of the charges against him the experts failed to reach conclusive agreement.

(Associated Press).

* * *

A new attractive route from Morteratsch to Montebello — Las Plattas (Bernina) will be added this winter to Pontresina's 30 km. (19 miles) of winter paths. A third sun terrace will be installed near the Roseg Ice Rink for the free use of winter sports guests. The

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Diavolezza Cable Cars have been replaced by larger cabins holding 62 passengers each. As a result, the transport capacity has increased by 20 per cent and queueing will in future be considerably reduced. Waiting-rooms, booking-offices, kiosks and cloak-rooms at the lower station have also been enlarged in order to improve the general efficiency of this popular aerial cable-car undertaking.

* * *

The International Ice Hockey Tournament and the International Curling Tournament were chosen for the inauguration recently of Geneva's magnificent Ice Palace. The Stadium, described by experts as "the finest in Europe", is under cover and heated. Unusually bold architecture provides seating accommodation for 4,200, standing room for 6,000, and 2,000 more could find room on particularly important occasions. No pillars or columns obstruct the view from any part of the building. Six metres above the rink cabins for five radio-commentators are suspended, whilst a special platform has been fitted up for TV transmissions. There are spacious public refreshment bars on the balcony floors, and on each floor spectators will find everything they need for their comfort.

* * *

From 7th to 15th February 1959 the premises of the Swiss Industries Fair, Bale, will be occupied by the Third Fair of Machinery Used by Contractors for Public Works, an exhibition which has been organised by the Swiss Society of Manufacturers and Dealers of Machinery for Contractors. There will be thirty-nine exhibitors and their stands will occupy a superficial area of 430,000 square feet.

CRONACA NOSTRANA.

La *Legislatura del Cantone Ticino* sta per concludersi nella frizzante arietta elettorale che già si è levata a svegliare i dormienti e a indurre parecchi — di solito magari pacati e castigatissimi — a concedere alle esigenze della platea con parole ed atti che in altra atmosfera riscuoterebbero indulgenze minori. E mentre l'opinione pubblica attende il bilancio del quadriennio, il Gran Consiglio si accinge alle sue ultime fatiche dopo un lungo periodo di attività particolarmente intensa. Ha infatti avuto inizio il 15 dicembre scorso la sessione del Preventivo, come mai ricca di trattande cospicue, a coronamento di un'azione governativa valida e intensa. Oltre al Bilancio di previsione per il 1959 sono all'ordine del giorno i crediti suppletivi al Preventivo 1958, il progetto di legge per la riduzione dell'imposta cantonale delle persone fisiche nella misura del 5% per il 1959, l'acquisto del terreno per la costruzione del nuovo Ginnasio di Locarno, l'acquisto della Scuola arti e mestieri della Città di Bellinzona, il disegno

legislativo per il promovimento della costruzione di abitazioni economiche, alcuni oggetti di ordinaria amministrazione e, infine, i progetti di legge per l'utilizzazione in proprio da parte dello Stato delle acque del Ticino alla Biaschina e di quelle del Tremorgio. E' quest'ultima sicuramente la trattanda più impegnativa le discussioni e le decisioni relative, dopo anni di studi e di lavoro delle diverse istanze politiche, sono attese nel Ticino con un interesse insolitamente vivo. Già da tempo il problema della Biaschina ha varcato i suoi confini tecnici ed economici per invadere il terreno politico e straripare nella polemica. Per sua natura: non era neppure pensabile che nel nostro paese un tema di siffatta importanza potesse essere discusso con la freddezza usata per un capitolo dell'economia cantonale, quando è noto che anche le nostre piccole cose finiscono spesso sul piano inclinato della politica, già perchè intorno ad esse, e spesso a torto, si affaccendano i partiti, che hanno talvolta la debolezza di assumere responsabilità che in fondo sono ad esse più estranee di quanto non siano gl'interessi di gruppi o di persone che ai partiti fanno capo non sempre con felice intuito.

SENTITO IN PIAZZA.

BERNA — Giovedì, 11 dicembre scorso, le Camere Federali hanno eletto a Presidente della Confederazione per il 1959 l'on. Paul Chaudet, capo del Dip° militare federale, il quale ha ottenuto 180 voti. Alla vice presidenza del Consiglio federale, con 192 voti, è stato eletto l'on. Giuseppe Lepori, capo del Dip° delle poste e ferrovie. La stessa Assemblea ha infine eletto il giudice Carlo Pometta, a Presidente del Tribunale federale per il biennio 1959-60 con 174 voti su 178 votanti. Vice-presidente dello stesso Tribunale è stato eletto, con 161 voti su 170 votanti, il giudice Schoenenberger. Dopo un'ora e mezza di deliberazioni i due Consigli si sono riuniti separatamente.

— Il Consiglio federale ha nominato l'on. Cons. di Stato Brenno Galli, Presidente del Consiglio di Banca della Banca Nazionale Svizzera al posto del dimissionario Dott. Alfredo Mueller di Amriswil. L'on. Galli occuperà la sua nuova alta carica nel prossimo mese di marzo.

— Discutendosi, mercoledì, 10 dicembre al Consiglio Nazionale il preventivo delle ferrovie federali per l'anno prossimo presentato dagli on.li Stadlin, radicale di Zurigo e Tenchio, conservatore Grigioni, l'on. Libero Olgiati, radicale ticinese, ha colto l'occasione per insistere sulla necessità di dar seguito alle rivendicazioni del Ticino in materia di tariffe ferroviarie, le quali devono essere adattate in modo da agevolare le relazioni commerciali fra il Ticino ed il resto della Svizzera.

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