

Elections in Zurich and Baselland for cantonal government and parliament

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1967)**

Heft 1522

PDF erstellt am: **16.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691417>

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away, Swiss export firms were successful within a very short time in picking up their old connections with abroad again or in finding new ones. It is a testimonial to the fashion and quality level of the Swiss shoe industry that in spite of the extraordinarily strong foreign competition and the highly unfavourable effect of the EEC discriminatory customs measures it has been able to increase its exports considerably during the last few years. The biggest share of this satisfactory export increase falls to men's and sports shoes, in particular the ski-boots regarded as a great speciality finding great interest among foreign customers, mainly in America and Canada.

At the same time, however, Switzerland has become an interesting buyer country for foreign shoe producers. Favoured by the liberal Swiss import policy, imports have risen considerably during the last five years, supplies coming for the most part from the surrounding EEC countries. The increase in competition on its own home market is a spur to the Swiss shoe industry to continue its efforts to raise efficiency.

("Swiss Industry and Trade"
published by O.S.E.C.)

ELECTIONS IN ZURICH AND BASELSTADT FOR CANTONAL GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT

On Sunday, 9th April, the citizens of Zurich and Baselland had to go to the poll to elect their Governments and Parliaments. In Zurich the former *Regierungsräte* who agreed to stay in office were re-elected, and the two new ones are Dr. Arthur Bachmann (45), lawyer and Social Democrat, the youngest member of the Zurich Government, and Albert Mossdorf (55), Sales Manager, Liberal. Both are members of the Federal Parliament and have decided to renounce their mandate as National Councillors, as there are already two *Regierungsräte* of the Canton of Zurich in Parliament (Rudolf Meier and Dr. Walter Koenig), the maximum allowed in the Cantonal Constitution. The Socialists have been disappointed in their hopes to get a second member of the Government.

An unexpected victory was achieved by the "Landesring der Unabhängigen" with their gain of 13 seats (18 hitherto) in the Cantonal Parliament. The Communists have the same number with 2, but all the other Parties have lost 2 or 3 seats. The distribution is as follows: Socialists 48, "Landesring" and BGB (Farmers and Citizens) 31 each, Liberals 29, Christian Socialists 21, Evangelicals 11, Democrats 7 and PdA 2.

In the elections for the Cantonal Government of Baselland, the two present *Regierungsräte* were confirmed, and for the three retiring ones, the Liberal candidate Dr. Theo Meier (Lausen), Deputy Manager of the Cantonal Bank, the BGB candidate Pfr. Paul Manz (Rothenfluh) and the Christian Socialist Dr. Karl Zeltner (Arlesheim), *Bezirksgerichtspräsident*, were elected. Voting participation was 62.8%.

The 80 seats in the Cantonal Parliament, the *Landrat*, have been filled as follows: Socialists 26 (26 hitherto), Liberal Democrats 26 (26), B.G.B. 10 (7), and Christian Socialists 10 (11), "Aktion Kanton Basel" (friends of the *Wiedervereinigung* 7 (3), "Landesring" 2 (2), Evangelicals 1 (1).

[A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Hector Schmassmann (89), Liestal, former *Grundbuchgeometer*.

Charles Richard (67), Saint-Prex, for 48 years in the service of the Canton of Vaud, in charge of the Cantonal Department of Agriculture, Industry and Trade; during both wars at the head of the Cantonal War Economy Office.

Georges Ditesheim (73), La Chaux-de-Fonds, former watch manufacturer; technical director of the Movado works and member of several watch industry organisations.

Prof. Dr. Max Zollinger (80), Zurich; Lecturer and later (1930) Professor of *Allgemeine Didaktik des Mittel-schulunterrichtes* at Zurich University; Honorary Professor since 1955; author.

François Durafour (79), Geneva, aviation pioneer; flew his plane from Avenches to Collex-Bossy in 1911; in July 1920 he succeeded in landing at 4,000m. on the Dôme du Gouter (Montblanc) in a "Caudron"; member of the first Swiss Air Force team of eleven at the beginning of the first world war; he piloted the first passenger flight from Paris to Geneva in 1920.

Dr. Werner Lauber (79), Lucerne, former Judge of the Federal Insurance Tribunal; author and husband of the well-known Swiss writer Cecile Lauber.

Colonel Paul Schlaepfer (71), Sursee, builder; President of the Lucerne cantonal *Gewerbeverband* from 1943 to 1966; for 25 years member of the Cantonal Parliament; President for nine years of the Swiss *Verwaltungsoffiziersgesellschaft*.

Professor Edouard Poldini (71), Geneva, Lecturer on Geophysics at Geneva University since 1945; Professor since 1951 and at Lausanne University since 1963; author of various works on geology.

Miss Lise Gujer, "Gruoba", Sertigtal (Grisons), well-known artist; made her name by weaving artistic tapestries to the designs of the late Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (Davos).

Pater Dr. Laurentius Casutt (63), Fribourg, Professor of Theology, writer and priest.

Madame Augustine Epéron (104), Rolle, the oldest inhabitant of the *Suisse Romande*.

Dr. Jules Chuard (76), former Director of the *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce* in Lausanne (teacher there since 1921); Commune Councillor and member of the Cantonal Parliament; President of the Swiss Society for Commercial Education.

Rudolf Klaesi (86), Basle, prominent *Auslandschweizer* in Egypt before retiring in Basle.

Wilhelm Klein (79), Schwyz, for nearly 50 years Manager of the Schwyz tramways and later of the *Verkehrsbetriebe*.

Johannes Itten (78), Zurich, for many years in charge of art schools in Vienna, Weimar, Berlin and Krefeld; since 1938 Principal of the *Kunstgewerbeschule* and Museum in Zurich; in charge of the Zurich Textile School; founder of the Museum Rietberg; well-known also as author.

National Councillor Walter Klingler (68), St. Gall, journalist; from 1923-1956 Editor of "Wiler Boten"; since 1939 in the Cantonal Parliament and since 1959 National Councillor.