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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"
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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.

Hermann Kappeler (75), Bichelsee (Thurgau), the oldest teacher in service in the Canton (56 years).

Hermann Keller (75), Heiden (Appenzell A.Rh.), from 1912 to 1966 with the Rorschach-Heiden-Bergbahn; *Regierungsrat* from 1952 to 1955; for over 20 years Chairman of the Board of the Electricity Works of Heiden.

Dr. Emil Munz (66), Arbon, sociologist and father of Dr. Walter Munz, successor of Albert Schweitzer at Lambarene.

Admiral Howard Flanigan (78), Pregny (Geneva), American officer retired in Switzerland.

Jean Briner (90), Zurich, former typographer; Social Democratic Municipal Councillor from 1928 to 1942; National Councillor from 1926 to 1939 and 1940 to 1943; great merits with Zurich's educational development.

Georges de Meuron (84), Corcelles (Neuchâtel), President of the Council of the Nursing Home Préfargier; Liberal member of the Neuchâtel Parliament and Commune Councillor of Corcelles; President of the Society of Friends of the Arts of Neuchâtel.

Henri Lévy (75), Pully, former Director of the "Manufacture d'Horlogerie Pierce s.a." at Moutier and Bienne.

Major Hugo Bolli (54), Geneva, Commandant of the Geneva Cantonal Police; was killed in tragic accident when he wanted to release an injured bird and fell from the sixth floor.

[A.T.S.]

A BERNESE COMMUNE PRACTICALLY RUN BY WOMEN

The new Commune Clerk of Limpach in the Bernese *Amt* of Fraubrunnen is Mrs. Affolter (widow). Mrs. Trudi Kummer has been Commune Treasurer for a number of years, and a short while ago, another widow, Mrs. Marti-Legar, was elected verger. *Witwe* Marti-Kummer is post mistress, another lady of the same name delivers the mail. The local cobbler's, the building firm, one of the finest farms in the district and the dairy are run by women, too. Much responsibility lies on the shoulders of these brave women — without the vote!

[A.T.S.]

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

The following couples recently celebrated their Diamond Weddings:

Mr. and Mrs. Johannes and Emilie Bruderer-Iller at Trogen.

Mr. and Mrs. Johann and Anna Boehlen-Ruetsche at St. Josefen near St. Gall.

Mr. and Mrs. François and Eva Zmilacher-Pasche in Lausanne; Mr. Zmilacher was one of the founders of the "Société Valaisanne" in Lausanne (1917).

Mr. and Mrs. Zwald, Geneva.

Dr. and Mrs. Gottfried and Lydie Bollinger-Heitz in Basle; Dr. Bollinger was a teacher at the *Töcherschule*, later *Mädchengymnasium* (where the Editor of the "Swiss Observer" enjoyed his teaching).

Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couples!
(A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".)



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