

A new swiss publication on the press

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in the Constitution. In England, the taxpayer learns about his taxation in the next year on the famous Budget Day. In Switzerland, everything concerning federal taxes is contained in the Constitution, and every time a change in taxation is made, one needs a complicated revision of the Constitution with a subsequent plebiscite. It always astonishes foreigners that Swiss people vote about the taxes they are to pay and it is truly a surprising thing that it works. Still, it is too complicated and a loss of energy to have such things in a Constitution.

One more thing to be thrown out of the Constitution is the so-called Jesuit article. Actually this matter concerns two articles: 51, which forbids the order of the Jesuits in Switzerland and article 52, which forbids the installation of monasteries and religious orders. These two articles are in contradiction with article 49 which grants liberty of faith. They date from the fights which took place in the last century. They were not meaningless then, but nowadays they are out-dated. All the same it is not easy to do away with them, because the moment one discusses this question, old antagonisms between Catholics and Protestants are revived. Therefore, most people agree that these articles should if possible, be abolished before starting the big revision, in order not to cause religious controversies. As the Jesuit articles are in contradiction with the liberty of faith, they are also in contradiction with the universal declaration of human rights, and this is one more reason why they should be done away with.

Another matter which is in contradiction with the human rights, is the lack of the women's suffrage. This is also a debatable question which should be solved before the big revision. Switzerland is one of the very last countries without women's suffrage, but it is also the only country in the world, where the men have to decide this question in a general plebiscite. It is doubtful whether women's suffrage would have been introduced so quickly in many other countries if they had had a direct democracy, which means the obligation for the whole male population to vote on it. Women's suffrage has made big progress in the last years. Several Cantons have introduced it. A map showing the places where women's suffrage exists, would look like a funny patchwork. There is no doubt that the patches will extend in the next years so that the moment is not so far away when it will be possible to introduce women's suffrage for the whole Confederation.

(To be continued.)

A NEW SWISS PUBLICATION ON THE PRESS

Since the beginning of the year, on the 15th of each month, the Swiss Press Research and Promotion Centre (P.P.S. in Lausanne), has been issuing a bulletin intended mainly for Swiss newspaper publishers. This new trade publication deals with many subjects of interest to newspaper publishers today and keeps them informed on many topical questions such as the development of publicity by audiovisual means, press mergers, etc. It should be mentioned that the Swiss Press Research and Promotion Centre, founded at the beginning of 1967, has compiled a wealth of documentation on the problems facing the Swiss and foreign press today and has completed a number of surveys and reports on questions affecting the press.

[O.S.E.C.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Dr. iur. Leo Buehlmann (51), Lucerne, *Amtsgerichts-präsident*; was killed in a road accident on returning from the commemoration services of the Battle of Sempach.

Pfr. Alfred Blum (84), Thalwil, former Missionary at the High School at Mangalur (India); from 1926 to the outbreak of the war in charge of the Evangelical Middle School at Schiers; he became inspector of the Evangelical Mohammendan Mission in 1940.

Moritz Neu (66), Zurich, *Oberkantor* of the *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde* until last autumn.

Jacques Meier (78), Lachen, engineer and administrator of the Federal Linth Works and in charge of the melioration of the Linth Plain in the Cantons of Schwyz and St. Gall.

Dr. Ernst J. Lehner (72), Basle, well-known geologist in the service of Trinidad, Anglo-Persian Petroleum Co., British Petroleum, etc.

F. E. Kraehenbuehl (63), Berne, Central President of the Swiss *Wirtverein*; from 1944 to 1966 in charge of *Bahnhofbuffet* Berne; member of many organisations in the catering trade.

Julien Carrupt (69), Sion, former Commune President of Chamoson; died after a road accident.

[A.T.S.]

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