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THE NEW MUNICIPAL PRESIDENT OF BERNE

Last June, the Municipal President of the Swiss capital, Dr. Eduard Freimueller, died suddenly. As new member of the Commune Council, Dr. Heinz Bratschi, Berne Police Inspector and son of National Councillor Robert Bratschi, was declared elected as there was no other candidate. For the Municipal Presidency, there were two extremely well-qualified candidates, the President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Dr. Gerhart Schuerch, Commune Councillor in charge of finances, and National Councillor Dr. Reynold Tschaepaet, Commune Councillor in charge of building. Both men are lawyers, both men of standing and great experience, both relatively young men, Dr. Schurch 56, his opposing candidate some 7 years younger. The former is Colonel of Infantry, the latter *Wachtmeister* of the Territorial Army.

Dr. Schuerch, Liberal Democrat, was supported by the Citizens' Party, the "Landesring", "Young Berne" and the Evangelicals, whilst Dr. Tschaepaet had the support of his own Party, the Social Democrats. The "Christlichsozialen" gave freedom of voting. One of the great forces behind Dr. Tschaepaet was the Swiss Mercantile Society, whose President, both on municipal and cantonal level he had been for many years; a strong *Hausmacht*, the "Basler Nachrichten" called it.

Voting took place on 16th October, and in a very close fight, Dr. Tschaepaet won the elections. With 12,808 to 12,429 he was victorious, and thus the Municipal Presidency remains in Social-Democrat hands. Voting participation was 58.2%.

Dr. Reynold Tschaepaet was born in the Jura, at Malleray. He studied law and entered the Federal Police Department in 1943. He was promoted to Deputy Director and as such had a great deal to do with refugee and interne problems. He became a member of the Municipal Government in 1960. From 1947 to 1959, he sat on the Municipal Council, from 1950 to 1963 he was a member of the Cantonal Parliament, and for the past three years he has been a member of the National Council.

(Mainly A.T.S.)

NEWLY FOUNDED

Fifteen organisations of the shoe trade have formed the **Swiss Shoe Club** in Zurich. Its activities will be financed by the "Schuhrappen", 1 ct. which is paid to the fund for every pair of shoes produced and every pair sold. There are sixty shoe factories in Switzerland, employing 13,000 men and women.

"**Pro Colore**", a Swiss federation for colour has been founded in Zurich, under the presidency of Prof. Dr. U. E. Winkler, Lucerne. It is an organisation similar to the British Colour Group.

A federation of **Strahler und Mineraliensammler** was founded at Spiez. A mineral exchange and sale was held at the same time.

At the end of September, a **Verein zur Förderung des Schweizerischen Ost-Institutes** was started in Berne. Its aim is to further the interest in the Institute whose object is to strengthen democracy by sound information.

Early in October, the first R.C. Academy was inaugurated in Zurich-Witikon, the "**Paulus Akademie**", in the presence of eminent personalities of the Churches and public life.

Also in Zurich, a **Schweizerische Vereinigung für**

Agrarsoziologie was founded early in October. One of its aims is to strengthen harmonious relations between town and country. Its President is Prof. A. Hauser, Waedenswil.

Finally and most importantly, the **Swiss Foundation for Literature, Music and the Fine Arts**, was registered in Basle on 6th October. In a way, this Foundation is the counterpart to the National Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Research. Its means are to be used to help young talented artists, to assist established artists, to encourage works of literature and art in order to create a better place for Swiss cultural achievements abroad, and to help older meritorious writers and artists who have fallen on bad times in old age. The starting capital of four million francs has been put up by the four large chemical undertakings in Basle. The President is Felix W. Schulthess, Chairman of the Board of the Swiss Credit Bank. The two Vice-Presidents are Adolf W. Jann (Hoffmann-La Roche, Basle) and the former Federal Councillor Dr. Max Petitpierre (Nestlé Alimentana, Neuchâtel).

[A.T.S.]

HEINRICH FEDERER

Centenary of his birth on 7th October 1866

Heinrich Federer was born at Brienz but grew up at Sachseln on the Lake of Sarnen. The Canton of Obwalden became his home and inspiration for his writings — the Obwalden people honoured him with honorary citizenship. He studied theology and, for seven years, he worked as Chaplain at Jonschwil. Later he moved to Zurich where he spent the rest of his life, first as Editor (2 years) of the "Neue Züricher Nachrichten" and later as free-lance author. Many are his works, novels, stories, poems, essays and book reviews, and even in Germany he is still hailed as one of the great *Erzähler* of the twentieth century. He died in Zurich on 29th April 1928.

On 23rd July of this year, an exhibition was opened at Sachseln, displaying pictures, manuscripts and books. The Commune organised a competition for a commemorative coin, and the entry by the sculptor Alois Spichtig was accepted for the *Gedenktaler* which has been sold in aid of a Federer Museum at Sachseln. A Federer Foundation for the advancement of culture and science is to be formed.

Several celebrations were held, one at his place of origin, Berneck (St. Gall), another at Jonschwil, and a third at his grave in the Rehalp Cemetery in Zurich. The most important commemoration of his birth took place at Sachseln, when Federal Councillor von Moos was present. The German Professor Dr. Wilhelm Grenzmann of Bonn University gave an appreciation of Federer's work.

A special stamp was issued, and plays were performed, also on TV and radio. An anthology "Heinrich Federer, aus seinem Leben und Werk" is being published by Rex-Verlag, Lucerne.

[A.T.S.]

GREAT BRITAIN HONOURS DR. EMIL LANDOLT

Queen Elizabeth has awarded a C.B.E. to the former Municipal President of Zurich, Dr. Emil Landolt. The new Commander of the Order of the British Empire received the insignia from the British Ambassador in Switzerland, Sir Robert Isaacson, at a ceremony in Berne at the end of September.

[A.T.S.]